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Tu B'shvat Activities

By Aviva Shalom

This year for Tu B'shvat, a very exciting activity was arranged. All the girls remember last year's activity, where we all carved fruit baskets (resulting in a beautiful melon basket and a big mess)! However, this year's activity was definitely one to remember.

Issued with decorated copies of Al HaMichya (with Sephardi options for Yavneh's Sephardim!) we set to work on adding the clay. Everyone had so much fun making the fruit and painting it! It was amazing to be doing the activity with the Year Sixes.

After we had completed our activity, everyone enjoyed some refreshments and split into teams to make powerpoints on different parts of Al HaMichya. It was so much fun creating the powerpoint with girls from other years!

Big thanks to Mrs Hoffner and everyone involved with the activities!



Year 6 Taster Day

By Tzvia Tabor

On the 8th of January, the Year Six girls spent a day in Yavneh taking their entrance exams. We know that they did an amazing job!

It was so amazing to see girls from all different schools come to visit Yavneh, something we don't usually see. Girls from Broughton Jewish, King David Primary and Bury and Whitefield joined us for first entrance exams and then a fantastic taster day!

After their initial entrance exams, the year six girls joined us again, this time for their taster day.

They took part in the Tu B'Shvat fun and had two lessons. Many of the Yavneh girls were excited to be experiencing the Tu B'Shvat fun with their younger siblings!

They enjoyed lunch with us in the hall to round off the day.

We can't wait for them to join the Yavneh family next year!



Sem Trip

By Libby Gordon

Since the beginning of the year we have had representatives from different seminaries come to talk to us about their Sems such as Midreshet Harova, Midreshet Tehillah and Midreshet Lev.

Unfortunately we were unable to go on our sem trip in November due to the war in Israel. We spoke to past Yavneh students and friends about their sem experiences to help us understand the differences between the different Sems.

Mrs Hoffner has been a huge help with our decisions and making sure we choose a place that is right for us. She also helped us prepare for our exams and interviews. We are very grateful for the support Yavneh gives to us in this application process!!

Chanukah Party

By Maite Wagon

In December, the infamous Yavneh Chanukah party took place. This year, the sixth formers organised a Chanukah themed escape room for all the groups to compete in, where you found letters and had to sort them into the word Maccabee. It was so much fun hunting for the clues with everyone and we were all surprised when we found where the clues were hidden!

There was also candle lighting. Keli Silverstone lit the candles this year as the whole school sang together to welcome Chanukah. After that, there was a fun Chanukah bingo won by Shoham! Decorating tote bags was the highlight of the event. And obviously it wouldn't be a Yavneh function without food so there was pizza, chips and of course, doughnuts, which we all enjoyed!

Big thanks to everyone who made this year's Chanukah party a reality. It was so much fun and definitely lived up to our high expectations!



The Yavneh Show

By Aviva Shalom

A couple of weeks ago, we were hit with the surprising announcement that the Yavneh Show is starting up again!

As the show hasn't happened since Covid, this is a very exciting announcement. This year, we're doing the Greatest Showman. Each year has a few scenes and a dance and everyone is playing a part! With regular rehearsals (run by Year 12) and the prospect of amazing costumes and lighting, it would be impossible to not be excited for this.

Each year rehearses with different sixth formers. Shoutout to all the sixth formers who have been working hard to get the script perfect since the summer!

We're definitely entering into this with true Yavneh spirit and it's so much fun!

The show is on April 3rd. Ticket prices are yet to be confirmed.

D'var Torah

This week's D'var Torah is written by Adielia Levine, one of our Yavneh alumni who is currently studying in Michlalah sem.

¶ In this week's parsha we are given the commandment of Lo Sachmod:

לֹא תַחְמַד בֵּית רֵעֶךָ {ס} לֹא תַחְמַד אִשְׁת רֵעֶךָ וְעַבְדוֹ וְאִמָּתוֹ וְשׂוֹרְוֹ וְחִמְרוֹ וְכֹל אֲשֶׁר לְרֵעֶךָ: {פ}

You shall not covet your neighbor's house: you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox or ass, or anything that is your neighbor's.

How can we fulfil this commandment? Isn't it natural to desire what someone else has? The Ibn Ezra suggests a moshal that can help us understand this concept: No commoner ever thinks that he is going to marry a princess. He knows she's 'out of his league' – this occurrence is out of the realm of possibility for him. Even when she gets married, he doesn't feel jealousy as he never believed that this princess would ever be designated to marry him. The Ibn Ezra says, that an intelligent person understands that we are only able to acquire what Hashem wants us to acquire. If we are meant to have that car or that house, we would have it. It's human nature to desire something that we believe we can have, if we want it enough, but we don't desire things that we think are out of our league. When we remember that Hashem is in control of the world, we remember that everything we're meant to have, we will have. If it's not designated for us, we won't have it – its 'out of our league.'

The Ramban suggests another approach on how to fulfil this commandment. He quotes a medrash that parallels lo sachmod and veohavta leraicha kemocha. How do they connect? Rav Simcha Zissel explains, that when we see someone has a better car than we do and we want that car, the human emotion behind that desire isn't strictly driven by the want for the car, but it stems from the belief that I am better than them – why should he have something that I don't? If we loved our fellow as we loved ourselves, we wouldn't be jealous of them. We wouldn't be questioning who deserves it more, we'd just be happy for them. So, how do we practically follow this commandment?

We should try our best to implement these ideas into our lives. If we don't have that car, or that holiday, or whatever it is that we might think we deserve, it's because Hashem knows exactly what we actually need and what is best for us. We don't have this certain thing because it's not good for us to have it right now – otherwise we would have it. Having this perspective will help us to remove jealousy from our lives. Additionally, by building upon our Ahavas Yisroel through this commandment, we will IYH bring Moshiach very soon.

Good Shabbos.

-as heard from Rav Immanuel Bernstein.

