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17, KISLEV 5784

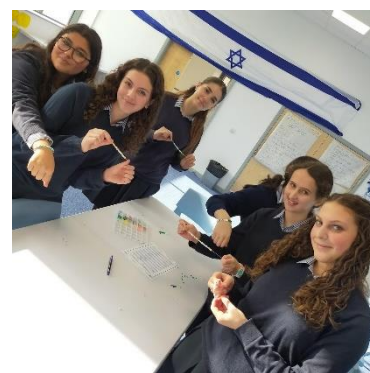
## Hostage Bracelets

By Rayut Hasleton

In light of the current situation in Israel, we decided to make bracelets with names of hostages on them and wear them every day – in true Yavneh girls style. We are so thankful to amazing sixth formers Tami and Eden for coming up with this amazing idea!

In zechus of the hostages being released, everybody has taken on something new to help better ourselves in their merit. Thankfully, we can see the results of Klal Yisrael's efforts as some of the hostages have been released during the temporary ceasefire.

“It’s amazing to see the person on your bracelet being released,” said one Yavneh student. “These are real people who are being returned to their families.”



## Breakfast Club

By Aviva Shalom

Every Monday morning, at 8:00 to 8:30, you can come to school and visit Breakfast club! Costing only £2.50, you can eat whatever you want from waffles to cereal.

Pioneered by Eden and Miriam from the sixth form, this amazing new initiative means you can eat a delicious breakfast and support Israel at the same time – as all the proceeds go towards the situation in Israel! Several of the girls in Yavneh go every Monday morning and really enjoy it.

Breakfast club is an amazing way to start your day, especially accompanied with learning for Israel! Make sure to come next

Monday morning at 8 to enjoy breakfast with the other Yavneh girls.



## Tuesday evening learning

By Aviva Shalom

Every Tuesday evening, from 4:40 to 5:10, Years 10 and 11 have extra Kodesh learning. Excitingly, in the past few weeks, this has meant that Lani joins us!

The sessions are really interesting and we all love seeing Lani. Along with food (of course), we are given a short, meaningful D'var Torah sometimes accompanied with fun activities to validate the message.

Although we might not like staying after school, these sessions are really engaging and worthwhile!

Big thanks to Lani for these amazing sessions and Mrs Wolf for organising them.

## Acheinu Singing Session

By Tali Myerson

A few weeks ago we were so privileged to have a lovely woman, Mrs Oppenheimer, come in to school at lunchtime to teach us the harmonies to the song we have been singing every day since the war broke out, Acheinu.

Some girls learnt the harmony while others sang the main song and when we put it together it sounded amazing!

This was a really fun and interesting experience. We all had such a good time and enjoyed using our voices! It was a great way to spend our lunchtime and was especially useful when we sang Acheinu with the music in assembly one morning!

Everyone enjoyed this activity! When asked, one Y10 student said, "I loved this because it really

made singing such a meaningful song even better. It sounded so nice with all the added harmonies and everyone had so much fun!"

Thank you so much to Mrs Oppenheimer for taking the time to see us and our amazing teachers for organising this.

## Lights in the Dark

By Talia Kaye

A couple of weeks ago, Lani came into school and talked to us about Chanukah, and the importance of spreading light all around us. She introduced a new programme which will take place over the next few weeks. Every class had a big poster in their room which we have to fill with flames. To earn a flame we have to spread kindness in any way we choose. Each week we use our flames for different reasons.

The first week we have focused on light, the second spreading light in our school and third in our community.

If you hang five flames on the poster, at the end of the week you'll be given a delicious bag of chocolate coins. This idea is so amazing and is really encouraging all of us to spread the light, even in these difficult times!

## D'var Torah

This week's D'var Torah is written by Emily Radivan, one of our beloved alumni who recently returned from Israel.

### Vayishlach: Changing names

You might never have really thought about it, but names play a significant role in Jewish thought. A quick glance at the names given to the twelve tribes signifies the importance of each name. Noach, Moshe, and Yitzchak had their names chosen to commemorate events surrounding their births. And of course, the Torah records many examples where a name was changed, representing a change in the status of the person. Of our three avot, Avraham and Yaakov both had their names changed by Hashem. Only Yitzchak remained Yitzchak his entire life.

While both Avraham and Yaakov had their names changed, there is a significant difference between their new names. In the case of Avraham, one letter was added to the name Avram to give him his new identity as the father of a large of nation. Yaakov, on the other hand, received a totally new name, Yisrael. Also, once Avraham received his new name, he was commanded that “no longer shall you be called Avram”. Yet despite the fact the Torah says, “your name Yaakov you will not be called anymore”, Yaakov's old name is used interchangeably with his new name, Yisrael.

Looking at the lives of our avot will explain the differences in the change of names of our founding fathers. Avraham's life was dedicated to the spreading of the name of Hashem, and the message of believing in one G-D. He never wavered from this goal, and all events in his life relate to this theme. When we first meet Avraham, he has already recognised the Master of the Universe. With that initial transformation complete, Abraham's remaining years are devoted to teaching the world about Hashem, justice and righteousness. Just prior to the mitzvah of brit milah, Hashem makes a token change to Avram's name, making a significant change along with the physical change that is the norm for every Jewish male child.

Yitzchak spent his life copying the ways of his father. He recognized that Avraham's new teachings needed a generation to solidify. He lived in the same places and dug the same wells as his father. This lack of change from one generation to the next is symbolised by having Yitzchak's name remain constant throughout his life. It was the generation of Yaakov/Yisrael in which the history of the Jewish people was finally assured. All of his 13 children remained true to Judaism, something that cannot be said of either his parents or grandparents. It is not a coincidence that we are known as Bnei Yisrael.

The names Yaakov and Yisrael are practically contradictory, and represent different aspects of the father of Bnei Yisrael. Yaakov, derived from the word eikev, heel, represents his lowly state, his problems with his brother, him being taken advantage of by his uncle, and even his children deceiving him. At every stage of his life, there was somebody to step all over him, somebody to take advantage of him. The name Yisrael, on the other hand, was given to him because “You have become great before G-d and man. You have won”. Despite his trials and tribulations, despite the fact that “the days of my life have been few and hard”, Yaakov truly did win. He became a man of integrity who, despite numerous setbacks, succeeded in raising the men who would become the twelve tribes of Israel. He was no longer a heel, an ekev, to be stepped on, but was the prince of Hashem (sar el).

Here we can see that Yaakov's name change to Yisrael came about only after a struggle through the night with a stranger whose name he did not even know. The growth necessary to become a servant of Hashem is only possible if we struggle and meet the challenges of the world head-on. Yet despite being chosen for a great mission, despite defeating all enemies, one must never forget where they came from. Too often, people who have made a success of their life forget their roots, their humble beginnings, and their obligation to help those who are still where they began. Perhaps it is for this reason that the Torah continues to use the name Yaakov interchangeably with Yisrael. The greatness of Yisrael is that he never forgot that he was born Yaakov. Yes, like Yaakov, the struggle may be hard for us, but that is the only way to become great before Hashem and man. We may not win every battle, but by continuing to do what is right and support each other, we take our rightful place as Bnei Yisrael.

Am Yisrael Chai, Shabbat Shalom  .