



Elsa High School Newsletter

www.carmel.edu.hk

Weekly Daf

Term 1 Edition 16

7 December 2018 – 29 Kislev 5779



A Special Chanukah Greeting

youtu.be/gkTFZlzyOqI

Dvar Torah: Hanukkah

The story of Hanukkah is one of the most known in our nation's history. The story illustrates the Greek's oppressive control of Israel, in which they forced the Jews to abandon their faith and tradition. In this sense the Greeks prevailed as there was initially only one family who stood up to them – the Maccabees. The Maccabees started an uprising that consisted of a three year war against the Greek army and after three years, the Jews were victorious and returned to the Bet Hamikdash where they lit the Menorah candles after finding a single kosher oil flask which, against all odds and logic, lasted for eight days.

The celebration of Hanukkah is an interesting one as there is an immense divide between two narratives concerning what the main miracle of Hanukkah actually is. The first opinion as stated in the Book of the Maccabim and as mentioned in our prayers, was the miraculous victory in the war itself, as against all

odds the Jews triumphed over the Greeks. The second opinion as stated in the Talmud sees the miracle of the oil as central, telling us that although the Maccabees only had enough oil to sustain the Menorah for one night, a miracle occurred allowing them to keep the eternal light glowing for eight nights against all odds.

However both opinions share one major commonality – they happened 'against all odds'. In both narratives, the main miracle is attributed to the belief that people can make a miracle come true, despite everything. From this, we can learn that perhaps the real miracle is that we as Jews are able to light our candles each year and remember the story of Hanukkah. In this sense, the light extended from that single candle has continued to last two millennia, and we can learn that even when things look dark and impossible, there is always a chance for light and victory.

Shabbat Shalom and Happy Hanukkah

Issy Lyons Grade 11

Chanukah 5779 at Carmel School Association

Carmel School has been honoured to receive a beautiful five foot silver Menorah from the Zion family, to be housed and used at Elsa High School. This Menorah is in memory of Assaf OBM, beloved and sorely missed brother of Iris and brother-in-law of Ronen, nephew of Ephraim & Hannah and cousin of Ronen, Erez, Nicky, Simon, Yael and Daniella. It was dedicated at last night's Carmel Elementary Channukah celebration where Ephraim lit the Menorah. May Assaf's memory be a blessing and may his light shine forever.



Every day this week we have gathered together as a school and lit the Hanukkah candles. Each day at one o'clock we come together and our invited special guest helps us to light the candles. On Monday we had Dr. Rafael Aharoni come to speak to us and he gave a warm and knowledgeable speech which we all benefited a lot from, before saying berachot, singing Maoz Tsur and lighting the candles together. This was a great start to our Hanukkah festivities. On Tuesday we had past Carmel Chair Mr. Neil Hyman and his wife Karen come to Elsa High School. Together with Marco's berachot, they lit the Hanukkah candles. Then, on Wednesday we lit the candles all together and Mordechai gave us the honor of saying berachot. Once the candles were lit we enjoyed some fun games. On Thursday we had the privilege of Trustee Mr. Robert Dorfman lighting the candles with us and giving us a powerful message of our role as a Jewish School in Hong Kong. Today we were blessed to light the candles with Ms. Sharon Ser and Irene. This week has been a week filled with festivities and many great moments.

We are very thankful for all the guests that have come together with us.

Mia Apelbaum Grade 9



#powerofparticipation

Every student counts.
Every moment counts.
Every donation counts.

CARMEL ANNUAL FUND

Thank you to all who have pledged so far

Please visit www.carmelschoolassociation.wufoo.com/forms/srkpwrj0azvoo to find out how you can contribute

Spirit Week



Students vs. Staff Football Match

The first day of this year's Spirit Week was a day to celebrate our great teachers at Elsa High School, with the theme of the day being for students to dress up like their favourite teacher.

Each day during Spirit Week, there is a fun activity based around the theme of the day. The activity on the first day was a Grade 12 students vs teachers football match which took place outside on the astroturf during lunch with the following teachers volunteering to take part in this match: Mr. Webber, Mr. Stone, Mr. Ford, Mr. Yau, Mr. Chan, Mr. Ma, Mr. Bibby and Mr. Julian.

Soon after kick off, and after some intense battling on the pitch, it was the teachers who opened the scoring with a lovely strike from Mr. Ford into the bottom corner of the net. The frustration of the Grade 12 students as their teachers led 1-0 was transformed onto the pitch as they looked for an equaliser.

However, this was not made easy for them with a variety of great saves from goalkeeper Mr. Chan and the teachers hung on until the end of the first half. Shortly after the opening of the second half, Mr. Stone was able to double the lead for the teachers and it looked like the students did not have much fight left in them. Not long after, Ian managed to get one back for the Grade 12s to give them some hope.

The teachers were able to find one more goal with a great strike from Mr. Webber as the whistle was blown. The final score was 3-1 to the teachers.

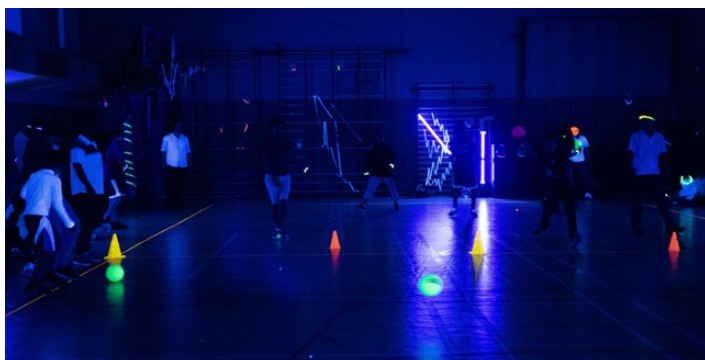
Thank you to all the students and teachers for volunteering to compete in this match to open Spirit Week. Congratulations to the teachers!

Marco Caviglia Grade 10





Ohel Leah Synagogue's Director of Programing, Ori Harel along with Tsofia and Rina, Bnei Akvia Shlichot, surprised Elsa High School last Friday afternoon with a sweet treat - fresh cotton candy! This was a well-deserved indulgence after a tough week focusing hard for the end of semester exams, kol hakavod Elsa! Mr. Greenbaum



Student Council Spirit Report

After a long and stressful week of exams, Spirit Week comes and fills our days with fun activities and free dress opportunities. Like every year, the Student Council was in charge of planning the week and making it into a fun, enjoyable time for everyone.



As part of the Student Council, I was to help plan Wednesday by picking a theme and an activity that students would enjoy. After a lengthy process, we picked our theme to be Twins day - a day when people find a someone to wear matching clothes with - and the activities were an M&Ms guessing game and the Candlestick game.

We held our two activities during lunch break and proceeded to hand out the prizes later. The candlestick game consisted of a string tied around a candle and then put around someone's waist like a tail, Their goal was to squat down enough to get the candle put into a water bottle. Every time someone got it in, they won a prize. The next game was a guessing game: students looked at a jar of M&Ms and took turns writing down their guess as to how many there were in the jar. Whoever gets closest to the number, wins the jar to share with their classmates.



Congratulations to all the winners of the candlestick game and to Sophie Effron for guessing that there were 1,756 M&Ms which was closest to the actual amount—1,735 M&Ms!

Thank you to Ms. Cheng and Hamorah Avishag for running Spirit Week and helping us with all the activities and preparations.

Tahlia Goldberg Grade 8



Students bring the spirit of Hannukah to the school next door, sharing donuts and other treats





PTA Announcements

Carmel School PTA proudly presents a screening of

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SCREEN AGERS

GROWING UP IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Are We Fostering a Generation of Screen Addicts?

You won't want to miss this highly acclaimed documentary about the impact of screen time on our children. Be part of this very important discussion about what parents can do to help children set up boundaries and self-regulate.

Suggested Donation \$100

Moderator Mr. Gary Swart

Dialogue to follow the screening



December 11, 7:30pm
JCC Garden Room

RSVP

elsahighadmin@carmel.edu.hk
+852 3665 5388

Announcements

Happy Birthday to
Benjamin Greenstein and Jennie Wong



We hope you've enjoyed reading The Weekly Daf!

From **The Weekly Daf Team**

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

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Carmel School Association

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

Out of My Mind by Sharon M. Draper

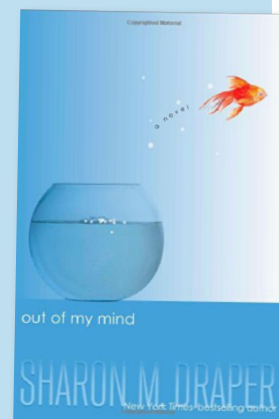
Read the #1 New York Times bestseller and discover the brilliant mind of Melody Brooks.

From multiple award-winning author Sharon Draper comes a story that will forever change how we all look at anyone with a disability.

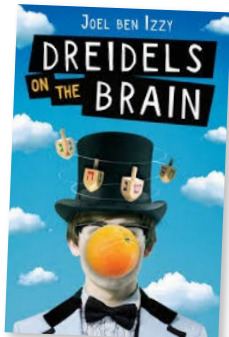
Eleven-year-old Melody is not like most people. She can't walk. She can't talk. She can't write. All because she has cerebral palsy. But she also has a photographic memory; she can remember every detail of everything she has ever experienced.

She's the smartest kid in her whole school, but NO ONE knows it. Most people - her teachers, her doctors, her classmates - dismiss her as mentally challenged because she can't tell them otherwise. But Melody refuses to be defined by her disability. And she's determined to let everyone know it ... somehow.

"If there's one book teens and parents (and everyone else) should read this year, Out of My Mind should be it." - Denver Post



Fiction



Fiction

Dreidels on the Brain by Joel ben Izzy

One lousy miracle. Is that too much to ask?

Evidently so for Joel, as he tries to survive Hanukkah in 1971 in the suburbs of the suburbs of Los Angeles (or, as he calls it, "The Land of Shriveled Dreams"). That's no small task when you're a "seriously funny-looking" twelve-year-old magician who dreams of being his own superhero: Normalman. And Joel's a long way from that as the only Jew at Bixby School, where his attempts to make himself disappear fail spectacularly. Home is no better, with a family that's not just mortifyingly embarrassing, but flat-out broke.

That's why Joel's betting everything on these eight nights, to see whether it's worth believing in God or miracles or anything at all. Armed with his favorite jokes, some choice Yiddish words, and a suitcase full of magic tricks, he's scrambling to come to terms with the world he lives in - from hospitals to Houdini to the Holocaust - before the last of the candles burns out.

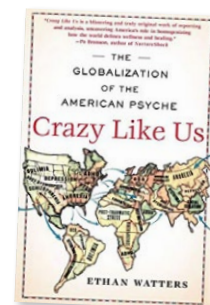
"Relatable and humorous. . . . A coming-of-age novel steeped in tradition [that] will appeal to anyone who has felt different and those who believe—or want to believe—in miracles." - VOYA

Crazy Like Us: The Globalization of the American Psyche by Ethan Watters

"The most devastating consequence of the spread of American culture across the globe has not been our golden arches or our bomb craters, but our bulldozing of the human psyche itself. American-style depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, and anorexia have begun to spread around the world like contagions, and the virus is us."

Traveling from Hong Kong to Sri Lanka to Zanzibar to Japan, acclaimed journalist Ethan Watters witnesses firsthand how Western healers often steamroll indigenous expressions of mental health and madness and replace them with our own. In teaching the rest of the world to think like us, we have been homogenizing the way the world goes mad.

"In addition to the cultural flotsam that drives the rest of the world crazy, America is literally exporting its mental illnesses ... [Watters] is on to something worth pondering." - Time magazine



Non Fiction

פינת הספרייה העברית

סמסטר ראשון: מהדורה מספר 14
כ"ט בכסלו ה'תשע"ט



מתוך הספר "לילה עם אונדה" כתבה: אורית רינגל אמיר

מיקה עמדה בפתח הסטודיו. עיניה הגדולות היו נעוצות בגבה של אמא, שעמדה מול כן הציור. מיקה עמדה בשקט ולא אמרה מילה, ורק גור החתולים שהחזיקה בידה ילל בקול חלש.

"שוב?" שאלה גבי, אמא של מיקה, בלי להסב את ראשה.

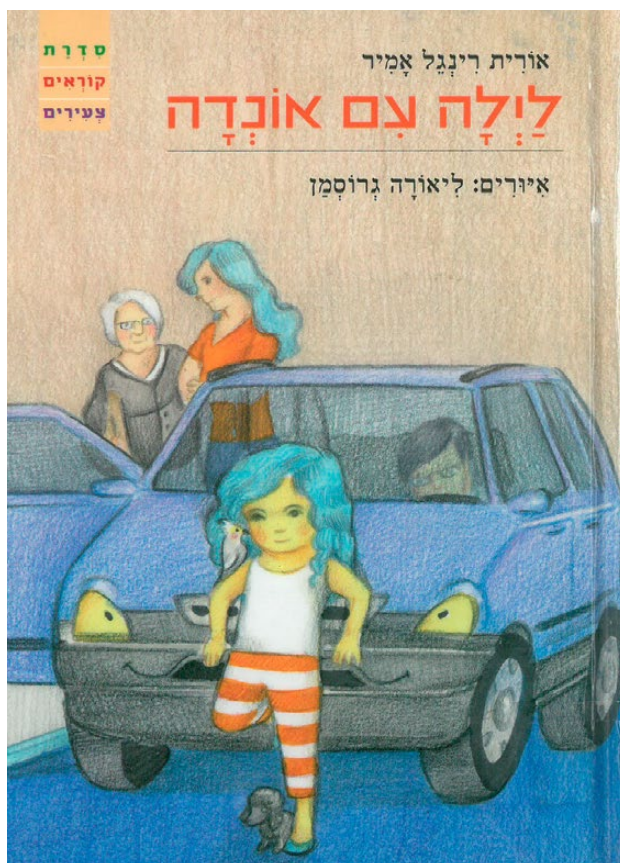
גבי היתה מאוד מרוכזת. היא היתה באמצע ציור חדש בטכניקה מערבת שבה שילבה צבעי שמן עם צבע פחם שמרחה על פיסות בד. אבל היא כבר ניחשה מה קורה. מיקה חתכה בסבלנות: ילדה שאמא שלה ציירת, כבר יודעת שאסור להפריע לאמן בזמן שהוא יוצר. "זה מנתק את חוט המחשבה", אומרת אמא; ובסטודיו שלה יש באמת המון המון חוטים.

רק כשסיימה לצייר דמות אחת, פנתה אמא גבי לאחור והביטה בדאגה בגור המילל. היא ראתה מיד שהגור רזה מאוד ובמצב קשה, היה ברור שהוא צריך לקבל עזרה וטיפול דחוף. כעבור דקות אחדות כבר היו שלושתם במכונית ההונדה בדרך לרופא החיות, הוטרנר.

מיקה אהבה מאוד את אונדה; כך קראה למכונית ההונדה הכחולה שאמא הרשתה לה לקשט במדבקות המצחיקות שהדביקה על החלון. היא הכירה את אונדה מאז שנולדה, כי בכל פעם שמיקה לא הצליחה להרדם - אמא היתה לוקחת אותה איתה ויחד היו יוצאות לסיבוב בהונדה; זאת אומרת, באונדה... ותמיד, ברגע שיצאו לדרך, מיקה היתה נרגעת ונרדמת מיד.

עד היום מיקה יודעת שאם היא עצובה - היא רק צריכה להכנס למכונית, לשכב על המושב האחורי ולספר לאונדה מה מציק לה. אונדה אף פעם לא מתוכחת, לא נוזפת, לא מהמהמת באי הסכמה, ותמיד תמיד מבינה אותה. מאז שעברו מהדירה הקטנה בעיר לבית במושב, לא צריך יותר לרדת במדרגות ולחפש את אונדה בין המכוניות שחונות ברחוב. כל מה שעל מיקה לעשות הוא לפתוח את דלת הכניסה ולצאת לגינה. אונדה חונה בצד הגינה תחת סככה שאבא דוד בנה במיוחד עבורה.

כן, אונדה היא ממש כמו חברה טובה. היא מלווה אותן לכל מקום: לבית הספר, לים, לחברים, לחוגים - וכמובן, למרפאה של דוקטור קליון. היא מחכה להן בסבלנות ותמיד מוכנה לעשות כל מה שהן רוצות. המכונית הכחולה לא מתלוננת אם מיקה מלכלכת במקרה את המושבים בעטיפות הדביקות של שוקולד וסוכריות, או מציירת באצבע על האבק שמכסה לפעמים את החלונות. מיקה יודעת שהיא יכולה לסמך עליה בכל מצב.



סיפור קליל ונחמד הנבנה סביב מכונית ההונדה הישנה והאהובה של גבי, אמא של מיקה, מכונית שמיקה קוראת לה בחיבה "אונדה". המכונית נמכרת לבני זוג ששמש חביבה ומקסים, אלא שאותם חביבה ומקסים מתגלים כאנשים לא חביבים ובכלל לא מקסימים. מיקה וחבריה שלא רוצים להפרד מהמכונית האהובה, מטכסים עצה כיצד להחזיר אותה והמכונית משתפת פעולה. היא נמלטת מבעליה החדשים ויוצאת למסע ארוך, מסוכן ומלא הרפתקאות. האם "אונדה" תצליח לחזור הביתה? ומה יהיה עם הזוג שרכש אותה האם יותר עליה?

בספר זה, בין השורות, הסופרת מנסה להעביר מסר שאסור להתייחס בביטול לדברים ישנים (כנ"ל לאנשים זקנים) כי הם עדיין טובים ומועילים, לפעמים יותר מהחדשים והצעירים. סבתא של מיקה אומרת לאבא, שמכר את המכונית: "גם אני זקנה, גם אותי אתה רוצה להחליף?".