

# The Carmel Link

Carmel Elementary Campus Newsletter



CHANNUKAH EDITION

Carmel Celebrates The Festival of Lights





# Carmel Early Learning Centre

MONDAY-FRIDAY 1:00-4:00PM

CHILDREN FROM

12 - 36 MONTHS

UNACCOMPANIED

ENROLLING NOW FOR JANUARY 2020

[www.carmel.edu.hk/ELC](http://www.carmel.edu.hk/ELC)

## Carmel Early Learning Centre 幼兒中心下午班

Monday-Friday 1:00-4:00pm 星期一至五(下午一至四時)

English language medium and Mandarin specialist classes  
為幼兒提供多元化的雙語課程

Child-centred, independent learning. Fostering future academic success  
以幼兒為中心的教學方式，培養其獨立學習能力，為未來學業做準備

Purpose designed indoor and outdoor learning spaces  
適合於幼兒學習的室內/室外空間

[www.carmel.edu.hk/ELC](http://www.carmel.edu.hk/ELC)

 Carmel School Association



**GANEYNU**  
Over 25 Years of Excellence

# Save the Date

Date	Event	Reminder
6 January	School Resumes	
17 January	Tuck Shop 3	Bring \$20
22 January	Reports sent home	
23 January	Chinese New Year Assembly Elsa High School Campus	All students start at Elsa High School Campus dressed in Chinese dress. All parents invited to Assembly from 8:00-9:00am
5 February	Outward Bound / Shanghai Information Session	
12 February	Common Sense Media Parent Technology Seminar	Information to follow
14 February	Kindergarten Shabbat Party Carmel Elementary Campus	All Kindergarten parents invited
26 February	Elementary Sports Day	
5 March	Parent Teacher Conference 1	
10 March	Purim	Early dismissal 11:00am. Details to follow.
12 March	Parent Teacher Conference 2	
20 March	Tuck Shop 4	Bring \$20
26 March	Demonstration Seder Elsa High School Campus	Information to follow

# Contents

feature: CHANNUKAH  
Carmel Celebrates The Festival of Lights



Grade 2 Chumash Presentation



Winter Assembly



Kindergarten and Grade 1 Share the Planet  
Grade 3-5 Race for Water  
Grade 2 Book in a Bag *and more!*



**HAVE  
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ATE <**

HK Trivia

Jewish Trivia

HK Jewish Trivia

Brain Teasers

Pop Knowledge

Israeli Trivia

Saturday,  
18 January  
Starts at 8 PM

Camel's PTA

**Saturday,  
18 January  
Starts at 8 PM**

**Charity Event for  
Carmel School Association**

Form a team of 8-10 friends  
\$750 per team member  
Play online against other teams  
Win a prize and bragging rights!

**For more info, contact:**  
**tara@metexhk.com**





## Message from the Head of Elementary

The word '*Chesed*' reminded me of a beautiful story that is told by Rabbi Sacks. He repeats this story in a few different places and shared it on different occasions, once I believe, also when he visited Hong Kong.

Rabbi Sacks tells about how in 1966 an eleven-year-old African-American boy moved with his family to a white neighbourhood in Washington. Sitting with his brothers and sisters on the front steps of the house, he waited to see how they would be greeted. They were not. Passers-by turned to look at them but no one gave them a smile or even a glance of recognition. He thought to himself that he and his family are not welcome and that they should never have moved to this neighbourhood.

As he was thinking those thoughts, a woman passed by on the other side of the road. She turned to the children and said "Welcome!" Disappearing into the house, she came out minutes later with a tray of drinks which she brought over to the children. That moment – the young man later wrote – that spontaneous act of kindness, changed his life. It gave him a sense of belonging where there was none before and made him feel at home.

Rabbi Sacks tells us that the young man, Stephen Carter, eventually became a law professor at Yale and wrote a book about what he learned that day. He called it '*Civility*'. The name of the woman who welcomed him and his family was Sara Kestenbaum. He writes that the civility she showed is called *Chesed* – the doing of acts of kindness. This story inspired me to inquire about *Chesed* at Carmel School.

I sent a late evening WhatsApp to teachers which read 'colleagues please can you WhatsApp me any *Chesed*, acts of kindness that you have seen or heard about recently at our School'

What I received in return were countless messages from teachers sharing about small, random acts of *Chesed* that

they had witnessed....one girl trying to help another find her sweater; one showing tremendous kindness to a new friend and trying to help her learn English; two brothers who baked cookies during the protests and handed them out to people that were cleaning up after the protests; one girl sitting with another and cheering her up when she didn't want to talk to anyone; an older girl who risked damaging her own chanukiah in order to help another girl deliver her chanukiah safely to school; a boy who wanted to donate half his birthday money to a Movember charity; friends who daily collected left-over rubbish from the playground; brothers and sisters from the same family who decided that they would give up their own chanukah gifts in order to donate gifts to children in need; a girl who donated her birthday gift money to a charity in support of the Australian bushfires and to help save the Koalas; a boy who had a spare kippah for his friend; the sisters that dropped off chicken soup to their teacher that was not well; the girl that brought homework to her friend who had been sick.

Rabbi Sacks shares that the Mishnah teaches that a single life is like a universe. Change a life, and you begin to change the universe. That is how we make a difference: one life at a time, one day at a time, one act at a time. We never know in advance what effect a single act may have. Sometimes we never know it at all. Sara Kestenbaum, never had the chance to read the book that told the incredible story of her action. But she acted. She did not hesitate.

As we prepare for our Chanukah break, I encourage all our children to continue lighting up the world with small acts of Kindness, for one never knows how one small act can impact the lives of others.

Happy Chanukah.



*Mira Hasofer*

Mira Hasofer  
Head of Elementary

## Happy Birthday to:

Henry Amos-Marks  
Zoe Apfelbaum  
Yair Artzi  
Odaya Cohen  
Ayala Domnitz  
Sophie Green  
Gabriel Guitelmann  
Akira Kaffeman  
Sholom Kamhin  
Noam Maskalchi  
Jade Osofsky  
Carmel Szerer  
Rotem Amos  
Noya Barak  
James Caviglia  
Leo Fintzi  
Atara Hasofer

Aliyah Landau  
Itay Levi  
Nathan Liebling  
Bianca Lord  
Jesse Naphtali  
Ofek Shtorch  
Aya Skuratovsky  
Cooper Wolfson  
Noah Wosner  
Eva Cohen  
Yaara Lenga  
Jacob Liebling  
Omri Maskalchi  
Noam Sebban  
Joanna Stern  
Giovana Wais e Pereira  
Amalia Weinberg



## Parasha Vayeshev

Candle Lighting: 5:26pm  
Shabbat Ends: 6:21pm

### Follow Us Online!



@CarmelSchoolAssociation



Carmel School Association



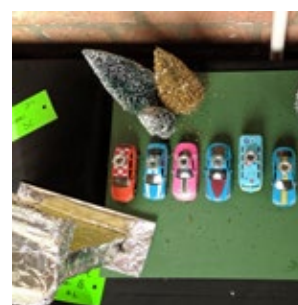
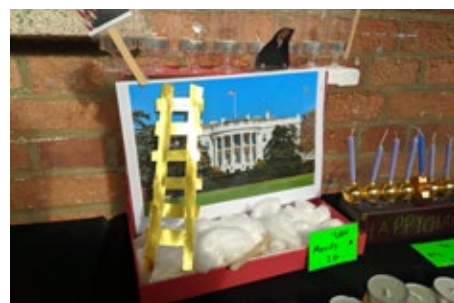
# CHANNUKAH The Festival of Lights



*Pictured: Channukiot created by Elementary students on display as part of the **Elementary Design Your Own Channukiot Display**. Many featured a sustainability theme!*



Channukiot created by Elementary students on display as part of the **Elementary Design Your Own Channukiot Display**. Many featured a sustainability theme!



# INTO THE ARCHIVES

In 2003, Carmel School launched it's second Kosher Cook Book. 'Loving Spoonfuls' was generously compiled, edited and produced by the Carmel PTA.

For Channukah, we take a look back at one of the timeless contributions, this one a traditional festive favourite submitted by Anat Keidar.

*"The doughnuts are not round, but rather oddly shaped. Excellent for Chanukah."*

200ml/1 cup Sour Cream  
200ml/1 cup Yogurt, plain  
2 Tbsp. Sugar  
Dash of vanilla sugar  
3 cups Self-raising flour  
Oil to fry

1. Heat the oil
2. Mix all ingredients into batter
3. Use two spoons to drop the mixed batter into the hot oil. Fry until brown.
4. Sprinkle with icing sugar.
5. Serve with jam or chocolate syrup.











## Chanukah Fun at Carmel Elementary









**Jewish Studies**  
Grade 2 Chumash Presentation



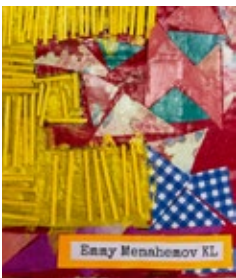






# Art

This year’s main focus has been on texture. We have investigated different materials and concepts, embracing *Steam Punk*. Colour, shape and form have continued to be another focus, as has our schoolwide Unit of Inquiry, “Our Actions Impact Environmental Sustainability”. Please drop by and see all the wonderful work up on display.









# Kindergarten and Grade 1

## Meet Roz Keep





Kindergarten and Grade 1 welcomed a special guest speaker on 4 November at the Carmel Elementary campus. Roz Keep is an artist and avid environmentalist who helps spread the word about the current plastic crisis in HK. She uses styrofoam lids collected from the beaches and repurposes them into beautiful canvases to raise environmental awareness. Roz discussed the current plastic pollution crisis with the students by showcasing some of her art pieces. She also read "*The Tale of Tom the Turtle*", a story by 7 year old Brian Kan, which the students thoroughly enjoyed. This engagement was connected to our second line of inquiry for our Sharing the Planet Unit of Inquiry where we delved into how water habitats are affected by human action. It was wonderfully transdisciplinary to witness how Roz has taken action on such a crisis using Art. We hope this sparks the same in our students.





# Kindergarten Share the Planet

Kindergarten brought Sharing the Planet’s second line of inquiry “How water habitats are affected by human actions” to life by creating a stunning ocean mural in front of their classrooms.

The first step was creating a backdrop of the sea, and the students did this by using recyclable egg cartons to stamp and cover a long piece of paper in blue and green paint.

The second step was engaging in a book browse, with a focus on sea animals. Based on their research, each child volunteered a sea animal that they wanted to create and contribute to the mural. Keeping the year-long unit in mind, the students opted to use old newspaper to make their sea animal. Once finished, their creation was glued onto the ocean backdrop that they previously painted.

For the final step, each student brought a piece of rubbish from their home, ranging from plastic bottles to food packaging, and stuck it onto the mural to represent “How water habitats are affected by human actions”.

This collaborative art effort between Kindergarten and Grade 1 students will be displayed for the entire year outside of their classrooms, so please come by and take a look!





## Kindergarten Learn about Jobs

Kindergarten welcomed parents into their classrooms to participate in a job sharing session. Parents shared their jobs and what they do in the community by bringing in tools and creative ways to explain their roles to the children. This tied beautifully with our current Unit of Inquiry 'How We Organise Ourselves and Our Communities'.

The children enjoyed inquiring into several very interesting jobs ranging from jewellery design, mobile phone development and recycling, cryptocurrency trading, house counsel, baker and librarian. Thank you parents for joining us - we look forward to many more interactive visits!

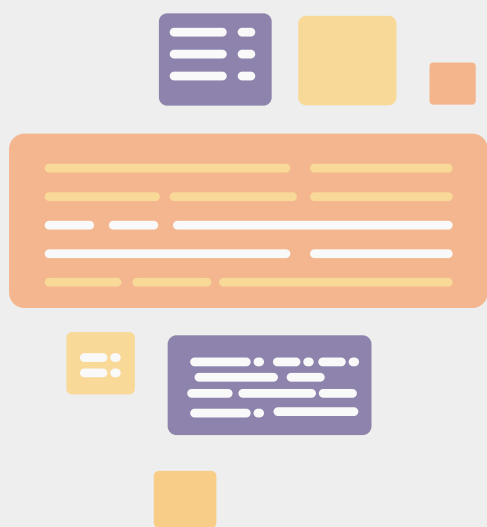




# PTA Book Café 14 & 15 January

Prepare to DRESS  
AS YOUR  
FAVOURITE  
BOOK CHARACTER

More information to follow.





## Grade 1 Sharing the Planet

As part of the Grade 1's learning journey into our school-wide, whole school unit of inquiry about "Sharing the Planet", both classes teamed together to create a river mural. This was the result of investigating our line of inquiry of "How water habitats are affected by human actions". We learned that river systems, lakes and ponds can be very heavily polluted with plastic, chemicals and fertilisers from humans.

To visually represent this, we drew out a river system and painted the four panels with watercolours. The children then researched the different river animals and insects that live in freshwater habitats and drew some of their own to decorate the mural with. The final step then involved placing some examples of single used plastic brought in from home to "pollute" the river. The end result is a beautiful yet melancholic piece of art portraying the negative effects humans have on freshwater habitats around the world and why we must do more to protect them.





## Grade 2 Book in a Bag

Grade 2 worked hard on their first book report of the year. They came to school dressed up as one of their favourite characters and presented their bags to their classmates. They each filled their bags with five objects that were relevant to the story. Students decorated their bag by drawing a picture of their favourite scene/character pasted on the front of their bag and wrote a story summary with a beginning, middle, and end pasted on the back of their bag.

Their growing understanding of story elements and plot summary is apparent in the novels they are choosing and it is clear that their love of reading continues to grow as they thrive to read more difficult novels.

Look out for more images from this activity on Vidigami!









## Grade 2 Natural Disasters

For our Unit of Inquiry "How the world works," Grade 2 looked into natural disasters with the central idea, "Disasters are forces that can impact our world." For their summative task, students worked in pairs to create a shoebox diorama of a natural disaster of their choice to demonstrate their understanding. They worked creatively and collaboratively to plan and design their diorama, keeping in mind the scientific terminology associated with their disaster. They presented their dioramas and described the basic science behind their disaster and how it is connected to other various disasters. Their projects looked great and they all did an outstanding job.





# Unit of Inquiry in Grade 3

Grade 3 is in the middle of our second unit of inquiry. This unit focuses on images and videos and how they are used in our everyday lives. We will also be focusing on what makes an image or video so powerful and we will reflect on our responses to these.

Central Idea: Images and videos help communicate ideas and information

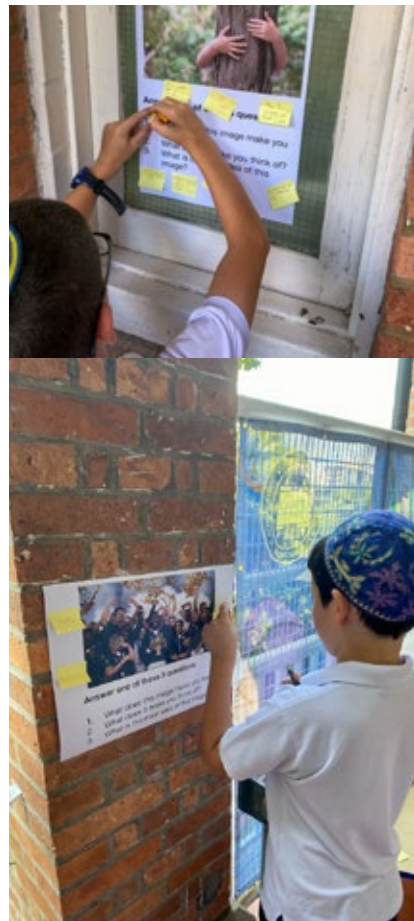
Lines of Inquiry:

1. The use of images and videos in our everyday lives
2. How we interpret and respond to images and videos
3. The features of powerful images and videos

For our first activity, we took many different photos and posted them around in the hallway. Some of the photos dealt with political issues, the environment and being patriotic. There were also images that evoke feelings in us, as well as many more. Each child was asked to look at the photo and answer one of these questions:

1. What does this image make you feel?
2. What does it make you think of?
3. What is the main idea of this image?

We had many interesting comments and, more importantly, many questions were asked about the content of various photos. This was a great activity to get the students "tuned into" our new unit. Being able to combine both Grade 3 classes for this activity allowed for some excellent collaboration!







## Mathematics in Grade 3

Mathematics in Grade 3 has been focused on multiplication. Over the last few weeks we have been learning our multiplication tables and working on our mental arithmetic. The children have been particularly excited about the 'Times Table Mountain'. In our classrooms, we have created a times table mountain display and we all began our journey up the mountain with pit stops from the X2 table up to X12. Practicing the times tables within a three-minute time frame has allowed the children to challenge themselves to get the correct answers to advance up the mountain.



We have also spent time learning our times tables through interactive games. We have played *Multiplication Battle Ship*, completed multiplication mazes and multiplication squares. In addition to the games, we have spent time identifying patterns within the times table, making connections between times tables and creating rules to help us learn them. We have spent time looking at factors and multiples to build our conceptual understanding of multiplication.

Grade 3 has worked very hard and we look forward to seeing them advance up to the top of the times table mountain!





## Grade 3 Young Filmmakers

Grade 3 was very fortunate to have Mr. Jeremy and Ms. Trish join us from Babel Film Workshop. The workshop they did with the children focused on 5 different aspects of film making. The first was camera, then lighting, followed by editing, story and sound. To begin the session, students were shown a video clip from Pixar and they needed to use the clip to identify the different elements and answer a series of questions. As a result of our student's previous experiences using film making tools, they did an excellent job and were able to explain their answers clearly. A special thank you to Babel Film Workshop for stopping by and showing us how fun film can be!

*Fun Fact: During the visit, we discovered that Mr. Cain taught Mr. Jeremy when he was in Grade 3!*







## Grades 3-5 Race for Water

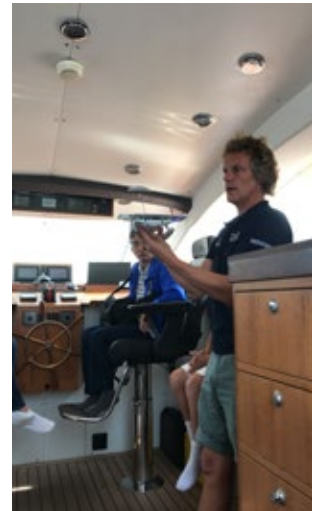
Grades 3, 4, and 5 were very fortunate to be able to visit the Race for Water Foundation's boat that was docked in Central in October and November. Each class was able to go onto the boat where they presented their mission and goals. Specifically, they discussed the issues that are facing our seas and oceans as a result of single-use plastic.

The crew of the boat spent time talking about the 5 R's as they pertain to plastic: Reduce the amount of plastic we use, Reuse what we can, Recycle as much as possible, Refuse single-use plastic such as bags and straws, and Repair items such as sunglasses before throwing them out. They also discussed the life cycle of plastic bottles and how they break down into small pieces that fish eat and end up eventually being consumed by humans.

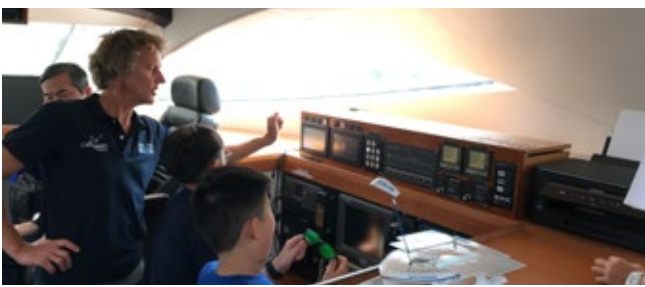
Following the presentation, the children were given a tour of the boat. They shared with the children how the boat uses clean energy sources to power the boat such as solar panels, kites and hydrogen generated from the seawater.

This was an excellent trip for the children as it supported our year-long unit of inquiry on sustainability.

To learn more about Race for Water, visit [www.raceforwater.org/en/](http://www.raceforwater.org/en/)







*Students learned first hand about the experiments that the scientists have been carrying out to see how much plastic is in different parts of the oceans across the world.*





## Grade 4 and 5 Commences Migration Unit of Inquiry

Grade 4 have been a busy bunch in the past few weeks. Our Units of Inquiry have been developing steadily and the students are showing just how powerful their curiosity can be. Our previous unit of inquiry ended with the creation of some informative books. These were a huge success and have been printed and shared in the library for all of the students to enjoy. It has been a joy

to see the students of Grade 2 and 3 engaging with the written work of their peers!

We have begun to study the causes and effects of human migration through the exploration of real-life stories and case studies. It has been a great opportunity for students to read about a variety of cultures and historical events. They have also explored their own personal migration histories and we hope that can help provide perspective on their own lives.



On Monday 4 November, Grade 4 and 5 had a visitor, Innocent Mutanga, who talked about his personal experience of migration. Innocent is a captivating speaker and the students asked a lot of very insightful and equally respectful questions.

This kicked off discussions about our new unit of inquiry, which focuses on migration being a response to challenges and opportunities.



## Grade 4 and 5 focus on Mathematics

At the Elementary Campus our investigations into measurement, area and perimeter continued. We used a variety of methods to estimate and measure the world around us and gain a greater understanding of space and distance.



Grade 5 continued to investigate area and perimeter of regular 2D quadrilateral shapes and compound shapes. They explored the different strategies for solving problems when they were able to measure and then applying some of these to shapes that were not to scale and missing some measurements.





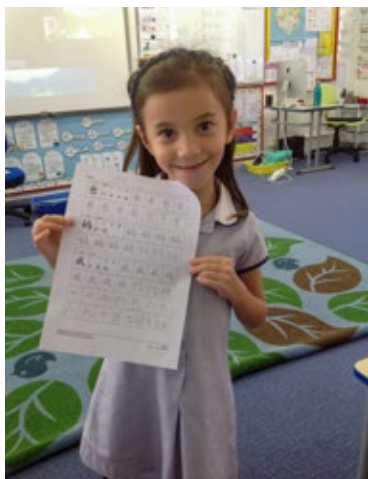
# 中文

Chinese



Kindergarten students are learning about animals. They now they know how to say their favourite animals in Mandarin! 学前班的学生正在学习动物主题，他们已经会用中文说自己最喜欢的动物了！

Grade 1 students are learning about numbers and family members. They can count up to 100, and can write their family members in Mandarin! 一年级的学生正在学习数字和家人，他们已经可以数到100，并且能写自己家人的汉字了！







Grade 2 students are learning about animals. They interviewed each other discussing what animals they like. 二年级的学生正在学习动物，他们采访了各自喜欢什么动物。



Grade 3 students are learning about house and rooms and designed their own dream homes! 三年级的学生正在学习家和房间，他们设计了自己梦想的家！

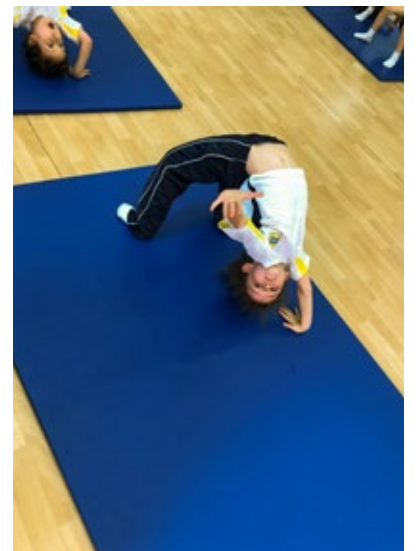




## PE

Our new unit was about Movement Composition. During the lessons, students explored and created a range of movements, such as forward and backward rolls, cartwheels and handstands. They were very motivated to participate and it was very pleasing to see that many of them were being risk takers by taking on new challenges in this unit.

Students also enjoyed various ball games, gymnastics and kickboxing activities in recent weeks, which helped develop their motor skills and flexibility. They also improved their teamwork and problem solving skills when they had to collaborate with their peers in different team games. Keep up the great work everyone!







## Meet Ms. Daswani

**Why did you become a teacher?** When I was little, I loved going to School. I had so much love and respect for my teachers, so much so that I would come home, use my mirror as a whiteboard and pretend to be my teachers and reenact the school day! I think I knew then I wanted to be a teacher. I wanted to do something meaningful and purposeful with my life. My teachers made such an impact on my life, I wanted to pay it forward and do the same.

**What are you passionate about?** I am passionate about health and wellness. I think it's so important to take care of yourself and the environment. Cooking, meditating, working out, practicing gratitude are some of the things I am most passionate about and are part of my daily practice.

**When you're having a bad day, what do you do to make yourself feel better?** When I'm having a bad day, a walk in nature with my dog, or going for a run with really loud music does wonders.

**What is the best piece of advice you've received?** Be grateful. There is always someone that has it harder in life than you.

**Which fictional character would you most like to meet?** Not one person in particular, but I would have loved to spend a day at Hogwarts.

**What is the funniest thing that has happened to you recently?** I was recently picked on at a Comedy Show, it was funny and embarrassing at the same time.

**If you could be any animal in the world, what animal would you be and why?** A dolphin, I would love to spend all my time in the Ocean.

**What inspires you?** My Grandfather. He shared unconditional love and kindness with everyone he met.

**How would you convince someone to do something they didn't want to do?** Go on and on about why it's a good idea!

**What do you want to be when you grow up?** I want to go with the flow and see what happens.

**You're a new addition to the crayon box. What color would you be and why?** Any colour, I would just be happy to be included.



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# CHINESE NEW YEAR ASSEMBLY

Thursday 23 January, 8:00-9:00am

Elsa High School Campus

All parents are invited to this special performance by all students, set to feature our *Carmel Dragon Dance*!

Coffee and tea will be available from 7:30am

