



Elsa High School Newsletter

Weekly Daf

Term 1 Edition 14

23 November 2018 - 15 Kislev 5779



Watch a short video about Robotics at Carmel
youtu.be/9bAxIKD6Rf4

Dvar Torah: Vayishlach

One of the episodes in our Parasha, parshat Vayishlach, is the confrontation or fight between Yaakov and the "man", who also appeared as an angel. When Yaakov is on his way back to Eretz Yisrael one night, he runs into a fight with what is described as "the angel of G-d". The Torah tells us that the fight lasted that entire night and ended with Yaakov being injured but victorious. The G-dly angel gives Yaakov our nation's name - ISRAEL - which means "struggle with men and G-d"

This story is one of the most difficult to grasp: it even challenges our rabbis to try to find its meaning and purpose.

Rav Hirsch and others view the meeting between the angel and Yaakov as a metaphor for Jewish history. For example, one pasuk states "And Jacob was left alone," This portrays the common theme of the Jewish people who constantly found themselves in exile. The Jewish people generally find themselves alone in the darkness with nobody to help. It is also noted that the pasuk says "Va'ya'avek ish imo" (and the "man" struggled

with him") - indicating that the angel was the aggressor, while Yaakov acted in self-defense and won. Yaakov survived this meeting and moved on despite his injury and continued to the Land of Israel. As mentioned before, this is a metaphor for the history of the Jews. Everybody tries to wipe us out, however, ultimately, most of our enemies have been wiped from history while we live on and despite our losses and "injuries", we made it back to our land.

I think that the message of the confrontation between the angel and Yaakov does not apply only to Israel as a nation in history but also to everyone as individual.

As individuals we see that Yaakov was resilient and constantly fought an angel that was much stronger than him. Despite the fact that Yaakov was not sure he could win that battle he knew that the struggle itself has value regardless of the outcome. We must replicate Yaakov's resilience by standing tall and overcoming obstacles, even if they are much stronger and bigger than we are. Shabbat Shalom!

Mordechai Oser Grade 10

Service and Action: Mylsrael

As part of this year's SaA, Grade 7 has begun working with Mylsrael. Mylsrael is a non-profit organization that raises funds for small charities throughout Israel. 100% of the money raised goes to their charities. Through their program, you can track where your donation is going and the impact it is making.

As a class, we chose to support one of the charities, Dental Volunteers for Israel (DVI) which is a free dental clinic for some of Israel's poorest children. We feel that this was an important one as it is shown that kids with rotten teeth find it hard to concentrate because of the pain, and are often embarrassed to smile or open their mouths to talk. So by raising money for this we really hope that we are giving the kids receiving the treatment a brighter future.



As our first initiative, we have chosen to do a sponsored beach cleanup. Not only will this benefit the children using DVI but it will also be helping to clean up some of the rubbish from Hong Kong's beaches and oceans. But it won't end there as we plan to do many more initiatives, such as creating our own cookbook, with the money raised going to the charity.

With the many events and initiatives, we will help the charity DVI to support kids around Israel, giving them a sense of confidence and relief. Special thanks to Louise Oz, Mr. Greenbaum and Mr. Swart and for helping us get in touch with Mylsrael and thinking of ideas for initiatives.

Good luck with exams and Shabbat Shalom!

Ben Oz & Milly Golovsky Grade 7



Debate Team faces Hong Kong Chinese Women's Club College

Elsa Debate Team argues for the motion "The House would pay all interns in Hong Kong the minimum wage" in heated inter-school debate.

On Wednesday, November 21, Elsa High School had a fierce debate competition against Hong Kong Chinese Women's Club College. We debated for the motion: "The House would pay all interns in Hong Kong the minimum wage".

The team line up for Elsa High School was: Mordechai Oser as the first speaker, Arthur Tong as the second speaker, and Tahlia Goldberg as the third speaker to conclude the debate. Our team started preparing for this debate a month before the competition, finding time to meet to prepare and practise our speeches. We helped each other with last minute improvements and finishing touches. This was our second debate, however we were quite nervous prior to the competition. As soon as the competition started, everyone took a deep breath and entered the debate calmly.

From their seats, our teachers gave us moral support which made us more confident. We did, however, face some challenges during the debate such as exceeding the time limit, resulting a 4-point deduction by the judge, luckily this did not affect the overall result.

The debate was tipped in our favor because we provided better arguments based on sound evidence. As a result, Elsa High School is now through to the final round!

Congratulations to Mordechai for being awarded the 'Best Speaker' award for the second time running and thank you to our Debate Coach, Mr. Bartholomew,

Arthur Tong Grade 9



Guests at Elsa High School

Survival Stories with Ephraim Kaye

Ephraim Kaye is the Director of the International Seminars for Educators Department at the International School for Holocaust Studies at Yad Vashem.

Last Friday, we had the great privilege of welcoming Ephraim Kaye to Elsa High School. He shared with us some of the stories from survivors of the Holocaust. One story that stood out in particular was from a woman who described the moment she – as a very young child – was separated from her mother. She had been asked to choose between her own mother and a stranger, and

sensing from her mother that something was wrong she decided to choose the woman she did not know, who was not Jewish. She lived in a Convent School for the majority of her childhood and was asked to hide her Jewish identity in order to survive. After the war was over she was taken to Israel by a Jewish man and woman.

It was truly inspiring to hear about the bravery and courage of all the people mentioned. Many thanks to Mr. Kaye for taking the time out to visit Elsa High School and share these inspiring stories,

Tyra Dahlberg Grade 12

Rabbi Micha Odenheimer visits Elsa High School

Last Friday, guest speaker Rabbi Micha Odenheimer came in to speak to the Jewish students during Jewish Studies class. He spoke about his insights and views on the contrast between Western religions like Judaism, and Eastern religions like Buddhism and Hinduism, as well as his experiences in Nepal with his volunteering company, Tevel b'Tzedek.

He began with speaking about how Nepal was a melting pot of two main religions, Buddhism and Hinduism. Hindus worship multiple gods and goddesses, and aim to remove the bodily distractions from life in order to live fully. In Buddhism, one often follows a disciplined life in order to realise that nothing is truly “me”, such that one eliminates the very illusion of existence.

In contrast to Judaism, these philosophies are very theoretical, rather than practical. Judaism focuses on things such as “Tikkun Olam” – or “fixing the world”. This is why people such as Rabbi Odenheimer volunteer in places like Nepal, and we should focus on building other people’s lives, which in turn helps to build ours. Whether we fixate on the higher power in life, or center on changing ourselves, one thing necessary in life is helping others, and reaching out to people that need help in this world.

We would like to thank Rabbi Odenheimer for coming to speak to us and Ohel Leah Synagogue and the JCCEC's Maayan Schwartz for bringing the Rabbi to Elsa.

Charlie Allard Grade 10



Back to Berlin Film Screening

November 11th marked the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War. On the 11th hour, of the 11th day, of the 11th month, Germany signed an armistice with the Allied powers, promising to cease all hostilities. While this day is supposed to symbolize a restoration of peace, the end of the First World War brought with it many consequences, contributing to mass loss and destruction in the years to come. On Monday morning during assembly, the film *Back to Berlin* was screened. This film explores the complex motorcycling expedition of several individuals, who, as they travel from Israel to Berlin, stop in various countries and discover more about their families histories during the Second World War.

While this film symbolized the empowerment of the Jewish nation despite the horrors of the Holocaust, it also revealed many of the aspects of anti-Semitism and racism that still exist in Europe today. The bikers were taken aback by the need for local Police officers to escort them through the cities as they rode with Israeli flags on the back of their motorcycles. In light of Remembrance Sunday and Armistice day, this movie

was a reminder that the formal declaration of peace does not mean that all members of society will exist peacefully among one another. A scene in the movie showing riots at the Hungarian border from Syrian refugees fleeing their damaged regime was another reminder of the prevalence of war today.

The film's final scene displayed the motorcyclists, descendants of Holocaust survivors, riding their bikes into the opening ceremony of the 2014 Maccabiah games. The tournament was symbolically held in the Olympic park in Berlin, the same place the 1936 Olympics took place, where Jews were banned from participating under the authority of the Nazi regime. Thus serving as a positive message that despite the inhumanity and brutality of the Nazis and the anti-Semitism of today, the Jewish nation is able to stand up and ensure this period in history never repeats itself.

Thank you to Catherine Lurie and Hong Kong Holocaust Tolerance Centre (HKHTC) Director Simon Li for bringing this film to our School and to Creative Secondary School staff and students for joining us for the screening.

Tami Davidson Grade 12



This past Tuesday we were fortunate enough to welcome Pitzer College President Melvin Oliver, and his wife Suzanne Oliver to campus. Pitzer College, located in California, is a Liberal Arts school and a member of the Claremont Colleges which includes Claremont McKenna College, Harvey Mudd College, Pomona College, and Scripps College. During his talk, President Oliver spoke passionately about the merits of a liberal arts education and why Pitzer would be among the best places to attain one. His talk drew upon both his own experience, in and outside of academia, as well as the interesting setting in which Pitzer was founded.

As President Oliver affirms, the breadth and freedom to explore are what sets a Liberal Arts education apart. The variety of subjects allow students to learn and engage with a wider range of ideas, each of which helps them discover their personal interests, strengths, and potential career paths. Moreover, exploring different philosophies, cultures, and human experiences broadens one's worldview.

President Oliver stated that his favorite major, is 'undeclared'. This is in contrast to a more technical education; why should we expect a person going into college to narrow down and decide what they wish to do for the rest of their life so early on? Should a university education be purely career oriented? As a senior in high school, these were questions I found most pertinent.

"Exploring different philosophies, cultures, and human experiences broadens one's worldview"

The 1960's in America was a time of great change, marked by the civil rights movement, counterculture, feminism, Vietnam and anti-war protests. As President Oliver points out, Pitzer, founded in 1963, in many ways reflects the best of that decade. This is most clearly seen in Pitzer's five core values: social responsibility, intercultural understanding, interdisciplinary learning, student engagement, and environmental sustainability. The Environmental Analysis major, the most popular at the college, pulls directly from that last value and seems to represent the college as a whole. Pitzer students, like those who study Environmental Science, are engaged with the world, understand their place in it, and are optimistic in their ability to change it for the better.

Many thanks to President Oliver for taking the time to come and speak to us and to Mr. Ford for organising this talk!

William Barron Grade 12

Carmel School Association
Elsa High School

Sports Day RESULTS



Final results on next page!

Spirit on Full Display at Elsa's Sports Day

Multiple records across many events were broken at our sunny Sports Day and our athletes are just getting started...



Mr. Roshan Julian
Director of Experiential Learning

Sports Day was extremely successful this year which all came down to the students and their drive to score as many points for their House as possible.

We were very lucky with the weather, venue and all round conditions of the day. This year students were able to gain points for their House by participating in; Track events, Field events (Shot Put, Javelin, High and Long Jump), 4x100 Relay, House cheer and for any records made on the day.

Students now need to look forward to the upcoming ISSFHK Track & Field league which starts in March. I will be selecting students according to how they performed on Sports Day as well as how they performed in the lead-up to Sports Day.

I would like to thank the PTA and all the parents that supported us on the day and a special thank you to Alan Chan for taking photos.

Thank you and Shabbat Shalom.

Overall Results

	Individual Events	Relays	New Records	House Cheer	Grand Total
Akiva Jerusalem	746	84	250	90	1170
David Tel Aviv	798	86	500	102	1486
Hillel Haifa	724	92	450	130	1396





T"01

Come and share your
talent with us!!



Chanuka talent show!



Our traditional talent show
will take place on Chanuka, in the Auditorium.

December 7th

RSVP: nadiv.dutch@carmel.edu.hk



**On Chanuka a small light defeated great darkness
Now it is our turn to spread the light...**

Wednesday, December 5th

Special Chanuka Competition @ Elsa

Glow in the Dark Inter-House Dodgeball Tournament

Please bring a plain white T-shirt that you don't mind getting messy or painted



SHOE DRIVE IN MEMORY OF JOSH ZION OBM

Shoe Drive

BRING IN YOUR LIGHTLY
USED TRAINERS AND SPORTS
SHOES AND HELP THOSE IN
NEED.

Friday 30th November 2018
Last day!

BONGUMSA MTHEMBU'S FOUNDATION
SUPPORTED BY PURPLE TEDDY
IN SUPPORT OF RUNNERS' VILLAGE.



Carmel School Association
Carmel Elementary

Kindergarten Open Day

Tuesday 27 November 2018

RSVP:

carmel.edu.hk/kindergarten-open-day



T'03

CARMEL ANNUAL FUND



Thank you to all who have pledged so far

Please visit

[https://www.carmelschoolassociation.wufoo.com/forms/srkpwrj0azvroot/](https://www.carmelschoolassociation.wufoo.com/forms/srkpwrj0azvroot)
to find out how you can contribute

Happy Birthday to
Dov Kahmin, Alexander Gershon
and **Bradley Selevan**



We hope you've enjoyed reading The Weekly Daf!

From **The Weekly Daf Team**

Tyra Dahlberg, Louis Efron, Hanna Hipwell-Serfaty, Ian Lyons, Issy Lyons, Luis Yap
and Mr. Dan Bartholomew

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Carmel School Association



Elsa PTA LUNCH MEETING

**Monday 26 November at 12:30pm
3/F Davidson Conference Room
Elsa High School**

Mr. Kyle Ford, Director of Art and Design Studies will present the important connections between design and other fields of study. Mrs. Friedmann will also update us on ongoing school activities and developments.



בס"ד

CLIMB EVERY MOUNTAIN

NOVEMBER 28

JOIN THE CARMEL SCHOOL PTA & HIKE ONE OF
HONG KONG'S MOST BEAUTIFUL TRAILS !!!

DRAGON'S BACK

FOR DETAILS PLEASE CALL
KRYZIA ALLARD

53240055

Books of the Week

Support at home is key to how young people approach reading for pleasure. Every week we will be promoting books new and old, fiction and non-fiction for readers of all ages and levels. Our libraries are open to students and parents alike and books can be borrowed through student's accounts.

These books, and more, can be found directly here: libraryceo.com/carmel/opac/index.php or through our school library site here: carmel.edu.hk/learning/library

Magician by Raymond E. Feist

Raymond E. Feist's classic fantasy epic, *Magician*, has enchanted readers for over thirty-five years.

In the westernmost province of the Kingdom of the Isles, upon the world of Midkemia, an orphan kitchen boy was made apprentice to the magician Kulkan. Here starts an adventure that will span lifetimes and worlds. Discover where the story begins.

"The world had changed even before I discovered the foreign ship wrecked on the shore below Crydee Castle, but it was the harbinger of the chaos and death that was coming to our door. War had come to the Kingdom of the Isles, and in the years that followed it would scatter my friends across the world. I longed to train as a warrior and fight alongside our duke like my foster-brother, but when the time came, I was not offered that choice. My fate would be shaped by other forces. My name is Pug. I was once an orphaned kitchen boy, with no family and no prospects, but I am destined to become a master magician..."

"Totally gripping. Epic scope... fast moving action... vivid imagination." - The Washington Post



Fiction



Fiction

The Fault in Our Stars by John Green

Bestselling author, John Green crafts a brilliantly funny and moving coming-of-age journey about true friendship and true love.

Despite the tumor-shrinking medical miracle that has bought her a few years, Hazel has never been anything but terminal, her final chapter inscribed upon diagnosis. But when a gorgeous plot twist named Augustus Waters suddenly appears at Cancer Kid Support Group, Hazel's story is about to be completely rewritten.

Insightful, bold, irreverent, and raw, *The Fault in Our Stars* is award-winning-author John Green's most ambitious and heartbreaking work yet, brilliantly exploring the funny, thrilling, and tragic business of being alive and in love.

"*The Fault in Our Stars* is a love story, one of the most genuine and moving ones in recent American fiction, but it's also an existential tragedy of tremendous intelligence and courage and sadness." - Lev Grossman, TIME

The Wind-up Bird Chronicle by Haruki Murakami

The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle is a tour de force - and one of Haruki Murakami's most acclaimed and beloved novels.

In a Tokyo suburb, a young man named Toru Okada searches for his wife's missing cat - and then for his wife as well - in a netherworld beneath the city's placid surface. As these searches intersect, he encounters a bizarre group of allies and antagonists.

Gripping, prophetic, and suffused with comedy and menace, this is an astonishingly imaginative detective story, an account of a disintegrating marriage, and an excavation of the buried secrets from Japan's forgotten campaign in Manchuria during World War II.

"A stunning work of art . . . that bears no comparisons." - New York Observer



Non Fiction

פינת הספרייה העברית

סמסטר ראשון: מהדורה מספר 12
ט"ו בכסלו ה'תשע"ט



ארץ האגדות

כתב: כריס קולפר

ארץ האגדות מספר על זוג תאומים בשם אלכס וקונר. שנה לפני שהסיפור החל, אלכס וקונר איבדו את אביהם בתאונת דרכים. הסיפור מתחיל כשביום הולדתם השניים עשר, סבתם מביאה להם את ספר האגדות הישן שלה. מה שהם לא יודעים זה שהספר הוא בעצם שער לעולם קסום ומופלא, עולם האגדות. ומשם הסיפור מתחיל... אלכס וקונר פוגשים דמויות מדהימות (שכולנו מכירים מסיפורי הילדות שלנו) ועוברים חוויות מרתקות ומבעיתות כאחד. אבל בנוסף לסינדרלה ושלגיה ושאר הדמויות טובות הלב מהאגדות, גם הדמויות הרעות מתעוררות לחיים...

הכי אהבתי את הספר השישי והאחרון בסדרה. אהבתי אותו כי הוא הכי מותח ומעניין מכולם וגם כי הוא הספר האחרון, אז הוא סוגר את הסדרה המדהימה הזאת בצורה מושלמת. אבל כמובן, אל תתחילו מהספר השישי.. הספר הראשון והשני נמצאים בספריית העברית ואני ממליצה לכם בחום להיכנס לעולם הקסום והמותח של ארץ האגדות. אתם תיהנו מכל רגע!

הדס גרינבוים - כיתה ו'