

# The Link

Carmel Elementary Campus Newsletter

Sept/Oct Issue

**Rosh Hashanah**  
New Year, New Beginnings  
and much more!





## Message from the Head of Elementary

Disney had a busy summer, with two classics from the 1990's hitting theatres. Both the revamped Lion King and Aladdin returned, with box-office domination. The characters, songs and storyline that touched our hearts in the mid-nineties, have once again captivated us. As many of us will recall, Aladdin details the story of an Arabian street urchin, who disguises himself as a wealthy prince, and tries to impress the Sultan and his daughter, while The Lion King depicts the dilemma of Simba, who must choose between 'hakuna matata' (a life of no worries) and taking his place as the ruler of the animal kingdom.

Carmel children have not missed a moment of the Disney excitement. Choir sessions have been overrun by the Aladdin and Lion King soundtracks while morning recesses are host to debates, with the children pitting the worth of Zazu, the hornbill and begrudged caretaker of Simba, against Genie, the tritagonist in Disney's Aladdin.

And when the morning bell rings, the children's jury concludes unanimously that Simba's 'Circle of Life' gets their vote.

And I can see why.

When all is said and done, our children want to live lives infused with meaning, where they feel that they are contributing (like Simba eventually did) to the greater good and to making a difference to the world. While 'hakuna matata' makes for a great, upbeat interlude in the world

of Disney, a 'no worries' attitude doesn't really move our children's world. They are drawn back, time and again, to looking at the world around them, to driving action for change and focusing on the impact that they can have on the lives of others.

The month of *Elul*, we are taught, is about spiritual reflection and reconnection, about charity and doing for others, and as Lord Rabbi Sacks so eloquently says, about 'Course Correction'. It is the time of year that the sound of the *Shofar* calls us to action, imploring us to take stock of our lives and to consider the role that we play personally, communally and even globally.

During the months of *Elul* and *Tishrei* I am always reminded that with the passing of time things look different. Trends come and go, thinking adapts and political and technological developments impact how we live, but the Circle of Life continues as a constant, urging us to consider, as Simba did, the part that we play.

From all of us at Carmel Elementary, we take this opportunity to wish our families and friends *Shana Tova Umetukah*. May you all be blessed and inscribed in the 'Book of Life'.



*Mira Hasofer*

Mira Hasofer  
Head of Elementary

## Happy Birthday to:

Victoire Bigot Ginsburg	Dana Coleman
Yali Cohen	Ronia Dagan
Hannah Craipeau	Elise Derman
Ella Dagan	Daniel Hagag
Ben Daniel	Lea Hentz
Oscar Hadassin	Miley Lau
Adam Marom	Michael Lau
Edward Oser	Daniel Levy
Lavie Schwartz	Tali Lyons
Ido Shacham	Guy Menahemov
Noa Shahar Charnuha	Mia Niddam
Nathan Weiss	William Shapiro
Adiella Wosner	Aviram Shemesh
Michael Yerushalmi	Leon Stern
Roni Assor	Aline Wigisser
Ido Assor	Oriya Yerushalmi
Tehila Burstin	



## Parasha Vayelech

Candle Lighting: 5:51pm  
Shabbat Ends: 6:41pm

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Carmel School Association

# Save the Date

Date	Event	Reminder
Monday 30 September - Tuesday 1 October	Rosh Hashanah 1&2	School Closed
2 October	School resumes	
7 October	Chung Yeung Festival Public Holiday	
8 October	Erev Yom Kippur	Dismissal at 11am
9 October	Yom Kippur	School Closed
10 October	Vision Screening	
14-23 October	Sukkot/Mid-Term Break	School Closed
24 October	School Resumes	

## Contents

feature: ROSH HASHANAH  
Celebrating the New Year



### Grade 3 Consolidate Place Value



### Kindergarten Learn Their Letters





# Kindergarten Literacy Report

Kindergarten has started their reading and writing journey, learning the sounds “m”, “a” and “s”. They have been engaging in a lot of fun multi-sensory activities that expose them to these letters. We are so excited to see our little Literacy learners bloom.









## Grade 1: Who We Are

It has been a great start to the year for Grade 1. We have been busy getting back into the school routine, familiarising ourselves with what we already know and getting excited about the many things we will learn and discover over the new school year. We have commenced two different units of inquiry - Sharing the Planet - which is our year-long, whole school unit as well as Who We Are. In addition to this, we have been broadening our understanding of number sense and focusing on recount writing, basic sight words and picking up reading books as often as possible. There is a positive atmosphere of thinking and learning happening in the classroom and we are looking forward to building on this in the coming months.

As Grade 1 inquire further into our current Unit of Inquiry about Who We Are, with the Central Idea being "The people in our lives and the choices we make influence who we are", we have been focusing on the different choices we can make and how these can influence others. To help identify positive choices we can make to help others, we watched and then read the story "Have You Filled a Bucket Today?", the main takeaway from the book being that we all carry an 'invisible bucket' and have the power to help fill the buckets of others by saying positive and kind things. We can also dip into people's buckets by doing and saying unkind things and so we should think carefully about our choices and how they can affect others. Taking this idea further as a whole Grade, we made our own individual buckets using paper cups and then went around putting stars and hearts in the buckets of others while saying supportive, encouraging statements to "fill each other's bucket". The students really enjoyed this activity and it was nice to hear all the positive things being said about each other. We encouraged more specific statements like "thank you for being such a kind and caring friend to me every day by playing nicely with me on the playground" rather than "I like your hair".





## Grade 2 Investigate *Natural Disasters* Unit of Inquiry

For our Unit of Inquiry on Natural Disasters, Grade 2 students completed a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) project. They worked in pairs to build a hurricane resistant house.

After reading the scientific facts about hurricanes, dams, and levees, students designed homes to withstand wind and flood damage. They had fun designing and building their homes and enjoyed testing them out!





## Grade 3 Do the Numbers

Grade 3 students joined forces in order to consolidate their learning about place value. Students participated in a variety of activities over the course of several days.

The activities included playing place value *Yahtzee*, using a computer to generate random numbers, and ordering the numbers from greatest to least. Some students also created a *Kahoot* so that they can test their classmate's knowledge, while others used dice and place value mats while playing a game to create the largest numbers possible.

During these activities, students needed to cooperate and collaborate with their peers in order to complete the tasks. The students had a lot of fun learning with their classmates!

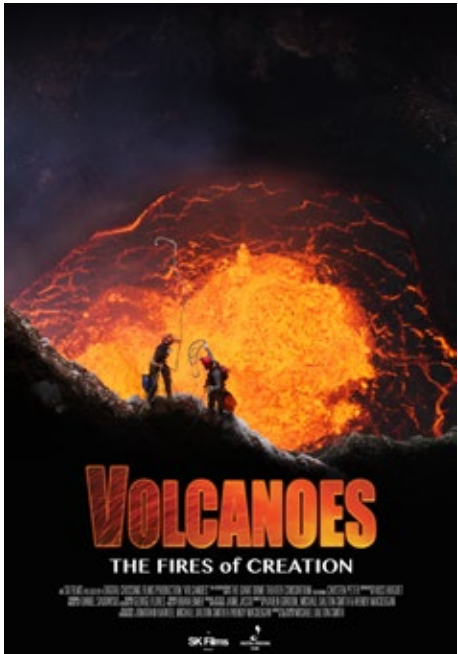




# Grade 2 & 3: Field Trip to the Space Museum

Grades 2 and 3 have been inquiring into Natural Disasters as part of our “How the World Works” Unit of Inquiry. We went on our first field trip to the Space Museum together to learn more about Volcanoes.

We took the Star Ferry over to Kowloon and had lunch overlooking Hong Kong Island. We then went into the OMNIMAX Theatre in the Space Museum to see the documentary ‘Volcanoes: The Fires of Creation’. We left with a greater understanding of how volcanoes form, the different places volcanoes exist and visually saw active volcanoes erupt in different parts of the world.



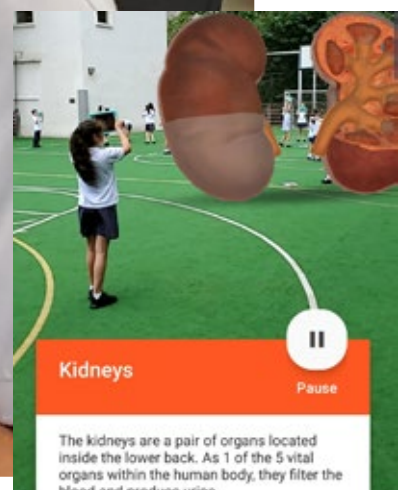
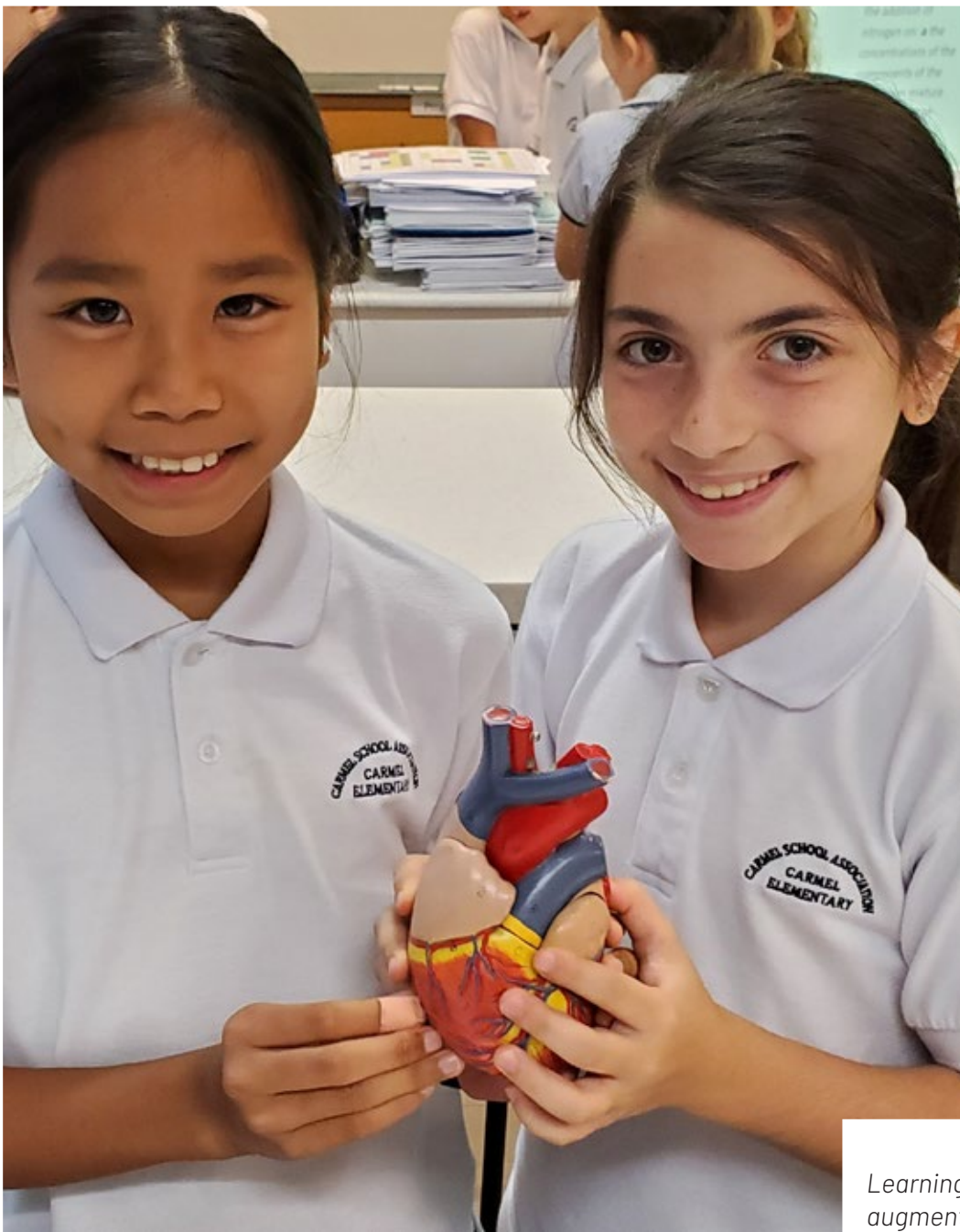


## Grade 4 and 5 Discover Who We Are

Grade 4 and 5 have begun their new unit of inquiry under the transdisciplinary theme of 'Who We Are'.

**Our central idea is "Human body systems are interconnected and influence our health and well-being."**

In order to carry out the first part of their inquiry, 'finding out,' the students were encouraged to use books, the internet, speak to experts, use augmented reality, and explored the app 'Tinybop,' utilising the full range of their available toolbox.



Learning becomes larger than life in augmented reality in the 'Tinybop' app



# 中文

## Chinese

九月十三日是中秋节，四年级和五年级的学生们学了嫦娥的故事，做了纸灯笼、猜灯谜。

Mid-Autumn Festival fell on 13 September. Grade 4 and Grade 5 students learned the story of *Change*, made paper lanterns and guessed riddles as a part of traditional activities.





# ROSH HASH ANAH 5780

## Bringing in the Jewish New Year

### What is Rosh Hashanah?

Rosh Hashanah translates as “the head of the year” and marks the creation of the World. It is one of the most important and significant days in the Jewish calendar where we observe and celebrate the end of one year and the beginning of the next.

*It is considered to be the holiest day in the Jewish calendar and is usually spent in prayer and fasting.*

Although the festival is a chance to enjoy time spent with friends and family, it is also a time for reflection, prayer and acts of kindness. On Rosh Hashanah we commence the 10 days of repentance, culminating in the holiest day of the Jewish year, Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement.

### How is Rosh Hashanah celebrated?

Rosh Hashanah 2019 will start on Sunday 29 September at sundown and end on Tuesday 1 October at nightfall. The two days are spent in prayer, study and feasting with family and friends.

Customs include sounding the shofar, a hollowed-out ram’s horn. The shofar’s 100 blasts will be heard in synagogues around the world, symbolising the call to repentance.

Symbolic foods such as apples dipped in honey, and dates are eaten to represent a “sweet new year”.

Fish heads symbolise the head of the year, and pomegranates, which are said to have 613 seeds represent the 613 commandments.

Children at Carmel Elementary spent the month of Elul, the final month of the Jewish year, preparing for Rosh Hashanah, learning about its customs and traditions, and sampling its symbolic foods.











## Professional Development

Carmel Elementary faculty congregated on Tuesday afternoon for a Professional Development with a spiritual focus. In the lead up to the Jewish New Year, Rosh Hashanah, teachers received an informal hands-on session on the traditions and symbolism observed during the holiday. Teachers heard about words such as Tefillah, Tzedakah and Teshuva and what they represent.















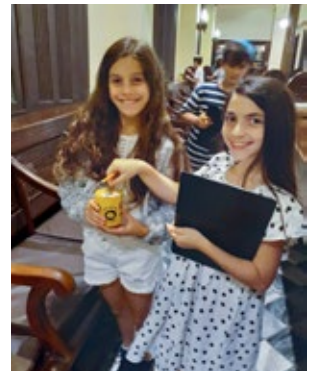








**Selichot at Ohel Leah Synagogue and a Rosh Hashanah Seder at the Elementary campus**





# INTO THE ARCHIVES

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

This Rosh Hashanah, we take a look back at one of the timeless contributions, this one a Rosh Hashanah classic submitted by Shani Brownstein, mother of Jordan and Zach, who both attended Carmel School.

*(Excerpt from page 107 of the recipe book)*



## Aline's Apple Cake

Pears can be substituted for apples. This is my mother-in-law's recipe. Her motto is "never cook anything that is not quick and easy to prepare," Easy for her to say - she's a wonderful cook!!

1. Preheat oven to 180°C/350 °F
2. Beat eggs and sugar together. Add oil, vanilla and flour.
3. Peel and cut apples into eighths. Cut a few thin slices.
4. Grease cake pan. Pour batter into cake pan and sink apples into batter "standing up". Place thinner slices on the top.
5. Bake for 45-50 minutes. After removing cake from oven, immediately pour cognac on top.

### You will need:

3	Eggs
3/4 cup	Sugar
1 tsp.	Vanilla
2 tsp.	Baking powder
1 cup	Flour
3	Apples
2-3 tsp.	Cognac
1/2 cup	Oil
	Margarine (to grease pan)



## Fun and Games in PE

Our year of Physical Education (PE) is off to a great start. Students have been enjoying a variety of group games and ball games. One of their favorite games is Bench Ball, which develops their hand-eye coordination and teamwork. Students have also learnt *"Capture the Flag"*, training their spatial awareness and teamwork.

The children participated in their first in-school basketball tournament which took place on 24 September. We also participated in our first ISSFHK Swimming Meet on Tuesday 17 September at ISF Academy. Congratulations to our Grades 4 and 5 participants who competed in the freestyle, backstroke and breaststroke races.

The children have been learning about healthy living and monitoring their heart rates. We have looked at the importance of stretches and warm ups and all children now know how to stretch before and after exercise.

Our next unit in PE will be movement and composition, where children will learn gymnastics, dance and will even have a go at kick-boxing.

Ms. Gali and Mr. Vincent  
PE Department



Carmel Elementary inaugural inter-house Basketball Tournament. Kids enjoyed the morning with friendly competition and great house spirit!





# Art

Over the summer break, the Artroom underwent an amazing transformation. We were lucky enough to be able to purpose build our Patricia Creative Centre, a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art & Math) space. This encourages collaboration between our Design and Art departments.

So far, students have been exploring texture and printmaking, creating their own printing plates. In Art Club, we have been designing our own beads and jewelry. The artists we will be investigating this year are Frida Kahlo and Andy Warhol. Up-cycling and recycling will be a focus, aligning with our whole school Programme of Inquiry.





## Hebrew

Our Grade 4 and 5 students started their Hebrew learning this year by looking at Eli Mohar's song 'As Long As', which expresses the journey of learning, the importance of reading and the beauty of the alphabet.

As I looked at the Kindergarten photos below, I couldn't help but sing the words of the song to myself. Indeed, the wheel of time continues to turn, with our young students setting out to learn the Alef Beit, while our Grade 5 students seemed to have just learned it just yesterday.

*"As long as the sea rises up,*

*As long as the wind blows,*

*As long as on the black board remains,*

*There will be written a word..."*

..."ועל הלוח עולות שוב אותיות הכתב"

התלמידים, דוברי העברית, בכיתות ד' וה', התוודעו השנה למילות השיר המקסים הזה של עלי מוהר, ולמראה התמונות שלהלן, בהן ילדי הגן לומדים להכיר, זה עתה, את אותיות הא"ב שלנו, לא יכולתי שלא לזמזם לעצמי את השיר

אכן, הגלגל שוב חוזר לו, וילדי הגן לומדים שוב את אותיות הכתב כשאנו מתבוננים בתלמידינו שבכתה ה' ומשתאים: "איך עוד שנה פה נפתחת", הרי גם הם למדו רק "אתמול" בגן, את אותיות הכתב

כל עוד הים מתעורר לו'

כל עוד הרוח עולה

כל עוד על שחור הלוח

"תתנוסס מלה"

בברכת שנה טובה לכולנו

ובהצלחה

המורה ריקי





## Meet Ms. Lam

**Why did you become a teacher?** I realized I wanted to become a teacher when I was volunteering at a nursery in New York City during my last year of university. Since then, I embarked on my teaching career and haven't looked back. I love that each day is different and that I get to work with young and bright students. Being a teacher also challenges me to continuously improve myself inside and outside the classroom.

**What are you passionate about?** I'm passionate about animal welfare, and this manifests in several ways. I love all animals, especially dogs. I recently adopted an 8-year old poodle this past summer, and she's brought so much joy to me and my family. Each month I also try to make time to volunteer at a local cat shelter in Sai Ying Pun. My job as a volunteer is to socialize the cats to help them become more adoptable as well as do a general clean-up of their living space. Finally, it's been more than two years since I last ate meat and I am working towards cutting down my dairy intake as well.

**When you're having a bad day, what do you do to make yourself feel better?** Spend time with my (three!) dogs, write in my gratitude journal or treat myself to a comforting meal at a nice restaurant.

**What is the best piece of advice you've received?** Less is more. I try to apply this to various aspects in my life.

**What is the funniest thing that has happened to you recently?** Hard to say, it's never a boring day in a classroom full of Kindergarten students!

**What inspires you?** Travel, nature and the occasional random musings from a Kindergarten student.

**What do you want to be when you grow up?** When I'm older, I still want to be teaching in the classroom. But I've always had this dream of setting up an animal sanctuary - probably not an easy feat in Hong Kong!

**You're a new addition to the crayon box. What color would you be and why?** Lavender purple. Since it's quite a subtle shade and not neon bright, it doesn't draw much attention. At the same time, it's not a boring color either. There is something mysterious about it. Both aspects are fairly accurate reflections of my character, as I am more introverted than extroverted, and prefer not to overshare.

A special thank you to the Elsa High School Campus Weekly Daf team for providing the questions!





First days of school





## Welcome Breakfast



## Back to School Night and the unveiling of The Patricia Creative Centre



## Parent Tech Talk





# 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 幼儿中心下午班

Monday-Friday 1:00-4:00pm 星期一至五(下午一至四时)

English language medium and Mandarin specialist classes  
为幼儿提供多元化的双语课程

Child-centred, independent learning. Fostering future academic success  
以幼儿为中心的教学方式，培养其独立学习能力，为未来学业做准备

Purpose designed indoor and outdoor learning spaces  
适合于幼儿学习的室内/室外空间

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

 Carmel School Association



**GANEYNU**  
Over 25 Years of Excellence