



Elsa High School Newsletter

Weekly Daf

Term 1 Edition 9

19 October 2018 - 10 Cheshvan 5779



Dvar Torah: Lech-Lecha

In this week's Parsha, Lech-Lecha, we begin an entirely new period in the world's history. We meet Abraham, whose children would become the Jewish Nation. From this point on, the relationship between G-d and the children of Abraham will dominate the remainder of the Torah. However, the Torah also clarifies that the ultimate purpose of His special relationship and covenant with the descendants of Abraham is the restoration of the entire world.

The parsha opens with G-d's renowned phrase to Abraham – Lech Lecha – "Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you". By then, Abraham was already 75 years old. The question that arises is why did G-d choose a man so advanced in age, and why him at all? The Torah does not give us an answer to that question and when we read it, it doesn't say why Abraham and why at this point. However, the Midrash (Rabbi's commentary) has come up with two different explanations to this question.

The first says that G-d's reason is not comprehensible to humans. The Torah doesn't mention the reason for Abraham being chosen on purpose, as if to tell

that us it is not the most important element. The Torah understands that if it had mentioned the exact reasons, we would have thought that only by doing those exact acts we can be close to G-d. Therefore the Torah teaches us that from the moment Abraham was chosen we are all part of his legacy, regardless of our exact behavior.

The second answer adds to the first by saying that the Torah chose to introduce us to Abraham only from the moment he was ordered and given a mission. The Torah teaches us that only then – when he got the mission to start his journey to Israel – the Promised Land, does he become significant. The message the Torah sends us is that every person, even as great as Abraham, becomes meaningful only when they take on an obligation which is heavenly and greater than their action so far.

In a sense, both interpretations are meaningful. We know nothing about Abraham's righteousness before G-d's call – however, we do know how faithful and obedient he was after he was commanded. It isn't the words of G-d that make this story so special. It is how Abraham responded to G-d's commands.

Shabbat Shalom!

Sarah Cohen Grade 10



The Israel Cycling Academy Visits Elsa High School

The Israel Cycling Academy took a break from their intense training in the lead up to The Hong Kong Cyclothon to visit Elsa High School. The race, held on 14 October in Tsim Tsa Tsui, drew over 5,000 participants, pitting the Israel Cycling Academy against teams including 11 UCI WorldTour Teams, three Pro Continental Teams and The Hong Kong National Team.

During assembly the team shared their journey to cycling elite, talking about how they were introduced to the sport, their training regimen and the excitement of touring.



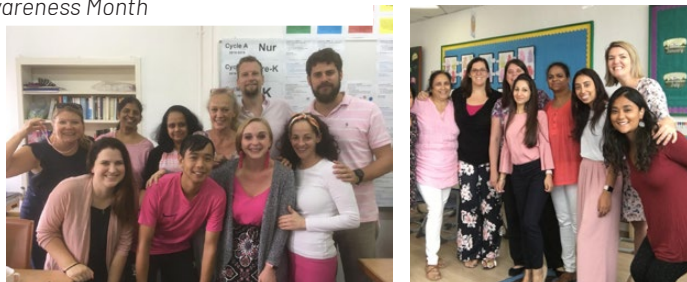
Wear it Pink

The Breast Cancer Now 'Wear it Pink Day' (19 October) is one of the biggest fundraising days during Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The initiative invites everyone to wear pink to raise awareness and funds for the disease.

Since 2002 'Wear it Pink Day' has raised over GBP£31.5 million (USD\$41.2 million) for life-saving research that's working to discover how to prevent breast cancer, how to detect it earlier and how to treat it effectively at every stage in order stop the disease taking lives.



Staff across all our campuses dressed in pink on 19 October for Breast Cancer Awareness Month



Across all of our campuses at Carmel School Association, staff have supported this cause by wearing pink. At Elsa High School, students will get together on Wednesday 24 October to organise additional support for this initiative in their Service as Action (SaA) lesson.

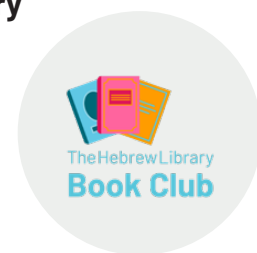
Thank you to everyone who helped raise awareness of cancer and embracing the importance of talking about the disease with our students and community.

Shabbat Shalom.



Mr. Roshan Julian
Director of Experiential Learning

An Update from the Hebrew Library Book Club



Reading books is usually a personal matter. A person is alone in front of a book (or in front of his e-reader). Not everyone reads books, therefore the ongoing discussion about it is not as popular as with movies or other media.

For example, you can read to children or read with them, but in most cases the reader prefers to dive into the rich, inner world alone.

But what happens after reading? Who is going to discuss with us how great the book was? And how will we know whether our insights on the heros have a basis? For this reason we established the "Book Club" in the Hebrew library at our school.

Last Tuesday we excitedly opened the Hebrew Library Book Club at Elsa High School, currently for Grades 6-8. The purpose of the Club is a social gathering for book lovers where they can talk about books they have read, recommend them to Club members and other school students, improve Hebrew reading and enrich their imagination.



The Club will be run by Reut Shahr (G7) and includes Tahlia Goldberg (G8), Ella Geffen (G7), Hadas Greenbaum (G6), Gefen Harel (G6), Isabell Madliar (G6) and Roi Amos (G6).

At the meeting, members shared expectations and expressed excitement and anticipation of the wonderful experience surrounding the wonderful world of Hebrew books and literature. Members chose their first book to read, and will share their experience with the rest of the participants every week.

The Club will be held every Tuesday during lunch recess. We invite all of you to come and register in the library and look forward to seeing you soon. Anyone who wants to join, now is the time!



Mrs. Orli Maskalchi
Hebrew Librarian



Out and About in Hong Kong

Markets

Issy Lyons and Louis Effron Grade 11

There are numerous ways to explore the cultural heritage and diversity of Hong Kong. One interesting way that we've recently explored is through Hong Kong's various markets. From the Jade Market to the Goldfish Market, one has the opportunity to experience the unique charms of Hong Kong through its markets.

Jade Market

The Jade Market is a daytime market open from 10am to 4pm. This is the place to pick up an authentic Chinese good-luck charm, whether it be for the year you were born or for the animal that represents you according to the Chinese zodiac. The market is made up of a plethora of different stalls, each selling unique and often personalised products. Strolling through these colourful displays is as entertaining as it is watching the vendors peddling their products.

Goldfish Market

Hong Kong's Goldfish Market, originally named Tung Choi Street, but dubbed Goldfish Street by Hong Kongers, is a

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As the saying goes, in Hong Kong, if it's worth shopping, it has a street here.

(Clockwise from L-R) The Goldfish, Jade and Flower Markets of Hong Kong



Remember, sell a man a fish, he eats for a day, teach a man how to fish, you ruin a wonderful business opportunity!

perfect place for antique enthusiasts and those inspired to visit the captivating location. On the street there are dozens of shops, one after another, dedicated to the keeping of all sorts of tropical fish. However, that is not all - in addition to this there are dozens of antique shops, reptile sellers, and much more to be discovered. This is definitely a site not to be missed.

Flower Market

Whether you are interested in cut flowers, potted plants, or orchids, you'll find something to interest you at Hong Kong's famed Flower Market. This premier tourist destination is for any type of botanical interest one might have. The days prior to Chinese New Year are when business really rises, as hundreds of people flock towards the market to carefully select flowers and plants that attract good luck or fortune as the new lunar cycle takes place.



Navigating American Higher Education Perspectives from the Inside

"How does one start the process of deciding which US university or college to apply to?"

This was the question University of Hong Kong lecturers Dr. Elizabeth LaCouture and her husband Dr. Jason Petrulis, parents of Clio in Carmel Elementary G4, set out to demystify in their enlightening and well-attended lecture which took place on Tuesday night at the JCC, sponsored by the PTA and moderated by Mr. Kyle Ford, Elsa High School's Director of Academics.

Drawing on their mutual experiences in all corners of the US - from small, private liberal arts colleges to large, state-subsidised research universities, Drs. LaCouture and Petrulis spoke about the many considerations such as location (weather, urban/rural, state politics, etc), size, academics, social and extra-curricular offerings as well as Jewish life.

While pursuing a US education is a very expensive undertaking, superlative benefits abound. A US education is "...much like training up a cat and throwing it out the window - it will always land on its feet" quipped Dr Petrulis. The well-rounded education, the ability to transfer from one school to another, the availability of scholarships and other support services for students from academic to social to medical, allow the student to tailor-make an enriching path for themselves.

An informative and instructive evening - our thanks to Dr. LaCouture and Dr. Petrulis. This is the first in a series of College Counselling information evenings the PTA are arranging for this academic year - more details to follow.

Krysia Allard
Elsa PTA Co-Chair





PTA Announcements

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Carmel PTA Book Café

24 and 25 October from 9:00am - 4:00pm
JCC L3 Garden Room, 70 Robinson Road, Mid-Levels

Adult, Teenage and children's books for sale.

Coffee, tea and nibbles will be served throughout the day.

Suggested amount to send with students is HK\$150-200.

For non-JCC members please bring your HKID card for identification at the entrance.

Kindly sponsored by the Nagar families of Hong Kong

Main Vendor

BOOK a ZINE

Extra Highlights!

Mandarin, French and
second-hand Hebrew
books on sale

JCC and BRC students
Come dressed as your
favourite book
character!
Details and dates to
follow

Announcements

Pink WALK

Sign Up Now

21 OCTOBER 2018

Walk as a survivor, in memory or in honor of
someone who has been touched by breast cancer
or simply to show you care....

Open to all family members.
Approximately 3.5 km walk around Victoria Peak.



R.S.V.P.
info@jwa.org.hk
by 18 October

Carmel School Association Elsa High School



Tuesday, 23 October 2018
6:00-8:00pm

www.carmel.edu.hk/open-day

Happy Birthday to
Clarissa Yu and **Juhi Gangaramani**



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

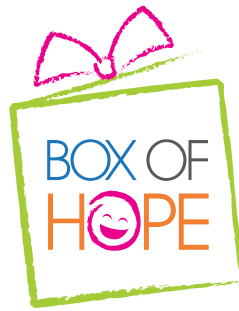
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CHILDREN HELPING CHILDREN

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THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN HAVE NOTHING.
Join our 'One Item' Collection

DONATE

A TOOTHBRUSH/ TOOTHPASTE/ A BAR OF SOAP

and

help make a difference.

DROP OFF DATES :

5TH - 9TH NOV 2018

Please help us help others.



@boxofhopehk #boxofhope2018

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

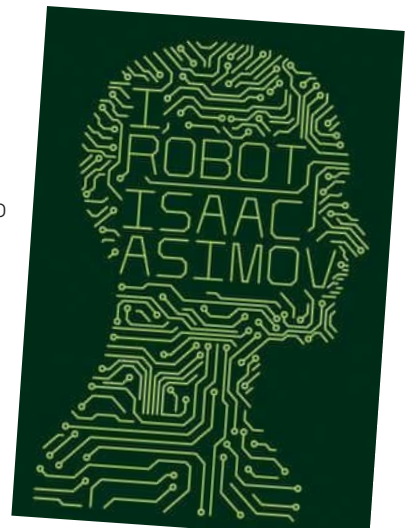
I, Robot by Isaac Asimov

Isaac Asimov creates the Three Laws of Robotics and ushers in the Robot Age.

Earth is ruled by master-machines but the Three Laws of Robotics have been designed to ensure humans maintain the upper hand:

- 1) A robot may not injure a human being or allow a human being to come to harm.
- 2) A robot must obey orders given to it by human beings except where such orders would conflict with the First Law.
- 3) A robot must protect its own existence as long as such protection does not conflict with the First or Second Law.

But what happens when a rogue robot's idea of what is good for society contravenes the Three Laws?



Fiction

"I, Robot is a must-read for science-fiction buffs and literature enjoyers alike, for it throws ideas at us about Artificial Intelligence, and all of us live in a golden age of technology when the field of robotics is expanding at a speedy rate. In a nutshell, I, Robot is a thought-provoking, thrilling, and enjoyable book."
The Guardian

Caraval by Stephanie Garber

Remember, it's only a game...

Scarlett Dragna has never left the tiny island where she and her sister, Tella, live with their powerful father. Now Scarlett's father has arranged a marriage for her, and Scarlett thinks her dreams of seeing Caraval—the faraway, once-a-year performance where the audience participates in the show—are over.

But this year, Scarlett's long-dreamt-of invitation finally arrives. With the help of a mysterious sailor, Tella whisks Scarlett away to the show. Only, as soon as they arrive, Tella is kidnapped. It turns out that this season's Caraval revolves around Tella, and whoever finds her first is the winner.

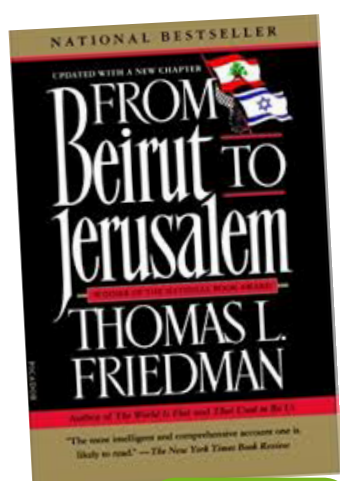
Scarlett has been told that everything that happens during Caraval is only an elaborate performance. Nevertheless she becomes enmeshed in a game of love, heartbreak, and magic. And whether Caraval is real or not, Scarlett must find Tella before the five nights of the game are over or a dangerous domino effect of consequences will be set off, and her beloved sister will disappear forever.

A New York Times bestseller and Barnes & Noble Best Book of the Year



Fiction

"Impressive, original, wondrous."
USA Today



Fiction

From Beirut to Jerusalem by Thomas L. Friedman

One of the most thought-provoking books ever written about the Middle East, From Beirut to Jerusalem remains vital to our understanding of this complex and volatile region of the world.

Three-time Pulitzer Prize winner Thomas L. Friedman drew upon his ten years of experience reporting from Lebanon and Israel to write this now-classic work of journalism. In a new afterword, he updates his journey with a fresh discussion of the Arab Awakenings and how they are transforming the area, and a new look at relations between Israelis and Palestinians, and Israelis and Israelis. Rich with anecdote, history, analysis, and autobiography, From Beirut to Jerusalem will continue to shape how we see the Middle East for many years to come.

"From Beirut To Jerusalem is the most intelligent and comprehensive account one is likely to read."
New York Times Book Review

פינת הספריה העברית

סמסטר ראשון: מהדורה מספר 7
י' בחשוון ה'תשע"ט



מועדון הספרים של תיכון אלסה

קריאת ספרים היא לרוב עניין אישי. אדם לבדו מול ספר (או מול הקורא האלקטרוני שלו). לא כולם קוראים כל הזמן את אותם הספרים, ועל כן גם השיח לגביהם לא פופולרי כמו השיח לגבי סרטי קולנוע, למשל. אפשר להקריא לילדים או לקרוא יחד איתם אבל ברוב המקרים הקורא מעדיף לצלול לעולם הפנימי, העשיר והעמוק שממנו הוא נהנה לגמרי לבד.

אבל מה קורה בתום הקריאה? למי נגיד כמה מצוין הספר שקראנו? ואיך נדע אם לתובנות שלנו על גיבור העלילה יש בסיס? בדיוק בשל כך הקמנו את "מועדון הספרים" בספריה העברית בבית ספרנו.



מועדון הספרים הספריה העברית

ביום שלישי פתחנו בהתרגשות את מועדון הספרים של הספריה העברית בתיכון אלסה, אשר בשלב זה מיועד לכיתות ו', ז' ו- ח' בלבד.

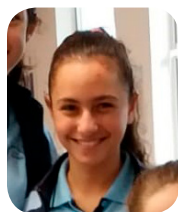
מטרת המועדון הינה מפגש חברתי לאוהבי הקריאה שבו יוכלו לדבר ולספר על ספרים שקראו, להמליץ לחברי המועדון וליתר התלמידים בבית הספר על ספרים, לשפר את הקריאה ולהעשיר את עולם הדמיון.

את המועדון תנהל רעות שחר (כיתה ז').

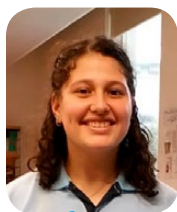
חברי המועדון: טליה גולדברג (כיתה ח'), אלה גפן (כיתה ז'), הדס גרינבוים (כיתה ו'), גפן הראל (כיתה ו'), איזבל מדליאר (כיתה ו') ורועי עמוס (כיתה ו').

במפגש שיתפו החברים אחד את השני בציפיות ובהתרגשויות מהחוויה הנפלאה סביב העולם המופלא של הספרים והספרות העברית. החברים בחרו את הספר הראשון לקריאה ובכל שבוע יחלקו את החוויה עם שאר המשתתפים. המפגש הסתיים בצ'ופר קטן ומתוק.

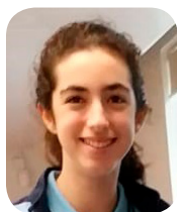
המועדון יתקיים מידי שבוע, ביום שלישי, בהפסקה הגדולה. מי שמעוניין להצטרף, זה בדיוק הזמן. אפשר תמיד להגיע לספריה ולהירשם.



רעות



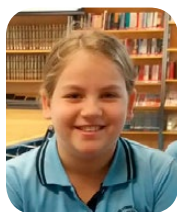
טליה



אלה



הדס



גפן



איזבל



רועי

לא נפספס את ההמלצה השבועית שלנו.

השבוע אנחנו ממליצים על הספר הנערה במרפסת ממול / נאוה מקמל עתיר
סוד גדול מאד של רבקה שנשמר בין קירות בית ישן בתל אביב מאז שנות ה 20 של
המאה הקודמת התגלה בכל זאת שנים רבות אחר כך.
סיפור על הזדמנות שהחומצה, אהבה שאיחרה את המועד ואנשים שלא ידעו לסלוח.
ספר מרתק, מרגש ומלא עוצמה שרק משכנע שלא כדאי לשמור סודות במשפחה.



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