

The BASH

THE BNEI AKIVA SCHOOLS HEADLINES

ISSUE 1 • FALL 2019



A Fresh Perspective: Starting School on a High Note

RACHEL GOLDSTEIN

Starting my high school journey at Ulpana has been amazing so far. There's a sense of positivity when I walk through the doors and the warm environment makes everyone feel welcome.

Being the largest grade in Ulpana does have its challenges though. For example, it's pretty difficult to get around the school with a bunch of people from my grade without literally bumping into someone. If you just follow the crowd you'll eventually get to where you have to go (although following the pack sometimes means you may wind up in a different class). It was so much simpler when there was only one class in middle school! With about fifty people, we seem to be managing just fine though.

The move from middle school to high school does present some perks. This year we are allowed to sign ourselves out during the day. I just keep forgetting to sign out at the end of the day before I go home though. It's so exciting to have couches in the locker room- although they seem to move around quite a bit- often with Freshies still sitting on them. Rules are rules and while they might not make much sense we have to listen to the Sophomores.

On a different note, the classes are interesting and challenging and the teachers are helpful. They're really accommodating when you need a little extra help with an assignment, especially when there's a science test first period on a Monday.

Whether it's the long staircases or the bell that gives anyone a heart attack when rung, I'm starting to really feel like I belong. I enjoy a lot of what Ulpana has to offer and am excited of what's to come. Here's to a great start and to an exciting Ulpana high school career!

LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

FEIGA WERNER, LEORA KRONENBERG,
AND YEHUDA ZAHAVI

We are so excited to be presenting the first issue of the BASH 2019-2020!

The purpose of a regular newspaper is to dissect and relay important stories happening in the world today. For the Bnei Akiva Schools of Toronto, the BASH provides a pathway to look at what is happening in the world at large, while simultaneously letting us know the goings-on of the school community. Yet, a newspaper is so much more than just that. There is something more fundamental to a newspaper that gives each and every article (opinion piece, satirical review, or political argument variety) a certain character. There is depth to a newspaper that a simple definition cannot describe.

While reading the BASH, one can learn about what the new lunchroom at Or Chaim looks like, or how much Ulpana students love doughnuts, and the like. More importantly, however, they can also learn about the student who wrote the piece; the beauty of the newspaper is that the writers can express themselves and their opinions, and all the students reading the newspaper can connect to them through that. Due to the variety of articles, we hope that respectful and healthy debates can be started, friendships can be built, and that we can all grow as humans and improve our outlook on life.

Something we think is fundamentally important about the high school experience is figuring out who you are and what you want to say to the world around you. Through the newspaper, you can complete this difficult task by writing an article and expressing your thoughts. If you are a writer, use the newspaper as a way to develop yourself, your thinking, and your writing. If you are a reader, use it to practice respecting opinions, forming your own opinions, and learning about other people's insightful perspective on life.

We hope this newspaper can spark your interest in more ways than one. Happy Reading!

Welcome from the President of YOC

YOSSI BLUMENFELD

It is not often that I get to write an article that is read by over two-hundred people, so let me try to make the most of this opportunity. A new year is upon us and this means something different for everyone. For some students, the arrival of the new school year can mean stress. For others, however, a new year comes with positive connotations - like the fact that with October comes the start of both hockey and basketball seasons respectively. For some people, like myself, there are both positives and negatives to be found. What is important



is that we try to focus on the positives. Sure, I have a test tomorrow, but does it really take precedence over the Raptors-Pelicans game tonight? Surely I can study and watch. The most important part of school is going into every day with a positive mindset and the desire to help lift others up. I

once heard that when you go to a doctor the last thing you want to see is a flat line. School has its ups and downs, that is inevitable. The hope is to find something meaningful; something that you can look back on in a month or a year, or even ten years and say, "I am happy I did that" or "looking back, that

was a great experience"; that's what is important. To the freshies, sophomores and juniors: enjoy high school. Take it in and enjoy every moment that flashes by you. To the seniors, it has been one great ride and I can't wait to make this year the best year ever!



New Lunchroom in YOC

AVISHAI MIRLAS

Students of YOC were surprised to see a completely changed lunchroom when entering the building on the first day of the school year for the first time since the previous year. Over this past summer of 2019, YOC upgraded its lunchroom in order for it to have a more appealing atmosphere for students to have a meal in.

Some of the changes between the previous lunchroom and current one are the new couch-chairs and tall-chairs for students to socialize in, the higher ceiling with light fixtures hanging down from strings and the kitchen-style counter with a designated hot water and coffee area that also has cupboards above that hold the microwaves among other things. The colour scheme of the room shift-

ed from a grey and brown colour to a sharp white and black contrast between the walls and the ceiling with aesthetic wooden pillars embellishing the visual effect.

Grade 12 student Gabriel Chaplik noted, "The new lunchroom feels like a Starbucks which makes it a more of a pleasant atmosphere to eat in. The lunchroom changed its focus from just eating to a place for socialising in."

The general response of the students who use the lunchroom is generally positive as they appreciate the new practical implementations, such as the the tall-chairs and couches and also the storage cabinets. The students enjoy being in the new atmosphere that is created by the lunchroom and use it more often for more than just eating in, but also for studying and socializing.

The New Face of Judaics: Mrs. Lipner

Yael Gryn

Mrs. Lipner is the new Director of Judaic Studies at Ulpana. We interviewed her to allow our readers to get to know her better, and to properly introduce her to our school.

Y: What did you do before this job?

Mrs. L: I've been working at Tiferes for the last 16 years. I was teaching Limudei Kodesh there for most of that time. I was also doing the Yimei Iyun there and I also was giving different shiurim in the community to different groups of people... I was teaching at the seminary during the day.

Y: What was your first impression of Ulpana?

Mrs. L: Very warm and friendly! It also was a little bit disorienting because I went here, so I didn't really remember where things were... So my first impressions were kind of a flashback to the past, and that everybody here is super warm and friendly and really welcoming. It's a nice environment to be in.

Y: What are your responsibilities here, and which one is your favourite?

Mrs. L: My responsibilities here are vast and diverse, and they keep growing every day... Really, my job is to oversee the entire Limudei Kodesh department... To figure out a system of what's being taught in each class, and what teachers are teaching what subjects, and what's working and what's not working and how we can improve it... To create a logical path from grade nine to grade twelve where you're gaining all the things that a religious

girl should gain when she's in high school. At the same time I'm also an RGC, and I'm also doing tefillah... My favourite is always teaching, because teaching is what I love to do. But it's been really nice to be able to get to know all of the students personally, and also get to know all of the teachers, and sort of have this bird's-eye view of what's happening in the school.

Y: What is your favourite book of Tanach, if you had to choose one, and why?

Mrs. L: I would probably say Bereishis, because there are just so many rich lessons in there that we take with us for the rest of our lives. Everybody views it as this storybook, but it's so deep and so important. That being said, I really like them all... I feel like whenever you teach a Sefer you love it, because you own it and you feel like, "I really understand it, I really know what it is". But I guess if I had to choose I would say Bereishis.

Y: In your opinion, who was the most important person in Jewish history, and why?

Mrs. L: The most significant person in Jewish history, I would say, would be Avraham Avinu. He's Avraham Ha'Ivri, who stood on the other side when everybody else was doing

one thing... Avraham was our prototype, our template, for how to be a Jew in the face of everything else going on in the world. Without him we would have nothing. It's hard to say



"This was the most important person", because everybody has given us different things in Judaism. This person may have contributed in this way, and this

person contributed in that way, and without either one you couldn't have Judaism the way that it is. But I would say that without Avraham we would have nothing.

Y: What does true leadership mean to you?

Mrs. L: I think true leadership is about being humble... about really taking the strengths of everybody who works with you and who you're leading... Every single person is able to contribute in many important ways. A good leader doesn't just take over and tell everybody what to do. A good leader incorporates what everybody is able to offer. In order to do that you have to be humble... That being said, they also have to be organized, they also have to have a vision, and they have to be able to work well with setbacks.

Y: Do you have a motto or personal mantra? What is it?

Mrs. L: What I very often try

to remember is "Hakol beyadei Shamayim chutz meyirat Shamayim", that everything is in the hands of Shamayim except for our own level of Yirat Shamayim, how much we fear Heaven, which really just means putting Hashem before us all the time. It means I can't control the results but I can control how I deal with things and the routes that I take to get there...It's the idea of remembering that when bad things happen, when good things happen, it's all in Hashem's hands.

Y: What is one thing you wish you could tell all Bnei Akiva Schools students?

Mrs. L: High school is not forever, both for good and for bad. Just take in as much as you can, and really try to gain from it in every area of your life. You won't have an opportunity like this again, to be able to study and learn with such a close-knit group of people, from teachers who are role models and are really smart like this. You go out into the wide world and it's very different than when you're in your little bubble.

Y: Thank you so much.

Mrs. L: Thank you!

Was denying Ilhan Omar and Rashida Tlaib entry to Israel a mistake?

ELI YISSAR

“Anything you say can and will be used against you.” This is a statement often associated with police and criminals - police being those who have the responsibility to inform any person in custody of their rights. This is the way that we must think when speaking with someone who is vocally antisemitic, because, in some miraculous way, these misinformed people tend to have the gift of flipping facts around to match their ignorant views. Sadly, no antisemite admits to the fact that no matter the circumstance, Jews will always be the villains in their stories.

A recurring theme in the news, that has been very well discussed within the Jewish community in the past few months, is Rashida Tlaib and Ilhan Omar’s negative view on Israel and, more specifically, the recent occurrence of their entry into Israel being denied.

As the first ever Muslim women elected to Congress in the United States, these congresswomen have the opportunity to make history. However, it is disappointing to see that the two seem to be more interested in bashing Israel than building up the country they are meant to be serving.

Other than the fact that Tlaib and Omar are well known supporters of the BDS (Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions) movement against Israel, they have also been caught supporting an antisemitic artist named Carlos Latuff on their respective social media platforms. Tlaib also spoke about her endorsement for a one state solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, where all land would go to the Palestinians.

The two congresswomen planned on flying to Israel in late August for a trip called, “Delegation to Palestine,” but were denied entry to the country by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. This has been a valid legal action since 2017, under the Entry Into Israel Law, which states that Israel is allowed to bar entry to any foreigner



who publicly calls for the boycott of Israel.

Many people publicly criticized Israel for making this decision, arguing that denying entry to two American congresswoman was preventing two elected officials from doing their jobs. Others argued that if Israel truly has nothing to hide, then there should be no problem in letting Omar and Tlaib

come to that conclusion on their own. But is that worth the risk? Worth the risk that Omar and Tlaib would only talk to specifically biased people, reinforcing their anti-Israel beliefs, and then validate their arguments by saying that they had actually been to the country? Tlaib and Omar were not planning to visit Israel in search for the objective truth; their goal was to further their own antisemitic views, so why should they have been allowed into the country for this purpose? Have they not done a good enough job spreading their lies in the United States? As long as they do not plan on searching for the truth, there is no reason for them to come to Israel.

Here is a question: if it is acceptable for Rashida Tlaib and Ilhan Omar to boycott Israel, what is it that makes it unacceptable for Israel to boycott them?

Hurricane Dorian

ETHAN TEHRANZADEH

Hurricane Dorian took “extreme” to a new level. The first advisories for Hurricane Dorian were sent out on August 24, 2019, and painted Dorian as a “Tropical Depression”. However, when the hurricane made landfall on the Bahamas on September 1, 2019, it was an entirely different beast. This intense Category 5 hurricane pummelled the islands for three days while destroying and decimating the small nation that lived there. With the powerful winds clocked at 200km/h, rain and storm surges of up to 7 metres, Dorian was the most powerful storm to hit the Bahamas in history. Just one day after landfall, total power was lost on the main island, New Providence. Homes were destroyed, buildings were swept away, and the International Airport was underwater. An ABC News correspondent described the island as “pure hell”.

When the storm finally edged north towards the USA, 70 000 people had lost their homes, 1 300 had lost their families, and 51 had lost their lives. Continuing on its path of destruction, Dorian made landfall in several states, including Florida and the Carolinas. This storm would eventually go out with a bang, with more than 80% of Nova Scotia losing power when Dorian paid the province a visit on September 7, 2019. When all is said and done, Dorian ended up being the second-strongest Atlantic hurricane on record.

Fortunately, nations across the world are uniting to assist those affected. Everyone, from American Airlines to Disney to the Bnei Brith, all contributed to the effort in the Bahamas. Although Hurricane Dorian tried to rip the Americas apart, the world stands united.

Trump and Democratic Jews

YEHUDA ZAHAVI

On August 21st, 2019, Donald Trump stated that he thinks that “any Jewish people that vote for a Democrat, I think it shows either a total lack of knowledge or great disloyalty.” To many people, what Trump statement on Democratic Jews might seem harmless, in reality it has a much deeper connotation to it that must be unveiled.

For centuries, the idea that Jews are disloyal to their state has been perpetuated by corrupt leaders, creating a toxic environment for Jews. However, not only were malicious

settings created, the stereotype has enabled the death of millions of Jews in the Holocaust through the means of Nazi propaganda; the usage of the anti-Semitic rhetoric made it easier for the systematic killing to occur without any outrage.

To fully understand the dangers of the damaging stereotype, it is important to know from where it originated from: Megillat Esther. In Megillat Esther, the leader of over 127 countries, Achashverosh, is convinced by one of his ministers, Haman, that the Jewish Nation are disloyal. More spe-

cifically, Haman states that, “There is one nation scattered and dispersed among the nations throughout the provinces of your kingdom, whose laws are unlike those of any other nation and who do not obey the laws of the King” (Chabad.org). Haman’s usage of the ‘Jews are not loyal to their state’ rhetoric is what caused Haman to possess the power to kill as many Jews as he wanted.

While Trump has not been decidedly proven to be antisemitic like Haman was, he has proven how ignorant he is with Jewish society and the troubles

Jews have to face every day. He fed into harmful Jewish tropes and used them to his advantage. It should be a lesson to everyone to understand what we are saying before we speak it, and to be extra careful not to perpetuate harmful stereotypes. In the future, if Trump were to speak about Jews again, we can only hope that he does not continue to spread anti-Semitic rhetoric and that he addressed Jews more respectfully, disregarding their political agenda.

Fun and Games

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6			1	9	5			
	9	8					6	
8				6				3
4			8		3			1
7				2				6
	6					2	8	
			4	1	9			5
				8			7	9

Riddle

I am something people love or hate. I change peoples appearances and thoughts. If a person takes care of them self I will go up even higher. To some people I will fool them. To others I am a mystery. Some people might want to try and hide me but I will show. No matter how hard people try I will Never go down. What am I?

Back to School Tips

RENA TORCZYNER

We humans are exceptionally skilled at ignoring things we don't want to think about. For instance: fossil fuels producing the pollution that's slowly killing our planet, or corrupt politicians and their scandals being constantly exposed on the news, or the countdown on the life-threatening time bomb that is the first day of school. All these examples are of equal caliber, needless to say, but one stands out as an issue we will eventually have to face up to and tackle head-on. Our survival depends on it.

Needless to say, I am speaking about the first day of school.

Just enough new faces to keep you permanently unsettled, just enough old faces to add to the awkwardness of seeing all the people you haven't talked to once the entire duration of the summer.

Glaring teachers you just know are already planning on giving you endless amounts of work. Rules and expectations that somehow vary for every class. To describe it as daunting would be an understatement.

Fortunately, there is a simple step-by-step to ensure your safety and sanity throughout this trying experience. (Disclaimer: coffee doesn't hurt, either.)

1. Go to the bathroom before class. Teachers will tell you to do so, but the secret is that they know just saying it never works, and they've already developed an ingenious method of enforcing the rule. Somehow, every one of your teachers will introduce a new policy for (a) whether or not to announce that you're going to the bathroom, and (b) how to do so, and (c) how many people can be out at once. Go before class. Give them this small victory. For all their creativity, they deserve it.
2. If you don't know something, ask a staff member. Best case scenario: you'll have asked the right person, and you will actually get a legitimate answer. Worst case scenario: they'll laugh at you and walk in the other direction, but that's unprofessional, so they won't do it when other people are around. The most likely outcome will be that they'll have no idea what to tell you, but they'll make something up and try to pass it off as true. The good thing about this is that 50% of the time they'll tell you exactly what you would have assumed anyway, thus validating your confidence.
3. Participate in the school's activities. They exist as a "substitute" to learning time, it would be a shame to simply pass up these golden opportunities.
4. Keep an open mind to work... or lack thereof. When you get to class and the teacher instantly pulls up the slideshow, if you expect it, it'll hurt less- so keep an open mind. On the flip side, your teacher will most likely go off topic for at least ten minutes every lesson. 52 minutes is too long for a period. All are in agreement on this.
5. Talk to people; highschool is a seriously difficult time of life, your friends will be there to help you. Worst comes to worst, they'll be there to laugh at you.
6. Don't be late for Morah Sara. That's it. She's an incredible teacher who will prepare you for the Hebrew-speaking world and won't hesitate to lock you out of her class if the bell has rung. Just run. No one will judge you. They've all done it before.
7. I hope this helps, and you live to succeed in high school. I'm sure that whoever is reading this has the knowledge, open mind, and diligence to achieve their goals- unless you didn't realize that I skipped three in the number list. In that case... good luck.

Good Advice Guru

ORA LACOB

**Please note: this is very legitimate advice.*

To whom it may concern,

The school year has just started and my day is already a burnt bagel of a mess. They keep saying that I'm late to Ivrit class but I keep telling them I took Ivrit in the summer on my NCSY program! I can almost understand the Shlichot when they call my name. If that's not progress, I don't know what is!

Anyways, I was trying to be on time for Ivrit for once when I slipped on a puddle! Whoever it was that spilled it quickly bent down to clean their metal straw off of the fallen mess of whatever Starbucks mystery that was and ran off, leaving me all cold and wet. And lucky me, it was gym next. I went to my locker to change into my gym shirt and a spare skirt, and just took off my socks and wore my slides plain. Now I was all nice and dry until I ran into an admin who I will not name: "That is not an Ulpana skirt and that t-shirt's sleeves are too short and you are wearing open toed shoes without socks, that is three dress code infractions. I am so sorry but you have an after school detention".

To make matters worse, I tried to toast my bagel this morning but accidentally set off the smoke alarm. Meanwhile, somebody went into my locker and stole my money and bus tickets! At lunch, I couldn't go to Starbucks and at dismissal I couldn't TTC home. My charger broke so I couldn't charge my phone to call my mom to come pick me up. I decided to stay in school and get some work done but the Wifi was out which put my entire education to a complete pause.

I decided to take a breath of fresh air to calm down when I suddenly remembered my after school detention! I ran back into school, realizing I forgot my key card. Now I would miss a detention and have to serve two! Everyday is only getting worse and I don't know what to do. Please help me ASAP!!!

Sincerely,

LockedOutPleaseOpenDoor

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



Good Advice Guru, cont.

Hey LockedOutPleaseOpenDoor,

Sounds like your day was unpleasant to say the least. If I were you, I would just lock myself in a bathroom stall and cry except you can't because you're locked out. So here goes nothing.

My first piece of advice is more a tip as well as constructive criticism: if you made Aliya then none of this would have happened to you. But you didn't, don't worry. According to thousands of sources sourced by extremely reliable information which you can strongly rely on because it is well sourced, drinking 16 cups of coffee a day is sure to guarantee you a healthy fix to all of your problems instantly. Caffeine it up! Your parents, teachers, friends, and grades will all thank you. And you will thank me. Caffeine allows you to be very fast and alert, giving you enough energy to make it to Ivrit on time! That is mamash crazy!

Following dress code is virtually impossible so you might as well give up and quit while you're ahead. Just come to school in an ankle length garbage bag and rain boots. This is both an effective way to avoid dress code infractions and a fashionable attire, as well as being a completely year-round, multi-season, friendly choice of garment with additional flexibility allowing you to move with ease with just enough time to miss the bus. Not that that matters since you missed

the bus since somebody stole your bus tickets which is awful.

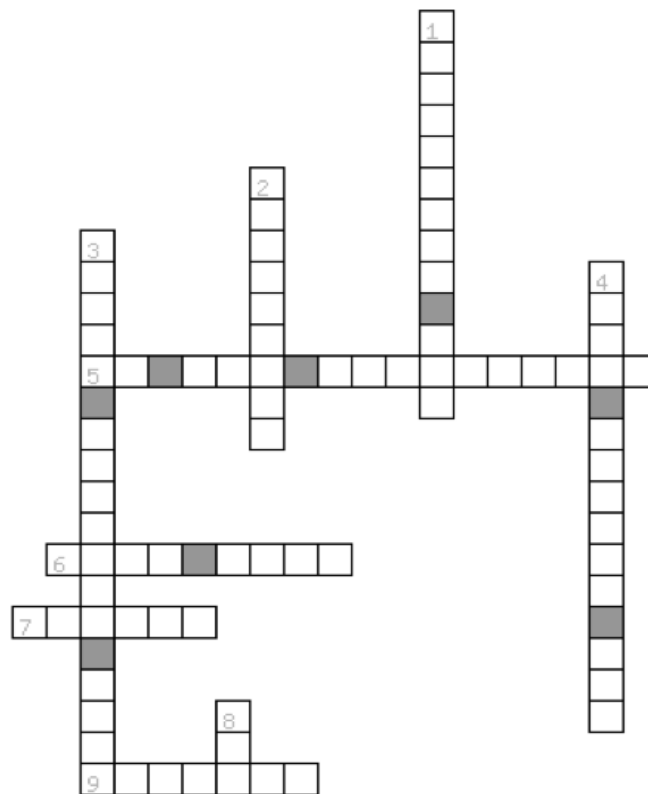
You probably don't lock your locker and I wouldn't advise you to start, as this is frowned upon by our fellow students as locking your locker is in indication that you have possessions of valuables, such as oatmeal. If such is true, somebody may try to break into your locker and a lock won't stop them.

Assuming you have an iPhone, as it is one of the enrollment requirements, you can get an iPhone charger from just about anybody. The school Wifi is suspect, why you would rely on it to do anything is beyond me. We all need a breath of fresh air, if you are locked out, take it as a sign. Run around for a bit, at least get some exercise while you're at it.

Hope these made a tremendous impact on your life and that you feel spiritually enlightened as well as emotionally uplifted and I would appreciate a "thank you" for my helpful advice, which, under no circumstances, didn't help you.

Good luck!

Towhomitmayconcern



Down

1. When was the grade 9 trip
2. The more you take, the more you leave behind. What am I?
3. What is the MPR
4. What time do the freshies end on Tuesdays
8. The answer to the riddle

Across

5. When does Chanukah come before Thanksgiving?
6. What belongs to you, but other people use it more than you?
7. Prof's year of high school in 2001
9. The character in the meme