



Elsa High School Campus Newsletter

Weekly Daf

Edition 5

20 September 2019 || 20 Elul 5780



Dvar Torah Parsha Ki Tavo

by Alon Lavi Grade 11

This week's Parsha, Parsha Ki Tavo, reminds us of the importance of showing gratitude in our day-to-day lives. Containing one of Moses' last speeches to the Jewish nation, the Parsha begins with him instructing the Jewish people on what to do "when they entered the land of which G-d gave to them [as an eternal heritage]," Israel. It is during this instruction that Moses introduces the concept of Bikurim. Bikurim are essentially first fruits and the Jewish people are instructed to bring their first-ripened fruits to the Holy Temple - a declaration of gratitude for all that G-d had done for them in relation to bringing them to the Promised Land.

Along with the idea of gratitude, the importance of being a part of [Jewish] national history is repeated numerous times throughout the course of this Parsha. These two things are echoed in a very specific story about a farmer. One day the farmer was on his way to bring the Bikurim to the Holy Temple. On arrival the farmer exclaims, "I was a slave in Egypt." While this might seem like a relatively ordinary thing to say, his declaration creates a sense

of confusion. This man lived on his farm in Israel. Yet through the farmer's use of the first person, he attempts to show that despite him not being "a slave in Egypt," his life is bound with those who were, because of his Jewish faith.

The examples mentioned above serve as a reminder to step back and show gratitude for everything we have, whilst never taking anything for granted. In a world where technology has made life much easier, and where the past might feel more and more remote, we must always remember our fundamental values. We must never forget where we came from and always show thanks and gratitude.

Shabbat Shalom



David Hirsh – Antisemitism Talk

by Dan Hasofer Grade 10 and Lily Gershon Grade 11

Last Friday Dr. David Hirsh, a leader in the field of anti-semitism research, visited Elsa High School to talk about perspectives regarding anti-semitism in the twenty-first century. Dr. Hirsh spoke to us about his book *“Contemporary Left Antisemitism”*, what anti-semitism means, how it may affect us, how to deal with it, and our role as Jews in the 21st century.

The overarching themes and content of his presentation were very interesting, presented new contexts and gave us a lot to think about and reflect on. Thank you to Dr. Hirsh for taking the time to speak to us!

A Visit from Dr. Roland Vogt

by Mr. Sam Wappel DP History Teacher

On Wednesday the School hosted Dr. Roland Vogt, professor at Hong Kong University, and Director of the Hong Kong Holocaust and Tolerance Centre and an expert in international politics and European history. Dr. Vogt sat down with students from Grades 8 and 9 in the Holocaust Education Learning Programme, where they are learning to be ambassadors to educate others about the Holocaust, and with a number of students from Grade 11 in preparation for their journey to Poland where they will experience first-hand evidence of the Holocaust as well as learn about pre World War 2 Jewish life in Poland.

The visit from Dr. Vogt was an opportunity for the students to discuss issues surrounding the Holocaust and anti-semitism in Europe with an expert in his field. The conversation ranged over a number of topics including the power of individuals’ choices to shape their experience of the Holocaust; how these choices were limited by the time and place in which they occurred. Dr. Vogt unpacked the idea of the Holocaust as a monolithic event and put the emphasis on the lived human experiences and how the constraints on the choices available to, for example, an Austrian Jew in 1937 might be very different to those on a Jewish person living in the Ukraine in 1941.

Dr. Vogt also discussed the degree of continuity and change between pre-war anti-semitism in Europe, its apex during Holocaust, and the extent to which such sentiments in modern day Europe represent a continuity or change from the views of the past.

We would like to thank Dr. Vogt and the Hong Kong Holocaust and Tolerance Centre for this illuminating and educational session.



Eyal Nir: The Budo Way

by Harry Golovsky and Naomi Rose Grade 6

On Thursday 19 September, guest speaker Eyal Nir led a workshop with Grade 6 on The BuDo Way – a philosophy and movement in Karate.

“Drawing on centuries of ancient wisdom, it’s an approach that has already benefited thousands around the world. Experiential, inclusive and beautifully adaptable, its lessons are absorbed quickly and applied immediately.” – Eyal Nir on The Bu-do Way.

Eyal was born in Israel and moved to South Africa when he was young. He is a World Champion at “Karate” and will be competing again in Brazil this year.

Eyal Nir came to connect our brain to our soul. He showed some skills in Karate: how to scream; how to punch; how to block; and how to react when people say mean things to us. He demonstrated how to punch well. He said to connect everything to your centre.

Harry Golovsky volunteered and Eyal gave a demonstration to show us how to really punch. First, he did it lightly and then he said he was going to do it in slow motion. The punch ended up making Harry fly across the room like in superhero movies. He got to his feet unharmed with a smile across his face!

Grade 6 thoroughly enjoyed the experience and are grateful for the knowledge and wisdom we received. If you want to learn more about Eyal Nir and the Bu-do Way, you can find his philosophy at www.budo-way.com



Battle of the Books

By Tahlia Goldberg Grade 9

Since 2014, Carmel School has participated in the Battle of the Books (BoB), a competition pitting teams from different schools, who read the same 20 books, in debates, discussions and deep explorations of the texts. In the competition itself, we compete against five other teams. This year we have had a lot of interest in joining the Elsa team, with space for only twelve students as two groups of six, to actually compete (plus two in support).

Our team consists of Alisa Dagan, Andie Oz, Aviad Maskalchi, Clio Petrulis, Dov Kamhin, Jack Diestel, Luca Caviglia, Tamir Razon, Yoav Assor, Ben Oz, Ella Gefen, Milly Golovsky, Liana Tang, Arigus Tsolmon and Tahlia Goldberg. As someone who has participated in BoB since Grade 6, I am sad that this will be my last year on the team (the age limit is 14), but confident that the younger students coming through the ranks will continue to proudly represent the School.

Battle of the Books has fostered my love of reading and has given me the opportunity to discuss books I've read with other people. It builds confidence, encourages teamwork and bonding, and supports the work we do across the curriculum. It has been an amazing experience so far and I hope that this year we can continue reading and learning and sharing, as we have done in the past. Our thanks to Mr. Cunningham, for giving so much of his time and for his ongoing support.



***Battle Studies** Team meetings consist of discussions about both books and quiz strategy!*

 **Library** Elsa High School Campus

 **Hong Kong
Battle of the Books**

Read on to the Library section, for a special
Battle of the Books Book Review!



Inside Scoop with Mr. Stephens

by Isabella Ricklow Grade 10

Mr. Stephens was born in a small town in Oklahoma, in the United States. After growing up in a number of different states, he moved to the UK for university where he studied Economics at UCL in London. He enjoys travel and worked briefly in Mongolia before eventually moving to Hong Kong to teach.

What is your favourite thing about being a teacher?

My favorite thing about being a teacher is when a student has a "eureka!" moment. It's really rewarding to watch students understand a difficult concept for the first time. Beyond that, I always enjoy having meandering conversations with students and hearing your ideas. I'm always impressed by students' creativity and ability to think outside the box.

When did you start teaching?

I became interested in teaching during university. I spent quite a bit of time tutoring statistics and other subjects I enjoyed. Eventually I realized I enjoyed the teaching part more than the statistics, and so after graduation I went straight into teaching. I eventually decided to move to Hong Kong, and this is my second year here now. I don't regret my choices at all and am happy things turned out the way they did.

What is it like being in Elsa High School so far?

Elsa High School has offered me a very warm welcome. There is a very unique atmosphere here as a Jewish Community School, and I think that's a great thing. I especially love how I am able to teach a wide range of grades—it gives me the opportunity to get to know the majority of Elsa students.

What are your passions as well as being a teacher?

In addition to teaching, I'm a big fan of being outdoors. I love hiking, gardening, and beekeeping—though the last two can be tough in Hong Kong! My dream would be to split my time between Hong Kong and Buryatia, a region in Russia north of Mongolia. I'd love to have a small farm there.



The US-China Trade War and the Possibilities of a Currency War

by Victor Fong Grade 11

In the past 18 months, the US and China have been engaging in a trade war. The escalation of the trade war and Trump's unprecedented foreign policies have brewed pessimistic opinions regarding the future of markets. For example, according to the Financial Times, many analysts have speculated that China would become the main casualty from the trade war; however, the numbers say otherwise. For instance, China's activity growth has remained reasonably robust at around 7 percent, and its inflation is close to the anticipated 3 percent ceiling. For China's economic development to appear seemingly unscathed despite the economic pressures imposed by the world's biggest economy is a surprising feat; however, it begs the question: "How did China do it?"

Recently, the exchange rate from yuan to USD rose significantly from 6.7 to 7.1 yuan per dollar. The decrease in the value of the yuan serves to 'loosen up' the Chinese economy, allowing for Chinese exports to be more competitive in other countries while making imports more expensive. This phenomenon nullifies tariffs imposed by the US, so it is widely speculated that China has manipulated its currency in order to diminish the consequences of engaging in the trade war.

As global citizens, it is critical to understand the effects of the trade war in our daily lives. The ongoing trade battle between the world's two largest economies may engender a global currency war. If all countries manipulate their currencies to stay competitive, the consequences could be catastrophic for both individuals and international trade. In essence, no one is a victor in a currency war. Despite having no control over uncertain economic and political vicissitudes, all we can do is, as Benjamin Graham notes, 'intelligently speculate' about future events and hope this trade war is not a symptom of a larger, transnational conflict.

Local Hong Kong Singers

by Liana Tang Grade 9

Sam Hui 许冠杰

Sam Hui (Samuel Hui Koon-kit) is a Hong Kong musician, singer, songwriter, and actor who put Cantopop on the global stage through infusing Western-style music with Cantonese lyrics. He is considered by some to be the first significant superstar of Cantopop, known as the God of Song. In his lyrics, he addresses contemporary problems such as the harsh realities of middle and lower-income Hong Kongers during the mid-1970s.

Representative Songs: "Genius And Idiot" 《天才与白痴》, "Half Catty Cover" 《半斤八两》, "Impression" 《印象》, "A Laugh on the Blue Sea" 《沧海一声笑》, "Double Star Love Song" 《双星情歌》, "Silence Is Golden" 《沉默是金》.

Leslie Cheung 张国荣

Leslie Cheung (Leslie Cheung Kwok-wing) was a Hong Kong-Canadian singer and actor, considered to be "one of the founding fathers of Cantopop" for achieving massive successes in both film and music. He rose as a teen pop icon of Hong Kong in the 1980s, receiving numerous music awards including "Most Popular Male Artist Awards" in 1988 and "THK Top 10 Gold Songs Awards" in 1999. In 2010, he was voted third "Most Iconic Musician of All Time" (after Michael Jackson and The Beatles).

Representative Songs: "Sleepless Night" 《无心睡眠》, "Monica", "Wind Blows On" 《风继续吹》, "Ghost Story" 《倩女幽魂》, "The Wind Blows Again" 《风再起时》, "Wild Wind" 《不羁的风》, "Blue Melancholy" 《蓝色忧郁》, "Silence Is Golden" 《沉默是金》 "Who Resonance" 《有谁共鸣》, "I" 《我》.

Susan Wong 黄翠珊

Born in Hong Kong, Susan Wong emigrated to Sydney, Australia with her family at the age of seven. She was an young prodigy, learning to play the piano at five and later mastering the violin. Her first break in music was at sixteen when her parents entered her for a singing contest. Victory granted her a recording contract with one of the big music companies in Hong Kong. In early 2007, Susan Wong released her first album under Evosound, winning commercial success throughout Southeast Asia.

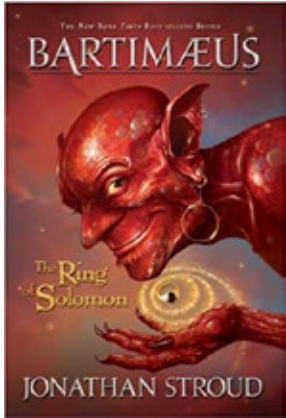
Representative Albums: Close To You(2002), I Wish You Love(2004), These Foolish Things(2005), Just A Little Bossa Nova(2005), A Night At The Movies(2006), My Choice(2006), Someone Like You(2007), The Best Of(2008), 511(2009), Step Into My Dreams(2010), My Live Stories(2012), Woman In Love(2014), Close to Me(2019)

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.



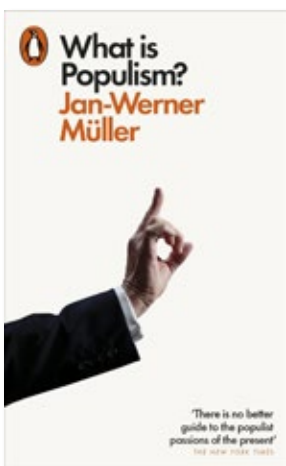
The Ring of Solomon by Jonathan Stroud

It is 950 B.C.E., and King Solomon rules Jerusalem with a steely hand; a hand on which gleams a magic ring of immense and unforgiving power. Solomon has just begun work on his marvellous temple, charging Khaba, a formidable magician in his royal court, to oversee its

construction. The workforce is an ill-behaved bunch of demons, a particularly unruly djinni named Bartimaeus among them.

True to form, Bartimaeus promptly gets kicked off the temple project and assigned the even more miserable task of hunting bandits in the desert. There he crosses paths with Asmira, a highly skilled and loyal captain of the Queen of Sheba's guard, on a suicidal mission to save her country from Solomon's imminent attack. Of course, Bartimaeus has no intention of helping her. That is, until Asmira makes him an offer he cannot refuse. . .

"In terms of sheer unadulterated entertainment, this novel is hard if not impossible to beat." Books for Keeps



What Is Populism? by Jan-Werner Müller

Donald Trump, Silvio Berlusconi, Marine Le Pen, Hugo Chávez - populists are on the rise across the globe. But what exactly is populism?

What precisely is the difference between right-wing and left-wing populism? Does populism bring government closer to the people or is it a threat to

democracy? Who are "the people" anyway and who can speak in their name? These questions have never been more pressing.

In this provocative book, Jan-Werner Müller argues that at populism's core is a rejection of pluralism. Populists will always claim that they and they alone

represent the people and their true interests. Contrary to conventional wisdom, populists can govern on the basis of their claim to exclusive moral representation of the people: if populists have enough power, they will end up creating an authoritarian state that excludes all those not considered part of the proper "people". Proposing a number of concrete strategies to best deal with populists, Müller shows how to counter their claims to speak exclusively for "the silent majority".

"[This]... sweeping critique of populism will both instruct and challenge anyone who seeks to understand the roots and nature of the political conflicts that are roiling Europe and the United States." Michael Kazin

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.

A Tale Dark and Grimm by Adam Gidwitz

Come on in. It may be frightening, and it's certainly bloody, but, unlike those other fairy tales you know, this one is true.


Once upon a time, you see, fairy tales were awesome

In this mischievous and utterly original debut, Hansel and Gretel walk out of their own story and into eight other classic Grimm inspired tales. As readers follow the siblings through a forest brimming with menacing foes, they learn the true story behind (and beyond) the bread crumbs, edible houses, and outwitted witches.

Fairy tales have never been more irreverent or subversive as Hansel and Gretel learn to take charge of their destinies and become the clever architects of their own happily ever after.

"An audacious debut that's wicked smart and wicked funny." Sunday Times





**Auditions for
WEST SIDE STORY**

Sign Up and Material Collection - 3 September at 13:10
Open Call (Singing and Acting) - 9-13 September
Open Call (Choreography) - 16-20 September
Call Backs - 23-27 September

**All auditions and call backs will take place
in the Black Box Theatre.**

Elsa High School Newsletter

Weekly Daf

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

Happy Birthday to
Uri Meroz and Alisa
Dagan!

Congratulations to
Naomi Radnovich
on the eve of her
Bat Mitzvah!



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Carmel School Association

פינת הספרייה העברית

סמסטר ראשון: מהדורה מספר 4
כ' באלול ה'תשע"ט



אפשר לבקר באתר שלנו: <http://hebrewlib-elsa.weebly.com>

מילת השבוע

יוצאים מהקופסה

קופסא או קופסה? דוגמא או דוגמה? קופסה ודוגמה!

הסיומת הארמית, "א" היא במקורה תווית יידוע (מקבילה לה"א הידיעה בעברית): כך למשל מִלְכָּא פירושו המֶלֶךְ, וְעִלְמָא – הָעוֹלָם.

שורה של שמות ארמיים בעלי סיומת "א" חדרו לעברית, והם נתפסו בה כשמות ממין נקבה בגלל זהות הצליל לסיומת הנקבה העברית. כך הם סדנא, גרסא, טבלא וגם דוגמא וקופסא. שמות אלו נוהגים בנטיית היחיד בדיוק כמקביליהם העבריים בעלי הסיומת "ה", ובאה בהם תי"ו הנקבה: עסקת טיעון, סדנת יצירה, גרסתי, גרסתך וכיו"ב.

לפיכך החליטה האקדמיה שמילים אלו ייכתבו בה"א, כדין כל מילה ממין נקבה המסתיימת בתנועת a, כלומר: דוגמה ולא דוגמא, קופסה ולא קופסא. כך גם המילים עסקה, כורסה, עובדה, פסקה, סדנה, גרסה, טבלה ועוד.

בצורת הרבים אפשר לנקוט את הסיומת "אות" (בלי קשר לצורת היחיד; על דרך מרחץ – מרחצאות): דוגמאות או דוגמות, עסקאות או עסקות, מִשְׁפָּחָאוֹת או מִשְׁפָּחָאוֹת. בצורת הנסמך יחיד לא תבוא אל"ף: דוגמת פסים (ולא "דוגמאת פסים").

קביעת האקדמיה המחייבת כתיב בה"א אינה חלה על שתי קבוצות של מילים:

א. שמות הנחשבים שמות פרטיים, כגון שמות הטעמים (אתנחתא, מירכא וכד'), שמות חיבורים (גמרא, תוספתא וכד') ושמות פיוטים (קדושתא וכד').

ב. מילים שאינן שמות ממין נקבה, כגון דווקא, גרידא, איפכא מסתברא, בעלמא (אבל אפשר לכותבן בה"א בסופן על דרך הארמית הארץ-ישראלית).

מעובד על פי פירסומי האקדמיה ללשון העברית



קבלו את הקבוצה השנייה של מועדון הספרים:

אביגיל תיק, אחינועם תיק, רעות שחר, אלה גפן, דניאלה רונן, רועי עמוס, אביעד מסקלצ'י ואורי מרוז

גם במפגש זה החברים בחרו את הספר שהם יקראו במהלך הסמסטר הראשון, וקיבלו הכוונה לנושאים שעליהם מומלץ להתייחס במהלך הקריאה על מנת לקיים את הדיון.

חברי המועדון החליטו על הפעילויות שנקיים במהלך הפסקת הצהריים; הוחלט על יום משחקי קופסה, צפייה ב "שטיסל" והשמעת מוזיקה ישראלית.

בשנים קודמות חברי מועדון הספרים, תלמידים ומורים המליצו על ספרי קריאה מגוונים ומעניינים. השנה נשמח שגם ההורים יקחו חלק בפעילות זו וימליצו על ספרים שנמצאים בספרייה שלנו, ספרים שהם קראו ואהבו. את רשימת ספרי הקריאה ניתן למצוא באתר הספרייה שכתובתו מצויינת למעלה. כל הורה אשר מעוניין להשתתף בפעילות זו יכול לפנות אלינו דרך הדוא"ל של הספרייה העברית עם המלצה (שם הספר, מספר מילים על הספר והסיבה שאתם ממליצים על ספר זה. נשמח מאוד גם לתמונה קטנה שלכם, לא חייב תמונה עם הספר. ניתן לשלוח תמונה אישית).

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