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Situation in Israel

By Sivan Hasleton

Near the end of sukkot, war broke out in Israel. Hamas attacked Israel by land, sea and air on Simchat torah and the Israeli government declared it war.

For us, this means our family and friends are in danger, which is very worrying.

Being Jewish in times like these can mean we are at higher risk of antisemitism. The school have put in many security measures to help protect us, including police on campus, CST all around and blocking off the dodgy alleyway many of us use to leave school. Even though it can be scary to come to school, we know we are safe here and the school have done all they can to ensure our safety.

Although we're a long way away from the fighting and bombing happening in Israel, We are doing all we can to help the soldiers from afar

including: saying Tehillim every morning, having a brachot party and davening for the hostages, injuries and soldiers regularly in assembly. Big thanks to the sixth form for putting up the davening posters in the hall!

We have also sent letters to the soldiers, one of which they read out on camera, and a few girls have been involved in packing care packages outside of school. We can only hope that this war ends.

We are happy to know that all the alumni are safe in Israel. We are also so happy to welcome Emily Radivan back!

Vertical Forms

By Tali Myerson

This year we have an exciting new way of doing form time. We have vertical forms which is a mix of all the girls in the school in 3 forms: Torah, led by Mrs Wolf, Chesed, by Mrs Hoffner, and Mrs Perez's form, Avodah. In the forms there are a range of girls from year 7 to year 13!!

Form time is now a chance to bond and make friends with girls in other years. It's a lovely opportunity to get to know those younger (and older!) than you.

It is an amazing initiative and we want to say thank you to our amazing form tutors!

Welcome!

By Aviva Shalom

As a school, we are pleased to welcome new Kodesh head, Mrs Wolf. She has been with us for just over a month and has helped introduce some positive changes in Yavneh. We would like to thank her for listening to our many complaints and being a wonderful new addition to our school.

She has been nothing but understanding about all our worries and has done everything she can to help make school a better place for us, along with Mrs Hoffner, Mrs Perez, and the teachers.

Tehillim

By Talia Kaye and Arella Goldman

Ever since the tragedy began in Israel. Every morning in school we have been davening for our brothers and sisters who are fighting or taken hostage. Alongside that, we have been saying special prayers for the injured, the soldiers, and he many hostages. We regularly say Tehillim 121, 130, and 142 as well as singing Acheinu. We hope all our Tehillim and prayers will help the dreadful situation in Israel and keep our nation safe.

Selichot

By Tzvia Tabor

Every morning from the week until Rosh Hashana and until Yom Kippur we recited Selichot as one big Yavneh family.

This helped prepare us in the lead up to Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur and was very inspirational.

One student said that "saying the Selichot was very meaningful and moving."

We have now taken one song from Selichot, Shomer Yisrael, to sing every morning in light of the situation in Israel.

Aseret Yemai Teshuva Speakers

By Aviva Shalom

It seems like a lifetime ago, but the Aseret Yemai Teshuva were really only a few weeks back! Before Yom Kippur, in order to inspire and motivate us, five guest speakers came into Yavneh: the much-loved Chani and Saul Bishop, Rabbi Eisenberg, who is well known by many of us here in Yavneh, Layla Maslin (a Yavneh alumna!) and Rebbetzin Beenstock, an inspirational speaker regarded by many.

We were sorted into groups and went to each speaker. Each of them gave us a different but still very valid point. Rabbi Eisenberg talked about the much-asked question of Nature or Nurture, a talk the older girls especially enjoyed. Saul Bishop gave an interesting and engaging talk concerning elephants, boundaries, and connection to Hashem. All of the speeches were moving and encouraging, ultimately leading to us all having a more meaningful Yom Kippur.

Big thanks to Mrs Hoffner for the food (as always!) and organising this incredible event, and to all of the amazing speakers for taking the time to prepare a talk and coming to inspire us!



Nish Nosh Parsh

By Rayut Hasleton

Thursday lunch times have become a huge highlight of the week for a lot of the girls at Yavneh as a new program has been introduced - we spend 10 minutes every week in the memory of Maya Dee to learn about the parsha. Maya initially started this program because she felt so passionate about spreading Torah. As Yavneh girls we also enjoy the snacks (of course) and we have got Evie and Libby to thank for bringing this incredible new initiative!

Nish Nosh Parsh is enjoyed by most of the Yavneh girls and is an amazing way to remember the Dee family. By following in Maya's footsteps, we are spreading the knowledge she loved to share in her memory – a special and beautiful thing to do. We've added our own Yavneh girls touch by supplying excellent cakes and rogelach and, one week, string for bracelets (true Yavneh girls style). Thanks once again to our head girls for making this so special for us.

D'var Torah

This week's D'var Torah is written by Dalia Kreike, one of our beloved alumni who is currently in sem in Israel.

There have been many heartwarming sights in Israel this week, that I'm so happy I am being given the chance to take inspiration from. Whilst so, so many families lives have come crashing down in these past 2 heart wrenching weeks, it is so clear that Am Yisrael is there for each in the צרה בעת and in the שמחות. For example, on my street, located in South Jerusalem, the community befell two tragedies since the start of this horror. Two houses across the road from each other, both, unfortunately, had family members to bury. One a son and one a sister and brother in law, all of whom stories of protection and heroism will stay with me forever. My midrasha had the privilege of standing on the sides of the road, standing proud with our Israeli flags, as we sent the mourners to the funerals. At the same time, this week, I had the opportunity to be משמח at a wedding. We didn't know the couple, only that the חתן was not allowed out of the army for the real date. So when his commander surprised him with a few days leave, it was too last minute to invite lots of guests. Who else loves weddings, if not sem girls!

These contradicting events really show the light to the world that is Am Yisrael. Both the families who are mourning and the new married couple have to rebuild their world, albeit in different ways. Rabbi Sacks z'l writes in his book, Covenant & Conversation, about this week's Parsha that נח, a loyal servant of God, is criticised for waiting to emerge from the Ark after the waters stopped. Not only did he send out the dove 3 times, he still did not emerge from the ark until Hashem tells him to. This passiveness, silent obedience, is what baffles commentators.

'When it comes to rebuilding a shattered world, you do not wait for permission' as Rabbi Sacks z'l says. At the end of the Parsha, we get introduced to אברהם. It is true to say that the two big characters of נח and אברהם get compared to each other constantly. One big difference between them is אברהם's activeness compared to נח's passiveness. Would אברהם beg for Hashem to save the world, like he begged for Sedom? If he had, would he have succeeded?

The difference between them is put forwards by a Midrashic comment of Rabbi Yehuda; One walked with Hashem and one walked before Hashem. נח is compared to a child of a king who had 2 sons, whereas אברהם is compared to the grown up son of this king.

אברהם understands responsibility more, either because of his household in childhood, or perhaps because of his 'dialogue' between Hashem. An example of this can be seen in another Midrash brought forward for next weeks Parsha,

לך לך ויאמר ה' אל אברהם לך לך מֵאֵרֶץ כְּנָעַן וְגו' " ר' יצחק פתח (תהלים מה, יא) ... אמר רבי יצחק . עובר ממקום למקום וראה בירה אחת דולקת אמר תאמר שהבירה זו בלא מנהיג הציץ " משל לאחד שהיה עליו בעל הבירה אמר לו אני הוא בעל הבירה כך לפי שהיה אבינו אברהם אומר תאמר שהעולם הזה בלא מנהיג הציץ עליו הקב"ה ואמר לו אני הוא בעל העולם

"The Lord said to Abram: Leave your land, your birthplace and your father's house . . ."
To what may this be compared? To a man who was travelling from place to place when he saw a palace in flames. He wondered, "Is it possible that the palace lacks an owner?" The owner of the palace looked out and said, "I am the owner of the palace." So Abraham our father said, "Is it possible that the world lacks a ruler?" The Holy One, blessed be He, looked out and said to him, "I am the ruler, the Sovereign of the universe." Here, אברהם isn't just actively asking where the owner of the house/ruler of the world is, but he is asking how the owner is letting the palace sit there in flames.

Rabbi Sacks z'l asks a similar question; If God created the world, then He created man. Why then does He allow man to destroy the world? How are we to reconcile the order of nature with the disorder of society? To summarise the answer given, whilst Hashem created the world in all of its ultimate goodness and created it for man to be able to seek Him out, the world is run as a joint partnership. In this example, only man can put out the fire but God in theory is there at the other end of the hose pipe, holding it up, taking the weight off for those at the front. He is directing which way to point the hose. Together, Hashem teaches and Man acts, together they start repairing the world.

The rebuilding of the world, especially the shattered world, takes courage. This courage shone through when the families walked through the road outside midrasha, with a sea of Israeli flags behind them and voices calling out in unity. This courage shone through when the וכלה התן went ahead with the building of their new home together, with a crowd of unfamiliar faces smiling up at them. The same courage was used by those who built up and fought for the State of Israel, a mere 3 years after the Holocaust, and those who were survivors and rebuilt the Eastern European Yeshiva world of learning. They are all different types of people but all shared the intuitive and active knowledge that אברהם had. As Rabbi Sacks z'l ends so beautifully, Faith is more than obedience. It is the courage to create.

Family Fun and Games!

This week's Fun and Games was made by Ella Rabinowitz and Imbar Yitzchaki from Year 7

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There are dingbats about sukkot. You need to unscramble the words and have fun!!

Dingbats

tohilsc

Grsue

Lvulu

Khasuk

Haucshc

CAN YOU FIND?

1. Rosh Hashanah
2. apple
3. Honey
4. Fish
5. Pomegranate
6. Dates
7. New year
8. carrot
9. Tashlich
10. Shofar
11. Tekiah
12. Shevarim
13. Teruah
14. Sweet

c	m	a	t	p	c	b	f	n	b	x	x	w	s	d
d	k	i	x	a	l	s	f	k	h	y	u	g	p	w
e	u	h	r	o	s	h	h	a	s	h	a	n	a	h
L	e	r	n	a	l	u	w	f	h	m	p	g	a	a
o	o	r	f	o	v	u	r	a	a	n	p	s	v	u
t	h	d	i	v	r	e	i	e	p	d	l	u	f	r
n	i	c	s	n	k	k	h	h	o	n	e	y	m	e
b	r	c	h	t	e	i	h	s	m	h	t	f	s	t
F	e	k	e	t	b	w	b	y	e	i	p	t	n	h
a	d	e	r	h	v	s	y	n	g	l	o	n	l	k
h	w	e	a	Y	p	u	h	e	r	d	y	w	v	s
s	k	a	f	u	p	u	v	d	a	t	e	s	f	c
s	f	w	o	p	l	n	R	j	n	r	t	n	e	r
m	l	t	h	c	i	l	h	s	a	t	o	e	n	b
s	e	s	s	b	a	c	g	o	t	j	i	w	j	m