



Elsa High School Campus Newsletter

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Weekly Daf

Term 2 Edition 10

15 March 2019 - 8 Adar 5779



Dvar Torah: Shabbat Zachor

The coming Shabbat is known as "Shabbat Zachor", the Shabbat that comes before the holiday of Purim. The festival of Purim is celebrated for only one day, but holds the record for being the happiest holiday in our Jewish calendar. The idea that Purim is our happiest holiday seems obvious to us today, but it wasn't so clear at the beginning when it was added to the Jewish calendar. In fact, our Rabbis mentioned that in fact this holiday has a less happy side. This is because the miracle which happened outside the Land of Israel didn't end the basic situation in which the Jews were not free and remained under the rule of King Achashverosh. Despite this, it has become the high point in the year, marked by happiness and celebrations.

In order to understand why Purim got the title of the holiday of happiness, we need to try to listen to the real message of the story of Purim - the message of the Megillah. When we read the story carefully we can see that the Megillah is on purpose covering its real message - concealing the truth. The Megillah gives us detailed descriptions of facts that we can all agree are far from valued and sincere importance: The gold vessels which were used in the feasts of Achashverosh, the perfumes used by the girls competing to be the Queen

of Persia and the rank and glory of Haman who plotted to kill the Jews. With careful reading, we can all feel the sarcasm the Megillah uses, as if to tell us that all those details might be very important to some characters in the story, but we all know they have nothing to do with the truth and with what will eventually happen.

The happiest moment of the story is when the truth is revealed: when those that just a minute ago were important become nothing; and when those that were nothing and destined for death, now become the just and the strong - וְנִהְיָוּ. It looks like Purim is the celebration of truth and that is the reason it has become so happy.

Dressing up, feasting and drinking wine are the tools we use on Purim to emphasise that we actually know how to distinguish between the fake, that masquerades as the important - and the real truth - that sometimes is hidden and unseen.

In a world that seems to be covered by more and more by layers of fake noises and distractions, we need to stop on Purim to celebrate what is really important and valued as Purim is the festival of the revelation of the truth, and our tradition decides that the real happiness comes when the truth is finally revealed.

Shabbat Shalom and Purim Shameach,

Mr. Barak Lebovitz

Fighting Climate Change Together

Carmel School is committed to battling against Climate Change, working towards a greater understanding of the issue, as well as devising long-lasting sustainability solutions.

Next week's Elsa High School assembly will be dedicated to discussing how we as a School and as a community can be proactive in this area. We look forward to hearing from our students.





CARMEL SCHOOL
ELSA HIGH SCHOOL

PRESENTS

INTO THE WOODS JR.

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY STEPHEN SONDHEIM
BOOK BY JAMES LAPINE
DIRECTED BY GARY SWART
MUSICAL DIRECTION BY CELIA LEUNG
ASSISTANT DIRECTION BY JULY GERSHON

SUPPORT

Purchase a dedication or advertising space in the Show Programme.
Contact jacqueline.law@carmel.edu.hk for more information

TICKETS

\$360 Adults / \$160 for students
carmelmusical.eventbrite.com

April 9-10, 2019 / 7:45pm
Auditorium, Shau Kei Wan Campus

Elsa Contingent at Taipei Yale MUN

Good luck to our Elsa MUN Team as they participate in the Yale MUN in Taipei. We look forward to hearing all about it!



CELEBRATING THE SPIRIT OF PURIM IN THE MONTH OF ADAR

This Monday, we kicked off the start of our Adar celebrations. We were instructed to dress up in pyjamas or onesies for the 'Royal Coronation of the King and Queen of Elsa High School' - our Student Council President Ori Razon and Elianna Diestel (standing in for the Vice President Alon Lavi). The King and Queen of Elsa appeared and announced all the Elsa Adar events and activities. There were many snacks and we spent the first period celebrating.



Since it is Adar, there were a few additions to the school day for the countdown to Purim. Some of these additions were: that the teachers were going to DJ during breaks, there would be an added hot dog day in lunch and that next Monday, there will be a karaoke party. There is also a new game called 'Giant and Midget' (or secret santa) in which each grade was given a pool of names and we had to pick names out. Whichever name we received, we have to either buy them a gift or write them letters until Purim day. On Purim day we would need to reveal who we are or hint so that they guess.

Overall, Monday was a great start to the new month and I look forward to celebrating the joyous month of Adar!

Hannah Davidson Grade 8

Educational Visit Reports



Grades 6-7 chiang mai experience

Last week Grade 6 and 7 returned from our Educational Visit to Chiang Mai in Thailand. The trip was an experience that I am sure none of us will forget, but for me, the two main highlights of the trip were the ziplining and the visit to the elephant sanctuary. In the sanctuary we were taught how to feed the elephants and what to feed them and we even got to bathe them in a river and ended up having a lot of fun.

In addition to these activities, we went to a village in Thailand called Om Koi to help build the base for a water tank. We did various tasks such as cutting and bending iron poles, mixing and laying cement, tying wires to secure the poles and many more. We greatly enjoyed this Service and having seen the village that will use this water tank makes us feel proud to help make their lives easier, even just a little.

Chiang Mai helped us grow in many respects. We have all become more responsible thanks to the activities that we did as these have given us skills that we can use in the future. And our time management skills have also improved as we had to be in places at specific times which makes you more aware of the time and of your surroundings.

Thank you to the teachers and guides who came with us on this trip and did everything they could to keep us safe and comfortable.

Ella Gefen Grade 7



After our first two days in Nepal, we understood that this trip was like no other. The two first days of the trip, which preceded Shabbat, were very heavily based on service and manual labour – and in order to be rested and physically prepared for the intense days which were to follow, Shabbat provided a spiritual and reflective space, reinvigorating us before the straining routine resumed.

Many of the people who went on this trip don't experience Shabbat often, or possibly at all, and nevertheless I have no doubt that their experience of Shabbat did not disappoint. Ranging from the prayers and Divrei Torah, to the meals and the activities, everything which makes Shabbat so special such as the sense of togetherness and friendship were strongly felt throughout. This sudden break from both work as well as technology allowed us to focus on our bonds with one another and reconnect with our cultural roots, an experience which was very special particularly in contrast to the rest of the trip.

Ori Razon Grade 10



Grade 8-10 nepal



This year's trip to Nepal was extremely meaningful for me. The reason? The community service. On previous school trips we would complete a service component, but it felt a little hollow as we couldn't see how it impacted on people's lives, and didn't see any change. This year was different. When I arrived at the school that we were volunteering at, I was very skeptical. To my surprise, the students spoke very good English, gave us a comprehensive tour, and showed us what we were going to be doing during our three days of service. We were sent straight away to get to work.

We made and moved cement for a new basketball court, built a walkway, built a garden, and painted the walls of the school with colours to help brighten up the atmosphere. It sounded quite simple, but turned out to be very physically difficult. Everyone worked together well, and as a team. By the end of the three days we had completed our projects. The hardest part, was at the end of our last day: we had to lift up the basketball hoop. It was extremely heavy, and required the help of 30 people to lift up and put in the ground. At the end we all felt a sense of achievement, and a sense of wholesomeness, as we made a difference to the lives of the students at the school.

Many thanks to the teachers for looking after us on the trip, and ensuring that we made a difference, and had fun while doing it.

Dan Hasofer Grade 10



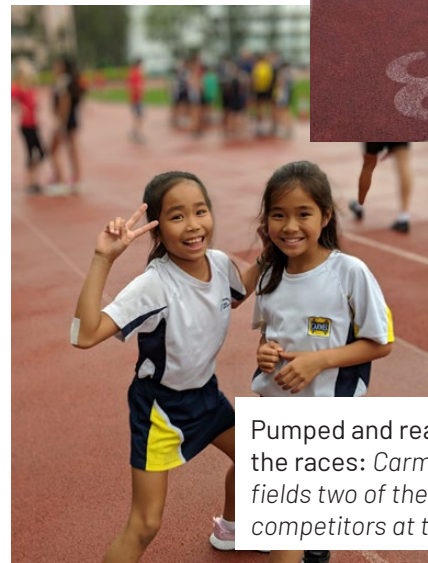
Inter School Mini Meet

This Thursday, we were chosen to run in a mini meet hosted by Canadian International School and South Island school. There were around 120 participants across three other different international schools (including Independent School Foundation Academy, West Island School and ourselves)

Elsa participated across all events including, 100m, 200m, 400m, 1500m, javelin, long jump and high jump. We arrived at the race early *pumped* and ready for the races. We were lucky with the weather conditions as it was raining throughout the day. Everyone took part in good spirits and we look forward to the championships.

We want to say a huge thank you to Mr. Julian and Ms. Rotman for organising this event as it gave us insight on the competition which lies ahead.

Ativa Goldberg Grade 9



Pumped and ready for the races: Carmel School fields two of the youngest competitors at the meet



Feathers Fly at Elsa Hosted Badminton Competition

This week our first ever Elsa High School Badminton team took part in the U12/14 ISSFHK Badminton competition at Elsa High School against The American School of Hong Kong. The Under 12 and 14 Boys and Girls teams did well with both teams beat ASHK 4-1.

Well done and all the best for next weeks match!



Mr. Roshan Julian
Director of Experiential Learning



Carmel Library

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 students' accounts.

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

Salt to the Sea by Ruta Sepetys

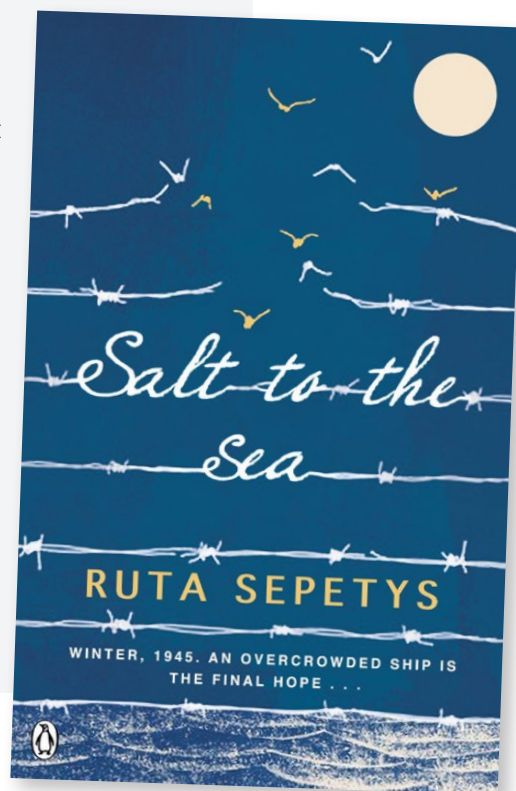
Winter 1945. WWII. Four refugees. Four stories. Each one born of a different homeland; each one hunted, and haunted, by tragedy, lies, war.

World War II is drawing to a close in East Prussia and thousands of refugees are on a desperate trek toward freedom, many with something to hide. Among them are Joana, Emilia, and Florian, whose paths converge en route to the ship that promises salvation, the Wilhelm Gustloff. Forced by circumstance to unite, the three find their strength, courage, and trust in each other tested with each step closer to safety.

Just when it seems freedom is within their grasp, tragedy strikes. Not country, nor culture, nor status matter as all ten thousand people—adults and children alike—aboard must fight for the same thing: survival.

"Superlative ... masterfully crafted ... [a] powerful work of historical fiction." The Wall Street Journal

Junior Fiction Age 12+



Carmel Library

The Wave by Morton Rhue

The Wave is based on a nightmarish true episode in a Californian high school, when a teacher wanted to demonstrate the dangers of propaganda and group-think.

Laurie isn't sure what to make of 'The Wave'. It had begun as a simple history experiment to liven up their World War II studies and had become a craze that was taking over their lives. Laurie's classmates are changing from normal teenagers into chanting, saluting fanatics. 'The Wave' is sweeping through the school - and it is out of control. Laurie's friends scoff at her warnings but she knows she must make them see what they have become before it's too late.

The novel won the Massachusetts Book Award for Children's/Young Adult literature.

"Never in my life have I read a book so hard hitting and thought provoking and also gripping as The Wave" The Guardian



Young Adult Fiction Age 12+

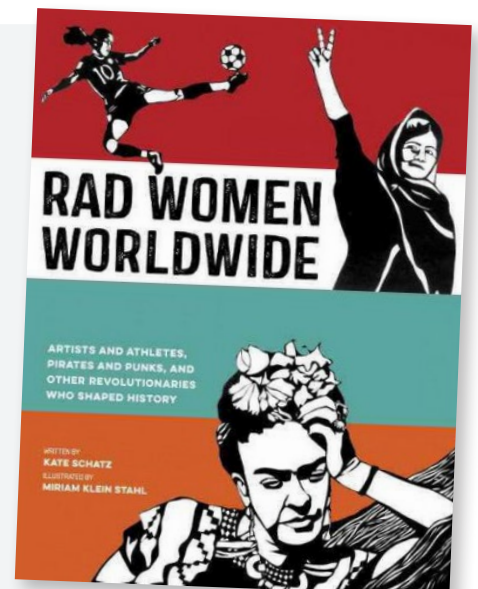
Rad Women Worldwide by Kate Schatz

Rad Women Worldwide tells fresh, engaging, and amazing tales of perseverance and radical success by pairing well-researched and riveting biographies with powerful and expressive cut-paper portraits.

The book features an array of diverse figures from 430 BCE to 2016, spanning 31 countries around the world, from Hatshepsut (the great female king who ruled Egypt peacefully for two decades) and Malala Yousafzai (the youngest person to win the Nobel Peace Prize) to Poly Styrene (legendary teenage punk and lead singer of X-Ray Spex) and Liv Arnesen and Ann Bancroft (polar explorers and the first women to cross Antarctica).

This progressive and visually arresting book is a compelling addition to women's history and belongs on the shelf of every school, library, and home.

"This collection of energetic profiles is sure to spark discussion and encourage readers passionate about women's history and rights to do further research." School Library Journal



Non Fiction



PTA

Hamentaschen

Thank you to our amazing PTA for baking all the Hamentaschen for the whole school.

A special thank you to Cynthia Fleischer who led the "bakers" and to the parents and helpers who aided in the process.

Thank you Bai Feng, Hao Shi, Gemma, Lori, Angie, Alla Madliar, Ayelet Asaraf, Olga Kanevsky, Ronit Katz, Zhangke Meroz, Rachelle Caviglia, Nan Zeiden, Donna, Cookie and Gemma.

The children will be able to enjoy their hamentaschen for Purim





Carmel School PTA and JWA proudly present

ZERO WASTE CONFERENCE

BY FANNY MORITZ



Do you think that waste-free living is synonymous with a life deprived of comfort? That it is time-consuming or even reserved for hippies living in a hut? Think again! Or even better: join us on the 1st of April!

Our kids are the generation that will have to live with the decisions that we take today. The Zero waste journey starts with lots of questions and many obstacles furthered by our bad habits. Let's get rid of them!

Fanny Moritz is a passionate French entrepreneur focused on helping people start a zero waste lifestyle.



Monday 1st of April 2019 from 7:30pm

JCC - King David Room

Drinks and nibbles provided

Suggested donation: HK\$ 150

Rsvp: info@jwa.org.hk



Announcements

Celebrating the month of Adar, Carmel students are invited to:



Purim at Carmel School



HAPPY PURIM

Fancy Dress Purim celebrations and Reading Megilat Esther for grades K-12

at the Elsa High School campus

March 21st

Dismissal at 11:00 am from SKW



Fun Purim activities

Mabaneb Laevyonim

Mishloach Manot



CARMEL ANNUAL FUND



#powerofparticipation

Every student counts.

Every moment counts.

Every donation counts.

Thank you to all who have pledged so far

Please visit www.carmelschoolassociation.wufoo.com/forms/srkwprj0azvroo
to find out how you can contribute

We hope you've enjoyed reading

Elsa High School Newsletter

Weekly Daf



From **The Weekly Daf Team**

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

Happy Birthday to
Jack Diestel, Asya Poller, Adam Kanevsky, Mordechai
Oser, William Barron and Stephanie Fleischer



Mazel Tov to
Asya Poller on her
Bat Mitzvah

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פינת הספרייה העברית

סמסטר שני: מהדורה מספר 26
ח' באדר ב' ה'תשע"ט

קבלו את הקוראים חדשים



קבלו את הקוראים החדשים



התחלתי ללמוד עברית בשנה שעברה במקביל להיותי תלמידה בכיתה רגילה של עברית. ההתחלה היתה קשה כי לא הבנתי הרבה את החומר בכיתה הרגילה. לאט לאט, כאשר

התקדמתי עם כל אות וצליל וגם אוצר המילים שידעתי הלך והתרחב הרגשתי יותר שייכת בכיתה, הרגשתי שאני מצליחה לעבוד ולהבין בכיתה את הנושאים שכולם לומדים. האותיות היו די קשות, במיוחד האותיות הסופיות כי זה ממש שונה מאנגלית. היה לי גם מוזר שיש אותיות שונות עם אותו הצליל. עכשיו אני מרגישה יותר נוח עם העברית. אני מבינה יותר כשמדברים לידי בעברית וזה נפלא.

ליב רוזנבלום - כיתה ט'

נפלה בחלקי ההזדמנות ללמד תלמידים בתיכון אלסה לקרוא עברית. בכל שנה אני מתרגשת מחדש כאשר אני מלמדת תלמידים, שאינם דוברי עברית, לקרוא עברית. אני גאה ומאושרת לשמוע אותם קוראים ומשתתפים בשיעורי העברית. גם השנה נוספו קוראים חדשים לספרייה אשר שיתפו אותנו בהרגשה שלהם בתהליך הלמידה.



התחלתי ללמוד עברית כי ההורים שלי חשבו שזה טוב ללמוד שפות. את השפה הצרפתית ניתן ללמוד בכל מקום ואת העברית לא כל כך. היה לי מאוד מעניין ללמוד. קצת קשה בגלל שיש הרבה אפשרויות לצלילים והיו כמה אותיות שהיה לי קשה לבטא כמו ח' ו-ר', אבל בסך הכל זאת הייתה חוויה מעניינת. עכשיו אני ממשיך ללמוד ומעשיר את אוצר המילים שלי. זה כיף כשאני מצליח לבנות משפט.

מירון וונג - כיתה ו'



למדתי עברית מזמן, עבור בר המצווה שלי, אבל מאז לא השתמשתי בשפה. זה עזר לי מאוד שזכרתי את הבסיס. זה מאוד חשוב לדעת שפה נוספת. אני דובר אנגלית, צרפתית ועכשיו גם עברית.

מקס וליאורה - כיתה י'



התחלתי ללמוד עברית בגלל המעבר שלי לבית הספר כרמל. אני דוברת צרפתית, אנגלית, ומנדרינית והיה לי קצת קשה ללמוד שפה נוספת ולזכור הרבה מילים. אבל למרות שזה היה קצת קשה ומבלבל הירגשתי טוב ללמוד לקרוא. אני ממשיכה עכשיו להרחיב את אוצר המילים שלי ולאט לאט אני מבינה יותר עברית כשמדברים איתי.

אנאבל זגורי - כיתה ה'



השנה התחלתי ללמוד לקרוא ולדבר בעברית. זה מרגש מאוד וגם מאתגר. מאוד רציתי ללמוד עברית כי רוב הדוידים שלי מדברים עברית.

נועה רוזנבלום - כיתה י'



החלטתי ללמוד עברית כי ממש רציתי. רוב החברים שלי הם דוברי עברית לכן זה היה לי חשוב. הלימודים היו מעניינים והייתה לי חוויה טובה. כבר שנתיים אני לומד עברית עם רוב החברים שלי באותה הכיתה. זה קצת קשה אבל מאתגר.

ארתור טונג - כיתה ט'



שלום