



Elsa High School Campus Newsletter

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# Weekly Daf

30 August 2019 // 29 Av 5780 (Edition 2)



## Dvar Torah: Re'eh

This week's Parasha, Parashat Re'eh, discusses idol worshiping, and tells us that "no prophet may advocate idol worship no matter the circumstances. If he does he is considered a false prophet, even if he's able to perform miracles." After approaching this first quote, one may wonder how a false prophet is still capable of performing miracles after being deemed "false".

Rabbi Akiva addresses this question and explains that when the Torah speaks of this prophet performing miracles, the prophet was then a true one, and only later did he go down the wrong path. Therefore, once becoming a false prophet, he is no longer able to perform miracles. Despite this explanation, Rabbi Avi Weiss states that this answer underlines a critical concept in Judaism: the idea that regardless of one's achievements

or spiritual level, there is always the possibility of being misguided and sinning as manifested by the false prophet in this week's Parasha. Nonetheless, Judaism highlights that with this possibility also comes an equal chance of improvement and teshuva (repentance)! Just like the prophet, we are judged based on where we are now, and on how much we've improved, not on where we once were.

So, as we are approaching the month of Elul and the thirty days of 'self evaluation' before the High Holidays begin, may we all look forward and strive to improve - so that we will approach the coming year as new and better people.

Shabbat Shalom!

Ori Razon Grade 12

## Grade 6 Achdut Unity Programme Highlights

The past two days have been a wonderful learning and personal growth experience for our Grade 6 students on their Achdut (Unity) Programme. Despite the weather students have shown great team spirit and determination. Check back next week for the full story!



## Grade 10 Personal Project launch

This year's Grade 10 have just begun the journey on their MYP Personal Projects.

We were first introduced to the Personal Project through Ms. Town and Mr. Bartholomew. However, since the introduction of the Personal Project our ideas have solidified, and our knowledge and understanding about the requirements have grown. Our class is now filled with exciting, diverse and challenging Personal Project ideas.

On Thursday we had the honour of listening to Mr. Rob Street, Personal Project Coordinator at Discovery College, who came to speak to us. He has helped hundreds of students over the last few years turn in remarkable Personal Projects. His focus was to help expand our knowledge of the Self Criteria and the standards to which

the projects will be judged. A large part of the Personal Project is to design your own criteria, against which your final product will be graded. He explained to us what a self criteria is and once we understood the concept he showed examples of good and bad criteria. We had to decide for ourselves if we thought the criteria were good or bad, and then had to justify our reasoning. This really opened up our eyes and gave us the tools and confidence to begin writing our own self criteria.

After this successful and inspiring workshop our knowledge on self criteria and the Personal Project as a whole has expanded. This is something we are all grateful for as we prepare to launch these exciting Personal Projects. Watch this space!

Mia Apelbaum Grade 10





## ***Student Council Updates***

This week, I sat down with Elsa's very own Student Council President, Ori Razon, to get some insight into the exciting plans the Student Council has for this coming year and what he believes makes this year's Council especially promising.

**Ori, what projects are you looking forward to pursuing this upcoming school year?**

There are going to be many exciting projects pursued by this year's Council that I am very excited about. Firstly, we're looking forward to spearheading many charity projects that help us serve our community. In addition, we are currently in the process of planning to host a TEDx talk here at Elsa, as we feel it is an educational and creative way to engage the students with our community and take part in a very beneficial and valuable experience.

**We've heard that some students have been recruited to help initiate changes in the lunch at Elsa, can you tell us anything about what those changes might entail?**

Together with Mrs. Friedmann, we have established a "Food Committee" that will work to oversee School lunches and provide a more varied menu. With this committee, we hope to more efficiently act upon the

requests of the student body. We are grateful to the JCC, to Pinky the coordinator, and to our wonderful catering staff. We believe food at Elsa plays a crucial role in helping to sustain a happy and well-functioning student environment.

**Why do you believe student council will make an impact this year in comparison to others?**

I believe that, unlike previous years, this year's Student Council is composed of students who are passionate and enthusiastic about having the opportunity to make a change. Furthermore, they are grateful for the opportunities the role affords them and are by no means taking it for granted. They are willing to take action and take time out of their day to better the community and the School.

**Is there anything else you'd like to say to the students?**

Only that I hope every student has a fantastic school year, marked by many new, long-lasting friendships and academic growth. Thank you!

Thank you to Ori, for taking the time to sit down and give us an insight into the future plans of Elsa's Student Council and for the kind and encouraging words.

Louis Effron Grade 12



*Drama class underway in the Annake Patria Black Box Theatre and Dance Studio*

### **Elsa High School Theatre in the Spotlight**

*In addition to releasing the much awaited audition dates, Mr Swart has kindly agreed to sit down for a brief interview, where he reveals his excitement as Director of the upcoming Musical and introduces our readers to Elsa High School's Black Box Theatre and Dance Studio.*

In addition to releasing the much awaited audition dates, Mr Swart has kindly agreed to sit down for a brief interview, where he reveals his excitement as Director of the upcoming Musical and introduces our readers to Elsa High School's BlackBox Theatre and Dance Studio.

**Mr Swart, could you give our readers a brief explanation of what West Side Story is about?**

"Set in the streets of the Upper West Side in New York City, West Side Story is a modern day take on Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet. Two rival gangs, the Jets and the Sharks, are in conflict as each competes for control of the neighbourhood. The situation complicates when a gang member falls in love with sister of a gang member of the opposing gang..."

**What was your inspiration behind choosing West Side Story?**

West Side Story has always been one of my favorite musicals. Moreover, I found it fitting for a High School play as it deals with many issues relevant to young people today.

**What's your favorite song in West Side Story?**

"America"

**What are you most excited about as the director?**

I am especially excited to see the first full scale musical in Elsa High School. As a teacher with professional background in dance, I am excited to direct a piece with demanding choreography and see Elsa High School take up this challenge. Moreover, students will be required to have an in-depth understanding and analysis of their characters to successfully portray them, which will allow students to utilize their extensive education and apply it to the arts.

**Who will be in charge of set design, musical, dance and acting training?**

Singing will be directed by Ms. Celia Leung while I will be conducting acting and dance training, hopefully with additional student assistance. The grade 11 DP Visual Arts students will be taking the lead on both designing and building the set.

**What are changes between last year's production and this year's?**

This year's production will respond to the significant number of dancers amongst the student body who are eager for a challenge. It will be more physically demanding due to increased choreography; furthermore, it will also be more vocally challenging and will require all students in lead to develop an in-depth analysis of the character



they are portraying on stage due to depth of raw emotion required. From a technical aspect, we will need to double the size of stage, and use an enhanced lighting system.

### **Moving on to auditions, what does one need to audition?**

Everyone is eligible to audition! However, I think that passion and dedication are crucial in deciding whether they want to audition.

### **Any tips on auditioning?**

I would say be prepared, stay calm, relax and remember to enjoy it! A key to a good audition is energy, no matter your level!

### **Now I would like to ask you about Elsa High School's Arts Department's newest addition. Could you introduce the Black Box to our readers?**

The Anneke Patria BlackBox Theatre and Dance Studio has been dedicated by Mr Rae Patria in loving memory of his wife Anneke Patria (OBM). Anneke was a talented dancer and performer as well as a much-loved and sorely missed member of the Hong Kong Jewish Community. The Studio will be the prime location for most of the initial

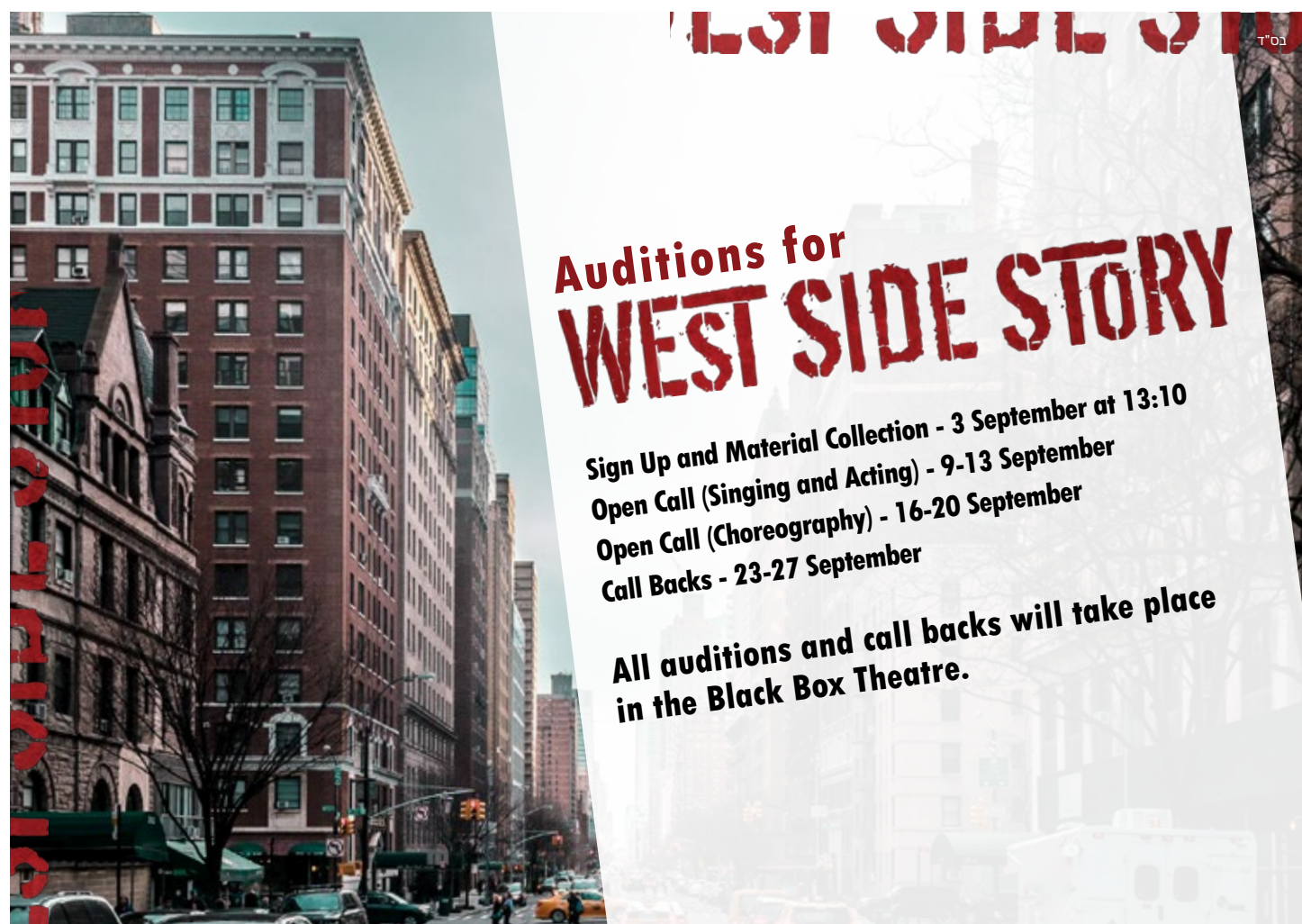
rehearsing phase of West Side Story, and due to its multi purpose facility (a sprung floor, blank space, high-tech lighting and sound machines, ballet bar and extensive dance mirrors) it will allow the cast the opportunity to experience a more professional rehearsal process.

The Black Box theatre will also be utilized for the development of IB Diploma Theatre students, who are tasked with the demanding criteria of the course. They are required to create numerous performances based on theoretical understanding and this new facility will allow them to fully engage in the creative process. It will also be the location for student showcases such as IBDP Theatre Projects, student led performances, musical performances, and dance shows. Moreover, the Black Box will create new opportunities for MYP students at Elsa High School. It will form the cornerstone of what will become a fully assessed MYP Drama curriculum.

Many thanks to Mr. Swart for taking the time to talk to us!

Audition dates and more information for those interested below!

Sarah Cohen Grade 11



**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.**



### ***Service and Action at Elsa High School KYEEDA Redevelopment Project***

At our Service and Action assembly, Mrs. Stephanie Julian (teacher of Pre-K at Carmel Elementary) came to present her experience in founding the KYEEDA Redevelopment Project which began in 2012. KYEEDA Redevelopment Project was based within the slums of Korogocho in Nairobi, Kenya. Korogocho is one of the largest slum neighbourhoods in Kenya; there is no central sewer system, no piped fresh water, and crime rates are high. The poor infrastructure leave many children without access to clean water, food and education.

The school has been set up to educate students from the ages of 3 to 14 years old. Some students get the support from the local community to attend, and others can pay a small school fee. The school also feeds the students two meals a day. The KYEEDA Redevelopment Project has given hope to many young people, providing children with education, food, and basic medical attention.

At Elsa High School we (Natalie Kleinberg, Liana Tang, Alex Gershon, and Siena Caviglia) are part of the KYEEDA Redevelopment Project as our Service and Action program.



***"I am a Kenyan, and I'm proud of my school."***  
Allan Algore, a 14-year-old from Karibangi.

Our mission for this academic year is to raise HKD\$60,000 for the school's rooftop, and right now, we are working on how we can meet this challenge.

We are so grateful to Mrs. Julian for taking the time to come and share and present her experience of making a difference to so many young people. We look forward to supporting the KYEEDA Redevelopment Project in the years to come.

Liana Tang Grade 9



## Inside Scoop with Mr. Darell

Mr Darell, from the UK, previously taught in Hong Kong for 6 years and has recently returned to work at Elsa High School. He teaches English at MYP and DP level. Thank you for taking the time to speak with us, Mr Darell!

Interview conducted by Isabella Ricklow (G10) And Liana Tang (G9)

### Why did you decide to become a teacher?

I entered the teaching profession for the reason that it allows me to do a job where I don't have to sit behind a desk all day. I enjoy the face-to-face interaction with students, colleagues and parents that teaching affords. I'm very passionate about young people, their growth, and their learning. Furthermore, as a teacher I never stop learning. I learn more about my subject, the cultures in which I teach, and of course I learn a lot from my students!

### Tell us about your own education.

I grew up in a military family. That meant we moved around a lot when I was a child. So I went to primary school in India and then in Germany. I studied alongside fellow students around the world. It opened my eyes to different cultures. I then went to boarding school in England, where I worked hard, made friends for life, and played a lot of sports; it made me a well-rounded individual. My education was quite varied and broad. I like to think about that when I teach.

### What are you passionate about?

What am I not passionate about? I have so many interests that it is hard to keep track. I love reading, writing, photography and music. I'm also passionate about the outdoors and being active. I play football, and I also love to surf, hike, and ski... anything that gets me outside!

### Which fictional character would you most like to meet?

If I could meet any fictional character, it would be Gandalf from "Lord of the Rings." Gandalf is full of wisdom; he's also fun and playful. I think it would be nice to sit in a pub with him and talk all about the world, magic, his life. It would be a cool experience.

### When you're having a bad day, what do you do to make yourself feel better?

Again, I love being outside. So if I'm having a bad day, I take a walk, and I look around. I'm very curious about the world. And I find that directing my attention out into the world allows me to redirect my energy from looking in to looking out.

### What is the best piece of advice you've received?

Always have a go. If you think you can't do something, you'll never really know unless you try. So no matter what your fears are, no matter what you're worried about, get yourself out there because you might find it's something you're good at or something you enjoy. And who knows where it will lead you?





## 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](http://libraryceo.com/carmel/opac/index.php)  
or through our school library site:  
[carmel.edu.hk/learning/library](http://carmel.edu.hk/learning/library)

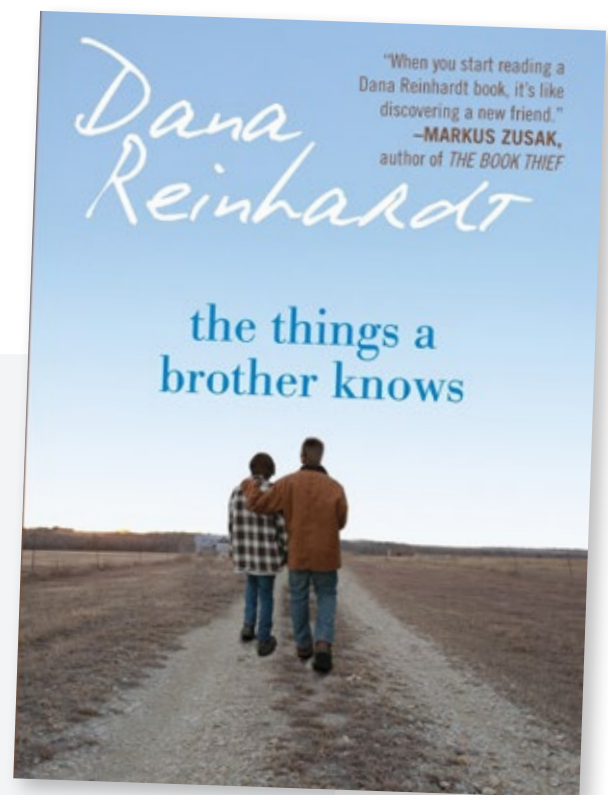
### The Things a Brother Knows by Dana Reinhardt

Finally, Levi Katznelson's older brother, Boaz, has returned. Boaz was a high school star who had it all and gave it up to serve in a war Levi can't understand. Things have been on hold since Boaz left. With the help of his two best friends Levi has fumbled his way through high school, weary of his role as little brother to the hero.

But when Boaz walks through the front door after his tour of duty is over, Levi knows there's something wrong. Boaz is home, safe. But Levi knows that his brother is not the same.

Maybe things will never return to normal. Then Boaz leaves again, and this time Levi follows him, determined to understand who his brother was, who he has become, and how to bring him home again.

*"Reinhardt's poignant story of a soldier coping with survivor's guilt and trauma, and his Israeli American family's struggle to understand and help, is poignant and honest."* Booklist



Junior Fiction Age 12+



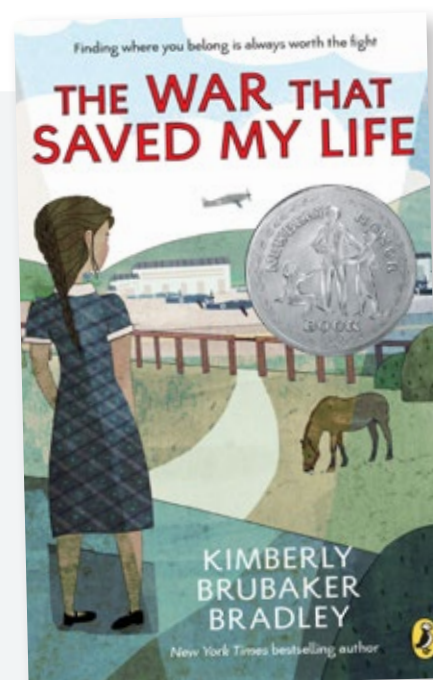
## The War That Saved My Life by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

This #1 New York Times bestseller is an exceptionally moving story of triumph against all odds set during World War II.

Ten-year-old Ada has never left her one-room apartment. Her mother is too humiliated by Ada's twisted foot to let her outside. So when her little brother Jamie is shipped out of London to escape the war, Ada doesn't waste a minute – she sneaks out to join him.

So begins a new adventure for Ada, and for Susan Smith, the woman who is forced to take the two kids in. As Ada teaches herself to ride a pony, learns to read, and watches for German spies, she begins to trust Susan – and Susan begins to love Ada and Jamie. But in the end, will their bond be enough to hold them together through wartime? Or will Ada and her brother fall back into the cruel hands of their mother?

*"Achingly lovely . . . Nuanced and emotionally acute, this vivid tale from the wartime home front will have readers ages 10-14 wincing at Ada's stumbles and rejoicing to the point of tears in her victories."* The Wall Street Journal



Junior Fiction Age 10+

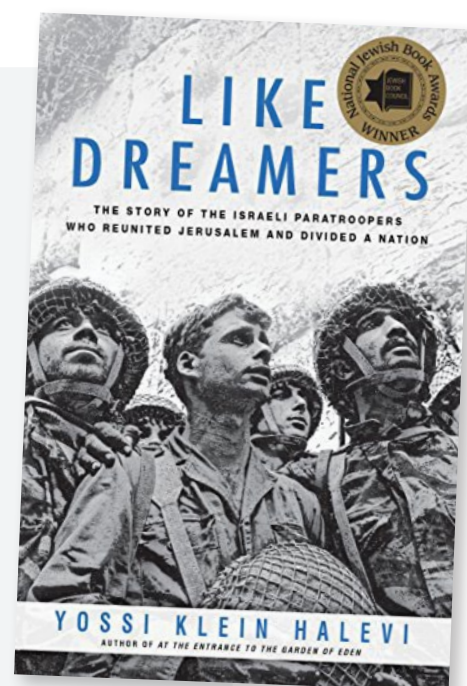
## Like Dreamers by Yossi Klein Halevi

In Like Dreamers, acclaimed journalist Yossi Klein Halevi interweaves the stories of a group of 1967 paratroopers who reunited Jerusalem, tracing the history of Israel and the divergent ideologies shaping it from the Six-Day War to the present.

Following the lives of seven young members from the 55th Paratroopers Reserve Brigade, the unit responsible for restoring Jewish sovereignty to Jerusalem, Halevi reveals how this band of brothers played pivotal roles in shaping Israel's destiny long after their historic victory. While they worked together to reunite their country in 1967, these men harboured drastically different visions for Israel's future.

One emerges at the forefront of the religious settlement movement, while another is instrumental in the 2005 unilateral withdrawal from Gaza. One becomes a driving force in the growth of Israel's capitalist economy, while another ardently defends the socialist kibbutzim. One is a leading peace activist, while another helps create an anti-Zionist terror underground in Damascus.

*"Powerful... a textured, beautifully written narrative... There is much to admire in this book, especially Mr. Halevi's skill at getting inside the hearts and minds of these seven men."* The New York Times



Non Fiction



Carmel School Elsa PTA Invites all Elsa Parents

## ***Greet and Graze*** **Elsa Parent Teacher Cocktail Evening**

Thursday 12 September  
6:00pm - 8:00pm  
Garden Room, JCC



Carmel School PTA invites **all** parents to the

### **New Parent Welcome Breakfast**

Tuesday 3 September 9:00-11:00am  
Seven Zero Cafe, JCC L2

RSVP: [elsahighadmin@carmel.edu.hk](mailto:elsahighadmin@carmel.edu.hk)



**Mazal Tov to Asher Hasafor on the  
occasion of his Bar Mitzvah**

**Happy Birthday to Nili Ngo, Roi  
Amos, Jessica Jay, Arthur Tong**



Elsa High School Newsletter

## **Weekly Daf**

**Editorial Team** Issy Lyons, Louis Effron,  
Isabella Ricklow, Liana Tang, Sarah Cohen  
**Managing Editor** Mr. Adam Darell  
**Editor in Chief** Mr. Dan Bartholomew

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The Weekly Daf Team

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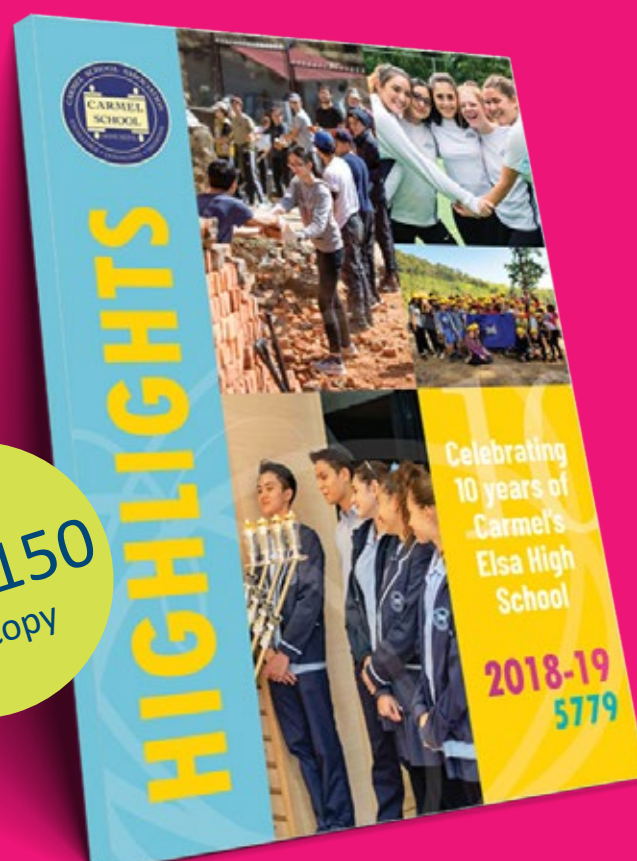
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Available at Carmel Elementary and  
Elsa High School Reception.



**HK\$ 150**  
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# פינת הספרייה העברית

סמסטר ראשון: מהדורה מספר 1  
כ"ט באב ה'תשע"ט



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ברוכים הבאים לשנת הלימודים החדשה בתיכון "אלסה"!

לאחר חופשה מרעננת צוות הספרייה העברית חוזר בכוחות מחודשים עם ספרים חדשים ועם פעילויות מגוונות ומפתיעות לשנת הלימודים החדשה.

אנו מתרגשים מאוד לקבל בברכה את התלמידים החדשים שהגיעו לתיכון ובמיוחד את תלמידי כיתה ו', שרוב תלמידיה דוברי העברית ביקרו בספרייה אשתקד, וחיכו לרגע שיוכלו לקחת חלק בפעילויות השונות בה.

מחלקת העברית בבית הספר פועלת בשיתוף עם הספרייה העברית, ואת ספרי הקריאה הכיתתיים התלמידים שואלים מהספרייה. המלצת השבוע שלנו הוא ספר חדש בתוכנית הלימוד של כיתה ו' שנקרא "הרפתקה בווטסאפ"

אנו שמחים לעדכן כי "מועדון הספרים" ממשיך בפעילותו גם השנה ונשמח שמספר רב של תלמידים יקחו בו חלק. לחברי המועדון תהיה האפשרות להשפיע על הפעילות שתתקיים בספרייה במהלך ההפסקות, וכן לסייע לתלמידים שאינם דוברי עברית להנות מהחוויה בספרייה שלנו.

השנה נקים פינה חדשה בשם "מילת השבוע" - בכל שבוע נציג מילה שהדוברים לרוב שוגים בהגייתה בעברית, או שנחשוף חלופות עבריות למילים לועזיות. צפו להפתעות!

מאחלים לכולנו שתהיה שנה פוריה, גדושה בעשייה עם הרבה התרגשות, הנאה, סקרנות, גילוי עולמות חדשים ומיוחדים ובמיוחד הרבה כיף!

## מילת השבוע

### השנה הקרובה תהיה תש"ף או תש"פ?

בחיפוש בכתובים נמצא ששאלה דומה עלתה כשעמדה בפתח שנת תש"ם. ההמלצה אז הייתה לכתוב תש"ם במ"ם סופית, כפי שנכתבו לפניה השנים תש"ן ותש"ף. כך גם נהגו לכתוב תש"ן.

אם כן מומלץ לכתוב תש"ף - בפ"א סופית.

אשר להגייה: אפשר לקרוא לשנה שתבוא שנת תי"ד שי"ן פ"א ואפשר לקרוא לה שנת תש"ף.

מעובד על פי פירסומי האקדמיה ללשון העברית

אני ממליצה על הספר "הרפתקה בווטסאפ" כי זה ספר מעניין. אני גם ממליצה על הספר מפני שאפשר ללמוד מזה על מה לא כדאי לכתוב בווטסאפ כשה מישו זה, כי זה ספר על ילדות שמישו זה כותב להן בווטסאפ.

תמר רונן - כיתה ו'

אני ממליצה על הספר "הרפתקה בווטסאפ". נהנתי מאוד לקרוא את הספר הוא מאוד מעניין ומרתק, אי אפשר להפסיק לקרוא אותו, בנוסף הוא מעביר מסר חשוב, זהירות ברשת.

ליה לוסטגרטן - כיתה ו'

הספר "הרפתקה בווטסאפ" הוא ספר שעוסק בסכנות של השימוש באפליקציית "ווטסאפ". אני ממליץ על הספר הזה משום שאפשר ללמוד המון ממנו והוא גם סיפור שכיף לקרוא. הספר קל יחסית אז אם אתם מחפשים ספר קשה אני לא ממליץ לקרוא אותו.

אביעד מסקלצ' - כיתה ו'