

## Elsa High School's 2016-2017

## Weekly Daf



## Dvar Torah: Korach

This week's Parasha, Parshat Korach, relates the story of Korach, Datan, Aviram and 250 members of the shevet (tribe) of Reuven challenging Moshe's choice for Kohen Gadol (high priest). The end result was that the 250 members were burned by a heavenly fire, and the other three were swallowed by the earth (as expected). From looking at the motives for their actions, Korach makes the most sense, because he felt betrayed for not having been chosen himself. But why would 250 people follow him to their almost certain death, with what at first sight seems like very little to gain?

The answer can be found in Rashi, the well-known medieval commentator. He writes that just as Korach's family camped on the southern side of the Mishkan (Tabernacle), so did the tribe of Reuven. Rashi quotes the words of Chapters of the Fathers: "woe to an evil person, and woe to his neighbour." The other 250 people met their death, simply because they were influenced by their neighbours.



This presents us with the dramatic influence that friends, neighbours and associates can and do have on us. Especially in such a busy and quick place as Hong Kong, many of us tend not to sit down and truly think about our actions, as well as the influences and people we surround ourselves with. We must all ask ourselves: do we have positive friends and neighbours? Are we in places or doing things we shouldn't be doing? And most importantly, we must ask ourselves: are WE positive friends and neighbours to others?

This Parasha reminds us not only of what we should be asking ourselves constantly, but also of the dramatic effects that even small things can have on us. Through appreciating the moral of this parasha, may we all one day manage to surround ourselves with nothing but positivity, and rather than being pulled down and dragged back, may we all be raised up and pushed forward by our neighbours.

Shabbat Shalom!

David and Sophie Efron and Ori Razon - G7 and G8

# Grade 10 Internship Week



## Apprentice Challenge

These past two weeks, Grade 10 have been presented with numerous hurdles and experiences. To end off the year, and to show how much we've grown, we were brought into the King David room in the JCC and given our final challenge of the week: our Apprentice Challenge.

This year's challenge was about health and fitness. We were given two days to work on this project and at the end of it had to pitch it to a group of "investors". Our grade was split into three groups of five students, and we were then given two days to work on the project. As an incentive to work hard on this project, the prize was a gift voucher for the each member of the winning team.

One team took the challenge to mean creating a gym, another thought about creating athletic programs for schools, and my team thought about creating an Uber-like app that could connect trainers with customers.

At the end of Thursday, the groups had created a stunningly professional business pitch to the "investors", including a founder of a successful fitness centre in Hong Kong.

The winning team's idea explored the social media market already present in today's era, and also included insurance and some legal backing: this was the idea my team created. Overall, I think all teams thoroughly enjoyed this assignment and learned a lot from it. We look forward to seeing how the other teams in the future will rise to the challenge.

Luis Yap - G10

## Factory Visit

As part of the annual internship program, this year's Grade 10 students visited a factory in China. This visit was created to let students get exposure to the other side of our world: where all our goods are created.

The factory visited this year produces handbags for famous companies including Disney. It is difficult to imagine that so much work goes into one bag; it passes through the hands of tens of people and each piece is worked by a person whose whole job is just to make that one piece — thousands a day, every day.

This experience was very educational and taught us so much about what we use every day, and how much work goes into each of our items. I would like to thank Andy Rofé for giving us the opportunity to see this — hopefully next year's Grade 10 factory visit will be as good as ours.

Ian Lyons - G10

## Slaughter & May

This week on Tuesday, Grade 10 had the privilege to visit Slaughter and May, a world-renowned law firm in Hong Kong. We arrived in our most formal attire for this exciting visit. Jason Webber, a partner at the law firm, graciously took time out of his busy schedule to speak to us about the field.

Mr Webber allowed us to experience what being a lawyer is like through scenarios that he had prepared. These scenarios ranged from road liability law to corporate law. The latter was very interesting as it involved us representing a famous celebrity in a new sponsorship deal. This gave us an insight into issues lawyers deal with everyday. While we only experienced the tip of the iceberg, many of us felt like we wanted to explore the rest of what law has to offer.

Many thanks to Mr Webber for this exciting opportunity.

Tyra Dahlberg - G10

# Grade 10 Internship Week



I worked at Boase Cohen & Collins, Solicitors & Notaries. It's a law firm. From my placement, I gained a great deal of knowledge regarding the legal field, and it broadened my understanding of the proceedings behind a court case.

I would recommend the same experience to Grade 10 students next year — especially to those who would like to pursue a law career. However, it would benefit anyone to work as an intern in a law firm because it develops your social, communication and self-management skills.

Andrea Au



I worked at Dream Sports Academy for my internship. I think what surprised me about my experience was how much office work is involved in running a basketball academy. I got to see behind-the-scenes what is involved in organising tournaments. I would definitely recommend this kind of internship to future Grade 10 students.

Alex Rowse



I worked at Ve Interactive Asia. Something that surprised me about my internship was how much information could be collected by companies based on your web browsing history, and how that information is used in targeted ways to sell you things. The reason I would recommend this placement next is that, firstly, it was a lot of fun, and secondly, the computer and technology industries are really important, since the majority of jobs in the future will contain computer and tech elements.

William Barron



I was working at MOE Key laboratory for Regenerative Medicine at the Chinese University of Hong Kong's integrated biomedical lab, and something I found really interesting was the way that both interns and professors worked to cultivate liver and lung cells for certain experiments. If someone has a really good understanding of biology and is passionate about it, then I would definitely recommend this internship.

Luis Yap



I worked at Pacific Chambers, a criminal law firm, and I learnt a lot about how law operates in Hong Kong. One thing that I found surprising is how much crime there actually is in Hong Kong and how lawyers approach each case. As part of my internship, I got to read police reports and law books; I learnt that for each case there's a big stack of paperwork that you have to work through. They trusted me with important information and gave me a lot of responsibility.

Hanna Hipwell-Serfaty



## Elsa Social

This Tuesday (June 20) a committee of students came together to create this year's social, the Sunset Celebration. As I am on the social committee, I had an amazing time preparing, planning and initiating my first social. I was part of the food committee and had an exciting time preparing things from cupcakes to sandwiches.

During the Social, Gai, Yasmin, Ernest and I served drinks at the Tiki Bar, expertly constructed by Melody, Agnes and their team. I learnt to serve many drinks such as Milkshakes (which were a big success) to Shirley Temples. I also felt the joy (and the disappointment) of people asking for water.

Overall, the social was an amazing experience which I will never forget.

Hannah Davidson - G6



The Elsa Social was a huge success. After dedicating many hours, days, weeks and months of our time, the social committee successfully managed to create the Sunset Celebration — the event of the century!

At 5:30 p.m., the auditorium doors were opened and attendees piled in. The event started off with a speech from yours truly, and then attendees were welcome to enjoy the food made by the Social Food Committee (under the supervision of Mrs Junger), and the Tiki bar. Rachamim also created the makeshift indoor campfire.

This year's social differed from the previous socials as it was not a formal event. The main highlight of Tuesday afternoon was the water fight. Although the water balloons did not last long in the fight, they were quickly replaced with pails of water.

This year's proceeds are going to the Shanti House. For the past three Socials we have donated all our proceeds to them, and would like to continue the tradition this year.

I would like to thank Ms Then for organising and Mrs Junger for supervising the cooking. I would also like to thank everyone in the Social Committee, as well as others for staying late after school and coming in on the weekend. Without your help the social would not have been as good as it was this year!

Melody Yap - G11

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This past Tuesday, Elsa High School had their 3rd Social, organised and run by Miss Then and the Elsa Student Council. This year's theme was "Sunset Celebration", and the Social included games, such as inflatable bowling, water balloon fighting and karaoke.

A wide variety of music was played and a lot of very good food was provided for everyone. There was also a "Tiki Bar", run by Ernest and other members of the Student Council. The bar had a wide variety of drinks from Shirley Temples to things like milkshakes. Unlike in prior years, this year provided students with a more chilled out atmosphere. Not only did this make it a more enjoyable event, but it created a much better atmosphere.

The night ended with a massive water fight (this was the best part of the evening). Nearly the whole school participated in the water fight, and it was a great way to cap off the night and the year.

Thanks very much to Miss Then and the Student Council for their effort in putting this event together.

Ethan Selevan and Alon Lavi - G8



## Grade 6 Bat Mitzvah

Bat Mitzvah is a very important milestone in a Jewish girl's life. It is a ceremony for girls aged twelve. The past year, the Grade 6 girls have been studying "Pirkei Avot" in preparation for our Bat Mitzvahs. Pirkei Avot is a book full of ethical teaching, passed down from Moses to the following generations. After a full year of Bat Mitzvah classes, we have now finally experienced the party. Every one of us wrote a short speech explaining a short theory or saying that we learnt about from Pirkei Avot. We also baked Challah and decorated candlesticks. It was wonderfully amusing and a great experience.

Many thanks to Mascha, Hamorah Michal and

Kineret for teaching us all year round and organizing and running the party.

Shelly Alcobi - G6



## Shalom Elsa High School

*A person should not part from his friend following chatter or after joking, frivolous, or trivial talk. Rather, he should part from him after sharing a matter of halakhah. Thus teaches Mari the grandson of Rav Huna, son of Rabbi Yirmiyahu bar Abba: "A person should part from his friend only after sharing a matter of halakhah, because then his friend will remember him" (Berakhot 31a).*

Rav Kook, in his commentary, *Ein Ayah*, explains the need to depart from a friend on a halakhic note. This need flows from the principle that when someone is engaged in an undertaking which reaches a meaningful moment, he must make sure that this moment gives expression to the ultimate goal of the undertaking. When someone bids his friend farewell, he has reached a meaningful moment in their relationship. The highest level of connection between two people is reached when that connection is cemented via Torah study. This is why "A person should part from his friend only after sharing a matter of halakhah."

As we are concluding four years of Shlichut in Elsa High School, we wish to say farewell following Chazal's directive — by bringing the

Torah and taste of the Land of Israel to our students in Hong Kong.

We are grateful for the tremendous privilege of teaching in the special environment of Elsa. We wish to take this opportunity to apologize to anyone who may have been hurt by any of our actions: our intentions, at least, were always good.

We would like to thank the Elsa staff and Mrs Rachel Friedmann, from whom we learned about true dedication. We also want to take the opportunity to thank you, the parents, for giving us the privilege of teaching your children. Last we want to thank our students for being open-minded and for exploring Judaism's traditions and heritage.

We are full of hope that the deep connection we have made with the students, based on the Torah values, will continue and grow even from distance.

Please come visit us in Israel.

Shmuel & Michal Junger

## Looking Back ...

This last term was consistent for me, but in all honesty, quite stressful. My academic performance, whilst it didn't peak, didn't decline either. Last term, I struggled with taking effective notes in subjects such as maths, but this term I tried to improve my note-taking, and as a result, I improved in maths, and especially in trigonometry.

Another subject in which I developed was science. Last year, my interest in science was barely existent, but this year my grades and interest have grown. This is quite peculiar, because anyone who knows me knows that I have always been interested especially in English and humanities, and this year as my interests have shifted and grown.

Next year, in Grade 10, I'll have to choose Diploma subjects. I'm not sure if this is something to celebrate or something to stress about. In humanities, my grades did not reach their full potential, and this is something that I am deeply concerned and upset about. However, I can learn from this for next year, and change my learning approach in subject. I also learnt not to rely on the fact that I had previously done well, and that I still must try my best. To help cope with my stress I also talked to some teachers — this really helped me to understand my struggles.

A highlight for me this year was the Hong Kong Young Writers Awards; this year we had to write about Old Shanghai. My story was chosen by the English department to enter the competition, and then I got to be a finalist. My story was then published in the catalogue. This is definitely an achievement that I am proud of and it has inspired me to keep following my passion in literature and writing.

Next year I hope to keep writing and keep pursuing my passions, as well as to narrow my interests down. I also hope to expose myself to new things, both inside and outside of school.

Arya Idan-Cummins - G9

When I arrived at school, I met some new friends like Scott, Alvin and Shira. I learned a lot of things that I didn't know before, like equations.

My best score was a 7 and an 8 in Humanities — I was extremely happy. My aim this semester was to have an 8 in a test, and I got it in Humanities: I was very proud of myself!

My biggest achievement, though, was that my Bridge Too Far team came first. What I learned about myself is that when you work hard nothing can stop you from achieving your goals. Next year my aim is to have good grades and continue working. My English developed with the help of Mr Swart and Mr Cunningham. My favourite aspect of English is that learning a new language is exciting! My least favourite part is that when you come from another country like France you have a French accent when you talk English.

Sasha Guitelmann - G6