



Elsa High School Newsletter

Weekly Daf

Term 1 Edition 8

12 October 2018 - 3 Cheshvan 5779



Dvar Torah: Noach

In this week's Parsha, we read about how Noah saved the fate of humanity, and about how he built an ark and stayed there during the devastating flood.

Many years later, his descendants who were living in Babylon, settled in a land named Shinar. The population of the world was growing and all human beings spoke one language. The people decided to build a tall, proud symbol of how great they had made their nation. They decided to build what is known as the "Tower of Babel".

The question that arises is, what was wrong in the acts of the people of Babylon? Why was their attempt to build the tallest building ever considered a sin in the eyes of G-d?

There are multiple opinions as to what the answer is. Many say that building the tall tower was basically a rebellion against G-d, or a loss of trust and faith in G-d. They say this because the people wanted a tower that would "reach to the heavens". Why would they want this? So that they could be like G-d and so that they would not "need him".

Another opinion about the sin that was committed was the idea that all of the people wished to be identical.

They didn't want individual personalities. Their sin, according to this interpretation, was that they didn't care about the individual in their society. All they cared about was building this giant tower. The midrash adds that during the building of the Tower, if a man fell down and died the other workers did not care, but if a hammer fell to the ground, everyone cried, as they only cared about the speed of the work, and accomplishing their mission.

This can explain the reasoning for their punishments. G-d caused the people to suddenly speak different languages, so that they could not communicate and work together to build the tower. This caused the people to scatter across the land and create different cultures and societies. G-d showed that unity is a blessed thing, but when it is exploited - just to accomplish a mission - it can be dangerous and horrendous.

The lesson from the sin of the Tower of Babel is that a flourished society is a society that balances the needs of the community with the needs of the individual. I hope that we can all find a way to implement this lesson in our lives and our communities.

Shabbat shalom.

Dan Hasofer Grade 9

Victory at First Debate of the Year for Elsa High School Debate Team

This Thursday, the Elsa High School Debate Team headed out to Shau Kei Wan Secondary School for their first debate of the year. The motion was, *"This House would stop the production of biofuels"* and we were arguing the negative motion – We would not stop the production of biofuels.

In our preparation sessions, we argued both motions and wrote our speeches. The major challenge during this debate was the rebuttals, as two of the three members of our team were new, and we had not had experience in rebutting points. All three of us spoke confidently, with concise and efficient points which tipped us to victory.

I felt something we could improve on was communication between the team. When trying to counter the other team's argument, I felt that we could've helped each other out more through effective sharing of ideas. In spite of this, I am pleased that we managed to win!

A big thank you to Mr Bartholomew for organizing this debate!

Mordechai Oser Grade 10



Carmel Football Team Takes on ISF

On Monday 8 October, Elsa High School went to Happy Valley to compete in a football match against ISF. Upon arrival, coach Andre revealed to us the starting lineup consisting of Ori in goal, Aryeh, Alvin, Mordechai, Alon, and Arthur in defense, Tal, Benji, Charlie, David, in midfield, and Marco up front.



In the first half, Elsa made some good passes and played fairly well. In one of our attacks during the first half, our striker Marco, ended up one-on-one with the keeper, putting the ball around the goalkeeper but immediately after he is taken down. It's a penalty! The game is looking in our favor so far. As we all clenched our fists hoping for Marco to score the penalty, he shoots the ball directly into the bottom corner of the goal and now Elsa are winning 1-0.

As the second half kicks off, and after substitutions are made, ISF score a goal to make it 1-1. In the closing seconds of the game, ISF take a long shot and the ball travels right into the top corner of the goal to make ISF win 2-1.

It was a very good effort from the Elsa High School Football Team and we hope that we can win our upcoming games.

Thank you to Mr. Julian for organizing the game, and to coach Andre for supporting us.

Aryeh Oser Grade 9



The team gets a half-time pep talk

US College Application Tips from US Consulate Head of Higher Education

On Thursday morning, Grades 9 through 12 were privileged with an insightful discussion from Nina Lewis, the US Consulate Cultural Affairs Officer. She gave us a briefing on almost everything there is to know about College application in the US; from the standard requirements of any US college, to what aspects to consider when applying. She spoke extensively, replying almost instantly and with detail to everyone's questions.

Ms. Lewis, on top of all this, provided tailored and personal assistance to anyone who requested, following the discussion. Being one of those people, I can confirm that my perspective on College application, and the gruelling process that comes with applying, has changed almost completely.

Thank you to Ms. Lewis for taking time out of your schedule to provide us with such imperative knowledge and advice.

Louis Effron Grade 11



Nina Lewis, US Consulate Cultural Affairs Officer speaks with Carmel's Grade 9-12

Professor Shindler Shares Insight on International Relations

Last Friday, Emeritus Professor Colin Shindler from SOAS, University of London, visited Elsa High School to share his expertise in assembly. Prof Shindler first talked about Zionism in its early years, then dedicated a substantial portion of his speech to an in-depth discussion on the diplomatic relations between China and Israel.

Prof. Shindler also discussed how Sun Yat-Sen and Mao Zedong, the two most famous political leaders of China, were once supporters of the Jewish journey to re-building its own nation and we learned that Communism and China's then-developing relationship with the Soviet Union has in fact created an obstacle, distancing the relationship between the two countries.

The talk served as a great way to engage the younger generation on the topic of the historic relationships between the two nations and potentially stimulated their thoughts on what might happen in the future. As a HK-Chinese student studying in an international school, I began to ponder more on the latest current affairs happening among US, Greater China (which include Mainland China, HK and Taiwan).

I thoroughly enjoyed the discussion as it provoked me to think beyond what was presented and prompted me to ask several questions to Prof Shindler which he answered in detail.

Thank you Professor Shindler for taking the time to come and speak to us!

Elina Pang Grade 12



VIEWS FROM THE TOP OF THE WORLD

Not one, but two of Elsa High School's teachers decided to climb the tallest trekking mountain on Earth, the 'Roof of Africa' - Mount Kilimanjaro! Our Daf editors caught up with them to chat about the preparation, challenges and rewards of this once-in-a-lifetime adventure. A very *tall* order...

Thank you to Mr. Swart and Ms. Town for their time in conducting this interview with us. Congratulations on such an incredible achievement!

Interview conducted by Tyra Dahlberg and Hanna Hipwell-Serfaty Grade 12



THE PREPARATION

What was the experience like? How far did you travel? Did you join a group?

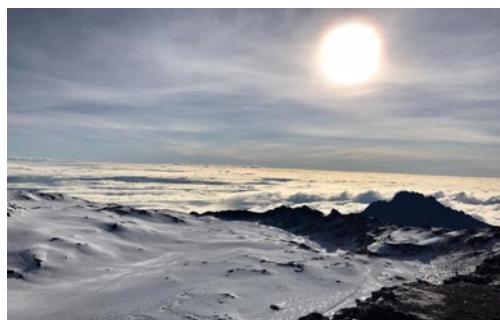
Mr. Swart: Climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro turned out to be one of the most challenging experiences I have ever undertaken. We hiked for approximately 62km From Machambe Gate to Uhuru Peak (the summit) which is 19,341 Feet above sea level. We tackled the challenge as a group of friends from around the world.

Ms. Town: It was a challenging but rewarding experience; not only did we have to wake up after 3 hours of sleep for the summit, but we also walked an average of 8-10 hours a day for 6 days - uphill.

What did the preparation for this endeavour entail?

Ms. Town: To prepare for the climb, I went to the gym regularly and focused a lot on lower body workouts such as squats and lunges, while also working on my cardio on the watt bike and rowing machine. I also use my weekends to do different hiking trails around Hong Kong to get used to the mileage on my legs.

Mr. Swart: I had a personal trainer write up a training program for me which I followed for a few months. I trained (and still do) every morning from 5:30am before heading to work.



THE CHALLENGES

What was the biggest challenge you faced - your most difficult moment?

Mr. Swart: The first few days were very relaxed and comfortable but as we made our way higher up the mountain it started to dawn on me that it was going to be tougher than I had expected. The morning before our midnight summit attempt, we had to walk for several hours in the pouring rain which eventually just turned to ice as we gained altitude. The temperature dropped well below zero as we arrived at basecamp where we had a few hours to eat, pack, check our vitals and mentally prepare for the climb. It took just over seven hours to reach the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro. There isn't much oxygen in the air so it became increasingly difficult to move my limbs and even keep my eyes open. It was at around 5:00am that my mind started to give up on me and I thought that I wouldn't be able to push myself any further. One of my close friends turned to me and, noticing the look of defeat on my face, pointed to the horizon saying that the sun was about to rise. This gave me the last bit of inspiration I needed to push on and reach the top.

Ms. Town: The biggest challenge I faced was on the summit night when we only had three hours of sleep (I did not sleep at all, I lay there in my sleeping bag wide awake for three hours) because we had to start hiking at 12am in time for the sunrise at the peak. Not only did I have to fight the fatigue, but I was struggling to breathe every step up the mountain in the dark, while also fighting the harsh cold wind chill temperatures of -25°C .

What are you most proud of? What was the highlight of the experience?

Mr. Swart: The highlight of the trip was the fact that we all managed to reach the peak together. To share this moment with lifelong friends is something I will never forget.

Ms. Town: My brain and body were constantly in a battle between pushing through and giving up, so being able to make it up to Uruhu peak after climbing for 7.5 hours was definitely my proudest moment. Also, both Mr. Swart and I did the challenge to raise money for different foundations and my campaign was to raise money for the Hong Kong Cancer Fund. Knowing that there were many people who donated money to the campaign in support of my climb was another highlight that I celebrated as I reached the summit.

Why did you choose Mt. Kilimanjaro?

Ms. Town: I chose to climb Mount Kilimanjaro because it is a challenging but achievable bucket list item that I can tick off. It is the tallest free-standing mountain in the world and the tallest trekking mountain that doesn't require tools to summit. Now I can tell everyone that I've been to the roof of Africa!

Mr. Swart: I decided to conquer a mountain to raise money for M.E. (*Myalgic Encephalomyelitis*) research as a very close friend of mine was diagnosed with the condition two years ago and there is limited treatment available for it. When deciding which mountain I would climb I asked her and she suggested Kilimanjaro because it used to be her dream to stand on the 'Roof of Africa'.

THE LIFELONG LESSONS

What did you gain from this experience and what is your advice to others who may want to take on a similar endeavour?

Mr. Swart: I realised that consistent small efforts will ultimately result in tremendous success.

My advice to any students who would like to take on this, or a similar journey, is to remain focused on what you want to achieve and believe, beyond anything your body and mind tell you, that you will reach your goals.

Ms. Town: Through this climb, I've experienced the true meaning of "Mind over Matter". When all oxygen is depleted in your muscles and every baby step you make feels like walking up five flights of stairs and your body is trying to fall asleep, it's when your mind takes over. The last three hours of my climb was completely dominated by my mind.

My advice for students who want to take up similar challenges is besides being fit enough to endure the long hiking hours, you MUST have the willpower and determination. There will be times where your body will try to give up on you and that is when you tell yourself that you won't give up and you will do it. With that mindset, anyone can achieve anything.



Check out more photos from their awesome trip on Instagram!

@CarmelSchoolAssociation

ROBOTICS



UPDATE

Full STEAM Ahead for Elsa High Schools' Robotics Team

What's going on? It has been an exciting time for STEAM at Elsa High School with some major developments happening in the field of Robotics.

If you haven't yet noticed, Room 103 is currently being converted into a fully equipped, modern Robotics Lab. Once completed, the Robotics Lab will have a state of the art 3D-printer, computers and all the tools and electronics needed for our robotics team to grow and learn.

The purpose of this lab is to facilitate the Junior and Senior Robotics Programmes that our School is now running. The Monday CCA is called **Junior Robo-Club**, and students attending this CCA are being taught basic coding and engineering skills through the use of Lego Mindstorms, a powerful educational tool that is also used in the First Lego League, an international robotics competition - one which we aim to compete in next year. Through this program we hope that students will develop their interests and eventually move up to the Senior Robotics Team with better skills and more knowledge.

The Senior Robotics students are currently taking part in a 12-week training program run by BSD Academy, an established Robotics Academy here in Hong Kong. The ultimate aim is for our First Robotics Team to improve their skills and knowledge so that we can build a better robot to be more competitive in this year's First Robotics Competition, taking part in the Shenzhen regional event 7-10 March 2019.



Rachamim Zamek Grade 11



Robotics Lab ...
Now Loading



We Need Your Help!

As you can imagine, robotics is an expensive endeavor. Our fundraising team is working hard to generate funds to support our programs. We are also looking for people with experience (parents/family friends or members of the community) in robotics and engineering to assist our team during the next build season. If you can help in any way, please visit our website www.7242.team or contact Mr. Gravett.

Join Our Team!

Students! You have a unique opportunity here at Elsa. Not many schools in Hong Kong have the privilege of having a dedicated, fully equipped Robotics Lab or a comprehensive Robotics Programme like we do. Without a doubt, technology is the future, and so we encourage you to come and speak to us and see if you can join the team. You don't have to be a computer whiz or an engineer, nor do you have to give up all of your free time. There are many roles to fill such as marketing, web design, clothing design or even accounting.

We believe that we are starting something special that will go down in the history books of Carmel School. Come and join us!



PTA Announcements

Record Attendance At PTA Meeting On Robotics!

Adults must be closely in touch with their inner child to be so fascinated by Lego and Robots as a record number of parents attended a meeting on the topic of Robotics at Elsa High School, led by Mr. Lloyd Gravett, Head of Science and Director of Carmel Robotics Program and Dr. Kevin Yau of the Science Department.

Robotics, of course, is much more than just animated toys. Building a robot is a mix of engineering, design, computer coding and a good sprinkling of problem solving, teamwork and fun thrown into the mix.

Last year, the 2017-2018 First Robotics Competition (FRC) in Shanghai saw the participation of Elsa High School's nascent Robotics team which was the first and only Hong Kong School represented at the international competition!

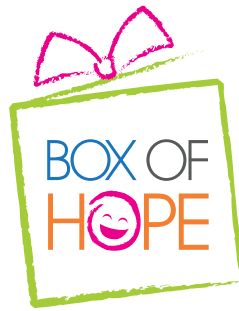
With a newly decked and dedicated Robotics Room and two weekly sessions - Junior Robotics (G6-8) on Mondays as part of CCA, and Senior Robotics (G9-12) on Thursdays from 4-6pm - Mr Gravett's goal is to seamlessly prepare the talent to participate in this year's FRC in Shenzhen.

Running a Robotics operation is an expensive exercise. The cost of equipping a lab, appointing an external provider, participation in competitions and travel costs add up. Students are encouraged to look for financial support from external parties, and parents to search for corporate sponsors so that Elsa High School can become a leader in the field of Robotics in Hong Kong.

If anyone would like to play a part in Elsa's Robotics adventure then please contact PTA Co-Chairs Agnes Effron or Kryisia Allard to volunteer or contribute.

Romy Serfaty & Kryisia Allard
Parents





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DROP OFF DATES :

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Library

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

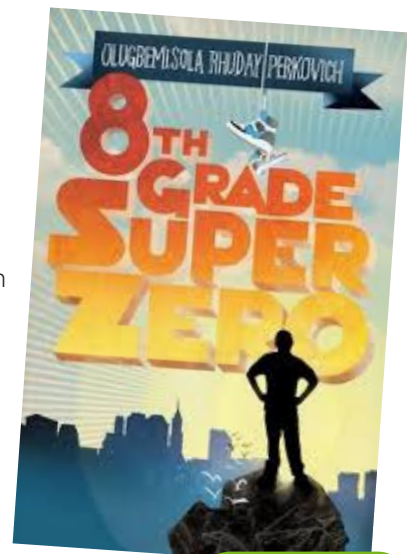
or through our school library site here:

carmel.edu.hk/learning/library

8th Grade Superzero by Olugbemisola Rhuday-Perkovich

After the worst first day back *ever*, Reggie's been nicknamed "Pukey" McKnight at his Brooklyn school. He wants to turn his image around, but he has other things on his mind as well: his father, who's out of a job; his best friends, Joe C. (who's a little too White) and Ruthie (who's a little too intense); his ex-best friend Donovan, who's now a jerk; and of course, the beautiful Mialonie. The elections for school president are coming up, but with his notorious nickname and "nothing" social status, Reggie wouldn't stand a chance, if he even had the courage to run.

Then Reggie gets involved with a local homeless shelter. Inspired by the clients there - especially Charlie, a five-year-old kid who becomes his official "Little Buddy" - he begins to think about making a difference, both in the world and at school. Pukey for President? It can happen . . . if he starts believing.



Fiction

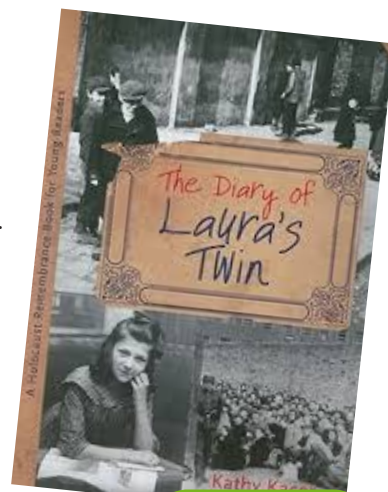
"A masterful debut, telling a layered middle-school tale filled with characters who are delightfully flawed and, more importantly, striving to overcome those flaws."
Publishers' Weekly

The Diary of Laura's Twin by Kathy Kacer

A mysterious diary links modern-day Laura to Sara, a young Jewish girl fighting to stay alive during WWII.

Laura has just three weeks to go before her Bat Mitzvah, when she is assigned a special project. She is to read the diary of Sara Gittler, a young girl her own age who was imprisoned by the Nazis in the Warsaw Ghetto during the Holocaust. Sara never had the chance to celebrate her coming of age, so Laura is to learn about Sara's life and then share her Bat Mitzvah with her "twin" by speaking of her at the ceremony.

Reluctant to undertake the project at first, Laura quickly becomes caught up by Sara's struggle to survive. Sara's diary unfolds with the details of her daily life in the Ghetto, a world full of fear, confusion, tragedy and above all, courage. From Sara's brave story in the past, Laura learns how to find the courage to confront the possibility of a friend's current involvement in the desecration of a Jewish cemetery.



Fiction

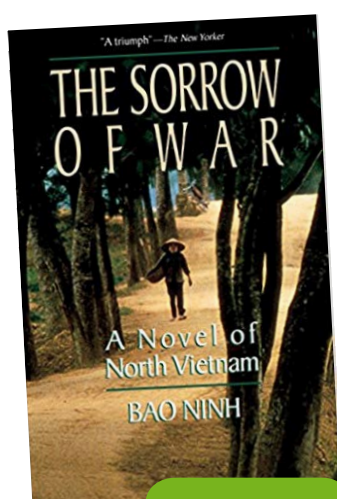
"The author beautifully melds historical events with the contemporary issues Laura is facing ... This story of history, faith, and hope belongs in every public and Judaic library and would be a welcomed addition to any Holocaust curriculum. Highly recommended." Jewish Book World

The Sorrow of War by Bao Ninh

Kien works in a unit that recovers soldiers' corpses. He knows the area well - this was where, in the dry season of 1969, his battalion was obliterated by American napalm and helicopter gunfire. Kien was one of only ten survivors. This book is his attempt to understand the eleven years of his life he gave to a senseless war.

Revisiting the sites of battles raises emotional ghosts for him and the memory of war scenes are juxtaposed with dreams and remembrances of his childhood sweetheart.

Bao Ninh, provides a strikingly honest look at how the Vietnam War forever changed his life, his country, and the people who live there. This book was originally published against government wishes in Vietnam because of its non-heroic, non-ideological tone.



Fiction

"Vaults over all the American fiction that came out of the Vietnam War to take its place alongside the greatest war novel of the century, All Quiet on the Western Front. And this is to understate its qualities, for, it is a novel about much more than war. A book about writing, about lost youth, it is also a beautiful, agonizing love story."
The Independent

פינת הספרייה העברית

סמסטר ראשון: מהדורה מספר 6
ג' בחשון ה'תשע"ט



אליפים

אליפים הוא רומן נעורים מאת הסופרת אסתר שטרייט-וורצל. את הספר **אליפים** קראתי לפני כשנה, בישראל. קיבלתי אותו מבית הספר כמשימה עבור שיעור עברית. אך הוא כל כך היה מעניין שלא הרגשתי שזאת משימה אלא ממש הנאה. את הספר אהבתי משום שיש בו מתח וצחוק. האליפים הם תלמידי שנה ראשונה, הכי קטנים, בבית הספר "גנות" שהוא בית ספר חקלאי. האליפים נלחמים מול כל הכיתות הגדולות מהם ובסוף מצליחים להתייש את שאר הכיתות. הדמויות המרכזיות, רוני קטנצ'יק ואילנה הן מיוחדות, אהבתי את כושר המנהיגות שלהם ואת החוזק. אני ממליץ מאוד לקרוא את הספר הזה, אני אישית לא רציתי שהוא יסתיים בגלל המתח הרב שהיה בו.

רוני עמוס - כיתה ו'



מתוך הספר "אליפים" כתבה: אסתר שטרייט-וורצל

ימים אחדים לאחר שובו של דויד לבית האליפים נתגלה גניבה נוספת. הפעם נגנב טרנזיסטור קטן, שניתן לניצה כמתנה מהוריה טרם צאתה לגנות. לפנות ערב, בהפסקה שבין ארוחת חמש והחוג לריקודי עם, שהשתתפה בו, רצתה לשמוע את מצעד הפזמונים. פתחה את הארון כדי להוציא את הטרנזיסטור, והנה - אין! ברגע הראשון לא הבינה: הלא במו ידיה הניחתהו כאן ואיך זה שנעלם? בדקה את תאה בדוק היטב. ביקשה מחברותיה לבדוק בתאיהן, שמא בטעות הניחה אותו אצלן, אך הטרנזיסטור נעלם ואיננו, כאילו לא היה.

פרצה ניצה בבכי מר. ראשית כל, עצם האבידה. שנית, מה יאמרו אבא ואמא? כך היא שומרת על מתנתם? לשמע הבכי, התקהלו סביבה הבנות. באה גם שוש, והופיעו אף בנים אחדים. כולם גילו השתתפות בצערה, שוב ושוב חזר סיפור תגלית-הגניבה, איך בסך הכל רצתה להאזין למצעד הפזמונים, ופתאום מסתבר - אין טרנזיסטור, כי נגנב. "אני יודע היכן הטרנזיסטור".

הכל מתבוננים בתקווה במדבר. אפריים. אין הוא חביב על הבנות. למרות כל העונשים לא סלחו לו, על שהציץ "אתה יודע משהו על הטרנזיסטור?"

"אצל דויד".

הספר
אליפים זכה

בפרס זאב לספרות
ילדים ונוער. בשנת 2005
עובד להצגה לילדים ונוער
באותו שם, ובשנת 2011
עובד לסדרת טלוויזיה
באותו שם.

"לא נכון!" פרצה אילנה בקריאה.
"רק הוא הגנב. יש לי הוכחות: כשלא היה בבניין, לא נגנב דבר. עכשיו, שחזר, חזרו עמו הגניבות".
הבנות התלחשו בינהן. ניכר בהן, שהרעיון נכנס לליבו.
"צריך לחפש בחפצים של דויד", ממשיך אפריים, מעודד מתגובתו.
"שלא תעזו לעשות זאת!" נזדעקה אילנה.
"עוד איך נעז", התלהטו הרוחות.
"נסי להיזכר", האיצה אילנה בניצה. "מישהו ביקר אצלכן? מישהו הסתובב כאן בימים האחרונים?"
"אף לא אחד היה כאן", אמרה ניצה.
שאר בנות החדר אישרו אף הן. איש לא היה בחדרן. זה וודאי.
"אבל גם דויד לא היה", קראה אילנה ביאוש, כי כבר ראתה להיכן מנשבות הרוחות.



ELSA HIGH SCHOOL
HEBREW LIBRARY
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