



Elsa High School Campus Newsletter

Weekly Daf

Edition 8

11 October 2019 || 12 Tishrei 5780



Wishing everyone Chag Sameach and an enjoyable and safe break. Looking forward to seeing you back at School on Thursday 24 October.
Mrs. Friedmann, Principal

Dvar Torah Ha'azinu

by Mordechai Oser Grade 11

This week's Parsha is Ha'azinu. The Parsha starts out with Moses calling out the Heavens and the Earth. Why does Moses seem to be comparing the Heavens and the Earth? What, if anything, is their connection?

Rav Hirsh explained that when a Jew does something that goes against the Torah, he negatively impacts the spiritual world, and this negative spiritual energy translates down into the physical world, negatively affecting the Earth.

For example, when people cook, they often follow a specific recipe. In order to perfectly replicate the recipe, they need to follow a set procedure, no more and no less.

If we do our own thing, it may not taste as good as when following the recipe. And so in our spiritual lives it might pay to follow the recipe.

Today however, there are lots of people who, when it comes to spirituality, are in the mindset of, "I'll do my own thing". Perhaps by comparing the Heavens and the Earth, this attitude is precisely what Moses is coming to subtly counter. Just as the earth has set physical rules, the Heavens also have set rules and specifications that are necessary to follow in order to make spiritual "cooking" possible.

Shabbat Shalom and Chag Sameach!

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Elsa High School Welcomes the Arnon Family Choir for Yom Kippur

By Sophie Effron Grade 10

Every year on erev Yom Kippur, Elsa High School students have the privilege of having Chazan Arnon and the Arnon family as guests at assembly, and this year they were joined by Hamoreh Yariv.

Not only do they come and visit, but they also perform as a family choir! Each member in the family is extremely talented and led by Chazan Arnon, shared with us their unique voices, rhythms and spiritual songs.

This assembly is always special and what begins as a quiet sing-along, ends with everyone getting up and dancing! Together, the School sang special songs that are typically sung on Yom Kippur. Every year, it is always a wonderful experience to prepare ourselves through such meaningful songs for Yom Kippur, shared by Jews and non-Jews alike. I'd like to thank the Arnon family for once again delivering an amazing performance and encouraging us all to dance, sing and learn the tunes and words of Yom Kippur prayers.

Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to be with us and share such joy; to sing and dance and smile with us.

Shabbat Shalom and Chag Sameach!

Rabbi Avtzon visits Elsa High School

By Arya Idan-Cummins Grade 12

Last Friday Elsa High School were fortunate and honoured to welcome Rabbi Avtzon in to the auditorium to deliver an assembly and talk to us about the significance of the shofar for the Yamim Noraim, and the lessons we can learn from listening to the shofar.

We learnt that the Mitzvah for Rosh Hashanah is not to blow the Shofar, but to listen to the sound of the shofar. The Rabbi focused on what distinguishes us from animals, our ability to speak and to listen. He pointed out that in Hebrew there are three ways to describe listening, Lishmoa, lehakshiv, and lehazin. The last word "Lehazin" comes from the Hebrew word for ear, "ozen" and the root of this word comes from the word "izun", meaning balance. Rabbi Avtzon pointed out that when we listen attentively our ears are aligned and we are fully balanced.

I think the fact that it is in this listening position that we find balance further emphasises our need and ability to communicate with one another. The mitzvah of listening to the shofar on Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur allows us to take a moment and find our own balance before we take on the new connections we will make in the upcoming year.

Our thanks to Rabbi Avtzon for this inspiring talk.



Inside Scoop with Ms. Humphreys

Interview conducted by Isabella Ricklow Grade 10

Ms. Humphreys is the Learning Enhancement Coordinator at Elsa. She grew up in Cape Town, South Africa. In High School her experiences with volunteering led her to study social work at the University of Cape Town. Her work at schools during this time showed her the significant power education has in our lives. She moved to Hong Kong with the hope of combining her love for counselling, education and travel.

What do you enjoy doing in your free time? In my free time I love reading, watching series and traveling as well as spending time with friends. At the moment I am rereading *Sense and Sensibility* by Jane Austen. I am also currently watching *Friends* on Netflix for maybe the 5th time!

What is your favourite part about working with young people? I love working with students and seeing the moment that they understand something that they were struggling with: it is great seeing students take on something challenging or new and succeed or grow in their understanding. I also really enjoy the conversations I have with students about ideas and issues we face in the world today.

What is your favourite thing about teaching at Elsa?

I love the sense of community at Elsa, I have been here a short time but I have felt very welcomed. I love my role at Elsa as it gives me the opportunity to combine both the things I love: education and social work. Something else that I really enjoy about my role is that it allows me to move around to different classes and engage with many different subjects and students, which means I am constantly learning something or being challenged to think about it in a new way.

When did you become involved in education and social work? My background is in both teaching and social work. I finished studying social work in 2012 and then did my TESOL. Since then I have taught English in Switzerland, Hong Kong and Korea. Before moving to Hong Kong I worked at an NGO called Childline in South Africa.

Thank you for your time Miss Humphreys, and welcome to Elsa High School! I know you're already making a world of difference to students here.



Chung Yeung Festival

by Sarah Cohen Grade 11

This Monday, Hong Kong celebrated the Chung Yeung Festival.

Observed on the ninth day of the ninth month of the lunar calendar, the Chung Yeung Festival, also known as the Double Ninth Festival, commemorates the ancestral memorials.

On this day, locals gather at late relatives' graves to participate in ancestral worship and other rituals like tomb-sweeping, hiking, hosting family gatherings, flying of kites and eating "ko". It is believed that eating this customary cake will bring luck in being promoted to higher positions.

Immanuel Kant's Categorical Imperative

by Victor Fong Grade 11

For centuries, humans have engaged in multiple forms of discourse for the purpose of outlining different sets of rules from which human agency must derive. However, the modern realm of ethics is not only devoid of objectivity but also conspicuously vague. For example, more often than not, discourse ethics is afflicted by individual biases as a product of socio-cultural influences. As a result, an individual's moral sense is different from another's, resulting in subjective arguments and vagueness across discourse ethics.

Despite the inherent issues in attempting to create universal laws in ethics, Immanuel Kant nonetheless attempted to deal with this, now immortalised in his famous book, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*. In *Groundwork*, Kant establishes three formulations as categorical imperatives, (1) The Universal Law, (2) Formula of Humanity, and (3) Formula of Autonomy. The Universal Law, as Kant proposes, is the notion that a **true** moral proposition must not be tied to particular conditions or subjective desires. The second formulation derives from the first, arguing that a human should not treat another

human as a means to an end. For example, it would be immoral for a slave owner to enslave others to achieve an objective. The last formulation, formula of autonomy, argues that the will of a rational being should, at the same time, be a universal will, but also one which does not infringe upon the freedom of others and ourselves.



Immanuel Kant's categorical imperative is an intriguing concept that helps humans understand morality with greater depth; however, the realm of ethics is too complex and too complicated to establish a universal law that defines whether an act is right or wrong. A famous philosopher, Schopenhauer, expresses doubts concerning the absence of egoism in the categorical imperative; claiming that the categorical imperative is actually hypothetical and egotistical, not categorical. Despite its limitations, the categorical imperative has been successfully applied in realms such as politics and law, most famously during Adolf Heimann's trial.

Street Art: Hong Kong Edition

by Liana Tang Grade 9

Hong Kong might not be known as home to a wealth of international art exhibitions, but it would be selling the city short to say contemporary artists haven't left their mark. And maybe these few locations would brighten up the smog of city life: work, upcoming exams, and much more.

Marvel as Danish urban artist Christian Storm transforms a simple concrete wall to a body of water with two koi fish swimming, combining his trademark artistic geometric elements with Chinese culture. Now, the artwork rests hidden behind the antique ships of Hollywood Road.

Shing Wong Street at the junction with 82 Hollywood Road

In Sai Ying Pun, land developers have revitalized some old buildings, adding a certain kudos to fancy new residential complexes. Nine local and international artists have splattered murals, music, and other art-related themes onto the street.

Ki Ling Lane and Chung Ching Street (next to MTR exit B3)

Inspired by the charity "Feeding Hong Kong", a collaboration between renowned British street artist Dann Kitchener (also known as Dank) and Charles Williams, brings Elgin Street to life. The work is typical of Kitchener's urban impressionist style— think soft neon lighting — and results in a unique depiction of a rainy Hong Kong evening. At the bottom left corner, it features the phrase "don't let it go to waste" in Chinese.

48 Elgin St, Central

Arts & Culture



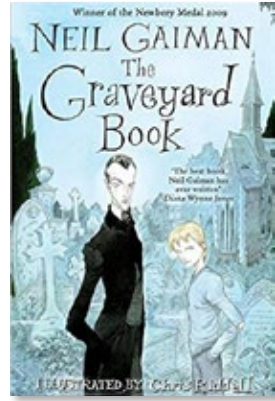
Support at home is key to how young people approach reading for pleasure. Every week we will be promoting books new and old, fiction and non-fiction for readers of all ages and levels. Our libraries are [open to students and parents alike](#) and books can be borrowed through students' accounts.

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

The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman

Here's a fantastic ghost adventure story, laced with menace and humour.

When a baby escapes a murderer intent on killing the entire family, who would have thought it would find safety and security in the local graveyard?



Nobody Owens, known as Bod, is a normal boy. He would be completely normal if he didn't live in a graveyard. Brought up by the resident ghosts, ghouls and spectres, Bod has an eccentric childhood learning about life from the dead. But for Bod there is also the danger of the murderer still looking for him - after all, he is the last remaining member of the family.

A stunningly original novel deftly constructed over eight chapters, featuring every second year of Bod's life, from babyhood to adolescence. Will Bod survive to be a man?

"This is an utterly captivating tale that is cleverly told through an entertaining cast of ghostly characters. There is plenty of darkness, but the novel's ultimate message is strong and life affirming." Booklist

Holding Up the Universe by Jennifer Niven Fiction age 12+

Everyone thinks they know Libby Strout, the girl once dubbed "America's Fattest Teen". But no one's taken the time to look past her weight to get to know who she really is. Following her mom's death, she's been picking up the pieces in the privacy of her home, dealing with her heartbroken father and her own grief. Now, Libby's ready: for high school, for new friends, for love, and

for every possibility life has to offer.

Everyone thinks they know Jack Masselin, too. Yes, he's got swagger, but he's also mastered the impossible art of giving people what they want, of fitting in. What no

one knows is that Jack has a newly acquired secret: he can't recognize faces. Even his own brothers are strangers to him. He's the guy who can re-engineer and rebuild anything, but he can't understand what's going on with the inner workings of his brain. So he tells himself to play it cool: Be charming. Be hilarious. Don't get too close to anyone.

Until he meets Libby. When the two get tangled up in a cruel high school game - which lands them in group counseling and community service - Libby and Jack are both annoyed, and then surprised. Because the more time they spend together, the less alone they feel.

"A thoughtful exploration of identity and self-acceptance, with commentary on overcoming adversities that will hit close to home." School Library Journal

Hong Kong Battle of the Books Review

In support of our Hong Kong Battle of the Books team we are including reviews of all of the books the students will be reading. If your child is one of the participants this will provide you with the chance to encourage and engage with them in their reading.

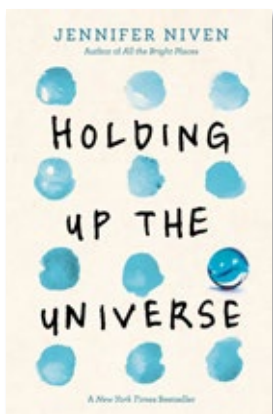
The 1,000-year-old Boy by Ross Welford

There are stories about people who want to live forever. This is not one of those stories. This is a story about someone who wants to stop...

Alfie Monk is like any other nearly teenage boy - except he's 1,000 years old and can remember the last Viking invasion of England. Obviously no one believes him.

So when everything Alfie knows and loves is destroyed in a fire, and the modern world comes crashing in, Alfie embarks on a mission to find friendship, acceptance, and a different way to live...which means finding a way to make sure he will eventually die.

"Boasts all the ingredients of a great book: brave kids, bold storytelling and a blistering plot. Full of humour and heart." Abi Elphinstone, author of The Dreamsnatcher





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בס"ד

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John Shanahan

- Experienced psychologist specialising in children and adolescents
- Director of the Central Health Partners Child Development Team
- Previously employed at Elsa High School
- An Hon. Past President of the Psychotherapy Society of Hong Kong
- Psychologist on the Safety Committee of Outward Bound Hong Kong.



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Elsa High School Newsletter

Weekly Daf

Editorial Team Issy Lyons, Louis Effron, Isabella Ricklow,
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Thanks for reading!

Happy Birthday to
Isabel Lyons, Scott
Chua, Elya Elbaz
and Sander Day!



Follow us online!



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Carmel School Association

Message from Mrs Friedmann

Dear Parents,

- Please remember to check information updates via the TV, radio, social media and announcements on relevant websites regarding the status of public transport to and from School.
- Please note that the School stringently applies the EDB and Hong Kong Observatory guidance regarding the Air Quality Index and ensures that students at all campuses have indoor recess and PE lessons when so advised. Please also stay tuned on weather announcements especially regarding typhoon warnings.
- Please note that the prohibition on Face Covering Regulation came into effect on 5 October 2019. In order to avoid breaching the law inadvertently, we advise parents to remind your children not to cover their faces in public places and to encourage your child to stay away from demonstrations and dangerous situations.
<https://www.sb.gov.hk/eng/antimask/index.htm>

Useful links

MTR

www.mtr.com.hk/en/customer/main/index.html

Bus(KMB)

www.kmb.hk/en/

Bus (City Bus)

www.nwstbus.com.hk/home/default.aspx?intLangID=1

South China Morning Post

www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong

Hong Kong Government News

www.news.gov.hk/eng/index.html

Transport Department

www.td.gov.hk/en/home/index.html





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המלצת השבוע: הנעלמים / כתב: הרלן קוב / שם הממליץ: יריב אוסטשינסקי

הספר עוקב אחר קורות חייו של אדם שאימו הלכה לעולמה ונדמה כי חייו "עלו על שרטון". אחיו, המואשם במעשים חמורים מאוד הקשורים לחברתו ג'ולי, בורח מהחוק כבר יותר מ-10 שנים, חברתו שילה נעלמת ללא הסבר ומשאירה המון שאלות ללא תשובות ואם לא די בכך, לפתע נכנס לחייו אדם עם עבר מפוקפק ביותר, אשר עוקב אחר כל אחד מצעדיו. אט אט נחשפים בעלילה רמזים, שיובילו לגילוי האמת בנוגע לכל ההתרחשויות החריגות.

הספר כתוב בצורה מרתקת, ומה גם שהעלילה בספר מתפתחת ומתפתלת בקצב מסחרר ומפתיע, באופן שיגרום לך לאחוז בספר ולא להרפות.



את ידי בחזקה כשראתה את הכרטיס המצורף. בלי מילים, בלי מסר, רק ציור קטן.

אבא המשיך להשקיף מבעד לחלונות הצרפתיים - אותם חלונות שנורו בתת-מקלע, פעמיים באחת-עשרה השנים האחרונות - ומילמל מתחת לשפמו המטאפורי, "בני-זונות". הוא הסתובב ונזכר בעוד מישהו שלא הופיע. "אלוהים אדירים, לפחות הברגמנים היו יכולים להפגין נוכחות." ואז הוא עצם את עיניו והסב את מבטו מאיתנו. הזעם כירסם בו מחדש, ויחד עם האבל העמוק נמהל למשהו שלא היו לי כוחות נפש להתמודד איתו.

עוד בגידה אחת בעשור מלא בגידות. הייתי זקוק לאוויר.

קמתי על רגלי. שילה הביטה בי בדאגה. "אני יוצא לטיול קצר," אמרתי ברכות.

"לבוא איתך?" "אני חושב שלא."

שילה הנידה בראשה. היינו יחד כמעט שנה. מעולם לא היתה לי בת-זוג שמתואמת כל-כך עם מצבי הרוח

והלכי הנפש המשווים למדי שלי. היא שוב לחצה את ידי לחיצת "אני אוהבת אותך", והחום התפשט בכל גופי.

המחצלת בפתח הדלת, עם הכיתוב "ברוכים הבאים", היתה עשויה מחיקוי דשא גס, כמו משהו שנגנב ממסלול מירוצים, עם מרגנית מפלסטיק בפינה

הימנית העליונה. דרכתי עליה והחלקתי במורד דאונינג פלייס. הרחוב היה מעוטר בבתיים דו-מפלסיים מדהימים

בסתמיותם, בציפוי אלומיניום, נוסח 1962.

שלושה ימים לפני

מותה, אמא אמרה לי - אלה לא היו מילותיה האחרונות, אבל בערך - שאחי חי. זה כל מה שהיא אמרה. היא לא הרחיבה. היא אמרה את זה רק פעם אחת. ומצבה לא היה כל-כך טוב.

המורפיום כבר מעך את ליבה באופן בלתי-הפיך. עורה היה בגבול שבין צהבת לשיזוף קיץ דהוי. עיניה היו שקועות עמוק בתוך הראש. היא ישנה

רוב הזמן. היה לה למעשה רק עוד רגע צלול אחד - אם אומנם הוא היה צלול, ובכך יש לי ספק גדול - וזאת היתה

ההזדמנות שלי לומר לה שהיא היתה אמא נפלאה, שאני אוהב אותה מאוד, ולהתראות. לא אמרנו מלה על אחי. זה

לא אומר שלא חשבנו עליו כאילו גם הוא ישב לצידנו.

"הוא חי."

אלה היו מילותיה המדויקות. ואם הן היו נכונות, לא ידעתי אם זה טוב או רע.

קברנו את אמי ארבעה ימים אחר-כך. כשחזרנו אל הבית לשבת שבעה, אבי

התהלך נסתר על השטיח השעיר בסלון. פניו האדימו מזעם. אני הייתי שם, כמובן.

אחותי, קליסה, הגיעה בטיסה מסיאטל עם בעלה, ראלף. דודה סלקה ודוד מורי

פסעו בחדר הלוך ושוב. שילה, הנשמה התאומה שלי, ישבה לצדי ואחזה בידי.

זה, פחות או יותר, היה מאזן האגלים. היה רק סידור פרחים אחד, יפהפה

ומפלצתי בממדיו. שילה חיכה ולחצה

מילת השבוע חג האסיף

חג האסיף הוא משמותיו העתיקים של חג הסוכות, ככתוב בספר שמות: "וַחַג הָאֲסִיף בְּצֵאת הַשָּׁנָה בְּאֶסְפָּף אֶת מַעֲשֵׂיךָ מִן הַשָּׂדֶה" (כב, טו). מן המקבילה בספר דברים עולה שאסיף פירושו כינוס היבולים לאחסון לאחר עיבודם הראשוני בגורן (דיש) וביקב (דריכה): "חַג הַסֶּכֶת מַעֲשֶׂה לָךְ שִׁבְעַת יָמִים בְּאֶסְפָּף מִנְיָנְךָ וּמִיָּקֶבְךָ" (טז, יג). תקופת האסיף חלה בסתיו, "שכל ימות החמה התבואה מתייבשת בשדות, ובחג אוספים אותה אל הבית מפני הגשמים" (רש"י בפירושו לפסוק משמות).

הפעולות החקלאיות היו חלק בלתי נפרד מחייהם של אבותינו, והן זכו למקום של כבוד גם בשדה הלשון. כך למשל לשוננו מבחינה בין שלל פעולות הקשורות לאסיף. כבר בתנ"ך אנו מוצאים את הפועל **קָצַר** המיוחד לחיטה ושעורה, ואת הפועל **בָּצַר** המיוחד לענבים. הפועל **קָטַף** כללי יותר, והפועל **אָרָה** בא בתנ"ך פעמיים בלבד - פעם ביחס למור (בושם) ופעם ביחס לגפן. קָצַר, בָּצַר וקָטַף מציינים ביסודם חיתוך, ואילו אָרָה מציין ביסודו איסוף.

הפעלים **גָּדַר** ו**גָּדַד** באים שניהם בכתבי יד של ספרות חז"ל לציון קטיף התמרים, וייתכן שמדובר בחילוף גרפי בגלל דמיון האותיות ד-ר. לפועל גָּדַד יש מקבילות בארמית ובערבית המציינות חיתוך וכריתה, ובערבית הפועל משמש גם במשמעות של קטיף תמרים.

הפועל **מָסַק** מציין קטיף זיתים מן הענף בתנועת משיכה (בדומה לחליבה), ויש הסוברים שהוא קרוב ל**מָשַׁךְ**. כמו בתנ"ך, גם בספרות חז"ל נזכר קטיף של זיתים הנעשה בחביטה. פעולה זו קרויה **נָקַף** - בדומה לצירוף המקראי **נָקַף זֵית**