

The BASH

THE BNEI AKIVA SCHOOLS HEADLINES

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YOC Shabbaton

COBY COHEN

On Friday, November 22nd, students arrived at Yeshivat Or Chaim overly excited for the weekend which laid ahead. After a nice davening and a quick breakfast, the buses were loaded and we were off. After a pitstop at Dave n' Busters and an hour and a half bus drive, we arrived at Fern Resort. We put our bags down in our rooms, grabbed a snack, got our school hoodies, and prepared for Shabbat.

We welcomed in Shabbat with a beautiful Kabbalat Shabbat, led by chazan Zvi Katzman and had our special guest, Nissim Black, deliver the keynote speech. He told us about his inspiring life story and path to Judaism, and how he went from dealing drugs to becoming a Jew who studies Torah and records hit singles with Gad Elbaz. We then had an amazing tisch, filled with beautiful songs, ruach, and of course, great food. After the exciting night, we headed back to our rooms to get some sleep for next day we had in store.

After a delightful Shacharit, we headed to a delicious kiddush, which was filled with different pastries. Following the kiddush, all the students went to the learning groups, each facilitated by different rebbeim and staff members, followed by lunch. We proceeded with mincha and then into menucha. During menucha, there were many different activities open for the students. There were shiurim, schmoozes, and even a nature walk. One activity that stood out was the Q and A with Nissim Black where he answered a lot of our questions about his life. The event gave us a better idea of what his journey was like and what his life is like now.

At 4:15 p.m., we headed back to the dining hall for seudah shlishit. After we ate, we went back to the room where we had our tisch the night before for an impactful slow shira. The seniors sat in the middle and took the lead, as it was their last shabbaton. After singing some beautiful songs, *Continues on page 3*



Ulpana Shabbaton

RACHEL GOLDSTEIN

The Ulpana Shabbaton is one of the most exciting events to take place during the school year. The ruach and atmosphere are just a few of the many reasons Ulpana students and teachers look forward to this incredible weekend.

On November 8, Grade 9-11 students departed to Fern Resort in Orillia. On the way there, we stopped off for bowling and got ice cream at Kawartha Dairy (shoutout to the Grade 10 students whose bus broke down on the way there). From Kawartha Dairy, we went straight to Fern Resort, where upon our arrival, we were greeted by the Grade 12 students who left a day earlier to set up. *UOHS 2020* sweatshirts were handed out as we participated in an intense flash mob that no doubt registered somewhere on the Richter scale due to treacherous amounts of dancing. Afterwards, we watched the Grade 12 Shabbaton video, found out our temporary roommates, got settled into our rooms and brought in Shabbat. Shabbat was beautiful; the singing and dancing really made Shabbat as special as ever.

On Friday night, we were greeted by our guest speaker, Debbie Stone, an editor of the Koren NCSY Siddur. Ms. Stone gave inspirational Divrei Torah throughout the Shabbaton and it enhanced the spirituality for all. After our Friday night meal, we each performed our grade songs, participated in "Family Feud" as well as took part in a tisch. Shabbat day was as fun and exciting as it was when we got there, from davening, to eating, we repeated the same process over again. We concluded Shabbat with a meaningful slow shira and Havdalah.

On Motzei Shabbat, Grades 9-11 were amazed by a magic show, performed by the one and only Jonah Babins. The excitement and curiosity from the magic show carried to the rest of the evening, when we all went *Back to the Eighties*. To end off a fantastic Shabbaton, *Continues on page 3*

Into The Unknown: A Frozen II Review

CHAIM SITNIK

Many of us share fond memories of the movie *Frozen*. It was an excellent movie that left its viewers singing its songs long after, quoting the lovable characters, or reveling in the unbelievable twist that left audiences on the edge of their seats. After two years of praise and high levels of demand for more *Frozen* content, Disney could not hold back their plans anymore and announced a sequel was in development. Exactly six years after the release of *Frozen*, the world was given *Frozen II* on November 22nd, 2019.

Frozen II is a continuation of the story of Elsa, Anna, Olaf, Kristoff, and Sven, as they save Arendelle from a new threat, the Enchanted Woods. The kingdom is attacked by a series of mysterious natural events, while Elsa starts to hear a mythical siren call out to her from beyond that seems to resemble a story from Anna and Elsa's father that speaks of a magical forest that one day is corrupted by a dispute between the Arendellians and the people of the forest, the Northuldra tribe. Whilst these events go on, Olaf tries to learn what it means to grow up and Kristoff tries to pop the question to his future fiancée, Anna, with the aid of his lovable pet-friend, Sven. Amongst all this chaos, Elsa remembers an old fairy tale that speaks of a mystical river that has all the answers of the past, called Ahtohallan. Could this river be connected to the odd occurrences happening in Arendelle and could it help Elsa and Anna save the kingdom?

The movie deals with the theme of building bridges. Throughout the movie, Queen Elsa has to build a bridge between the Arendellians and Northuldrans after barriers have been separating them in the past and Kristoff's side plot is trying to build a bridge in between him and his wife as he hopes that they one day unite under the holy matrimony that is marriage. There is also a theme of maturity, self-growth, and finding one's place in life. Olaf tries to find out the secrets to life as a grown-up as he learns that there is none and Elsa and Anna find their places as leaders and people. Lastly, the theme of friends and family can be seen as characters rely on each other for help in order to be stronger. The film is a great family picture that brings out the nostalgia of the amazing world we first saw in 2013. Watch *Frozen II* in theatres now.

Billy Elliot: The Musical Reflection

ORLY DAVIDOV

This past October, grades 10, 11 and 12 had the outstanding opportunity to watch *Billy Elliot*, a musical, in the striking city of Stratford, Ontario. The musical features an 11-year-old boy, protagonist Billy Elliot, who is a former boxer, but he dreams to be, more than anything, a ballet dancer. Taking place in County Durham 1984, the plot focuses on the vital historical background at the time: the 1984–1985 British coal miners strike. The musical presented the audience with the laborious struggles that families faced at the time of the strike, and how it tremendously affected Billy and his working-class family.

Personally, *Billy Elliot: The Musical* is by far one of the most emotional and honest productions displayed. It blatantly talks about topics that are considered prohibited in many societies, such as gender, LGBTQ+, and the grim treatment of the working class in Britain. I think it properly exhibited these topics and created a personal connection with the audience. The musical encapsulated how compulsory masculinity is viewed as illogical and completely idealistic, ultimately making it unrealistic.

The context of the play was unclear, and it was difficult for those uninformed about its historical setting to follow, and people were confused about a lot of the scenes. The musical was quite vague regarding the history, making many questions what was happening throughout the show itself.

In regards to the performance, I could see how much time and effort it took to prepare, and I felt the strong bond and unity of the entire cast. The choreography was unreal, with every actor being in unison and not missing a beat of the song. In particular, my favourite dance was when Billy was on stage with himself in the future, creating a beautifully composed routine, containing a deluge of emotions. When I viewed the performance, it truly gave me a coming-of-age feeling that Billy will end up prospering immensely as a dancer.

The following is feedback by a couple of audience members:

"I really enjoyed Billy Elliot, it was really funny, and I really liked all the songs."

Avivit Nsiri, Grade 12

"Billy Elliot was a crazy production to watch. I enjoyed it. I thought it was wild and I never knew what was gonna happen next. 10/10 would watch again. And the music was catchy."

Rebecca Sacks, Grade 12

Billy Elliot is an absolute inspiration to all who watch him perform, as the audience sort of grows up with him. We see his doubts and insecurities, his personal life and wellbeing, and we see his potential; even if Billy himself never saw it. I believe the overall lesson of this play, is that one who strives for their goals, regardless of how difficult the surrounding circumstances may be, they have the ability to accomplish anything.

The Town That Welcomed the World

MALKA MOSHKOVITS

On September 11, 2001, the small town of Gander, Newfoundland took in 7000 people, doubling the population of the city. Ulpanat Orot's grade 9 class took a trip to see a play about the town who changed the lives of many. The play *Come From Away* showcases the people who opened their doors, and those traveling who were sent to a strange town in the middle of nowhere. These refugees were stranded in Gander for five days, trying to get in touch with family, some of whom were already gone. The disaster started tremendous chaos, so much was lost, but also a lot was found. The play shows the lives that were changed and all those who came from away. What an incredible opportunity to witness this Canadian-made production about a uniquely Canadian story of warmth and hospitality at a time when the world needed it the most.

Movember: A look into the last month of moustaches

CHAIM SITNIK

So, you might have noticed that some of the students had odd creatures on their faces. They are small, furry, and they sit right on top of the upper lip. Of course, I am talking about the recent amount of mustaches in YOC this past month. This is because YOC has decided to participate in Movember this year.

Movember is an annual event run by the Movember Foundation. It encourages men to grow out their moustaches over the month of November and fundraise money to aid in the battle against men's cancers and diseases such as prostate cancer, testicular cancer, and suicide prevention. For the people who cannot grow mustaches or want to do more to raise money, there are programs such as Move which is an option for supporters to run 60km over the month of November in support of suicide prevention. Movember is a great way to support men's health and to have

fun while doing it.

This year, students decided to join the YOC team to help raise money. Many students decided they would take on the challenge of growing their mustaches, such as Rafi Snowbell and Jonah Diamond, and some students tried to grow out their lip fur for fun. Even teachers participated, like Mr. Saltsman, who raised funds with his own team based on his company Twoque that donates a toque for each one they sell (available at twoque.ca). Students and staff roamed around the halls with their glorious 'staches growing more and more each day. The YOC team raised a total of \$307, which may not seem like a lot, but every step helps tremendously is stopping young men from dying too early. And let us not forget the importance of raising awareness and sparking conversations that come with sporting a "mo" for the month.

Students have the option to buy mustaches for only \$1 as the last chance to support the cause. The Movember event was considered a success this year as amazing students did raise money and many people had an excellent time letting their whiskers wild.

מה זה להיות יהודי בגולה ומה זה להיות יהודי בארץ ישראל?

אלי יסאר

תשובה פשוטה לשאלה הזאת היא שהמשמעות של המילה, "יהודי" אמורה להיות אותו דבר, ולא משנה איפה אתה נמצא ברחבי העולם. אבל, האם האם זה באמת כך? האם אנחנו, הקהילה האורתודוקסית המורדרנית בצפון אמריקה זהה לחברה האורתודוקסית המודרנית בארץ ישראל? והאם יש לנו את אותם התפקידים בקשר לציונות ודת?

באופן אישי, אני יכולה להגיד שלהיות חלק מהתנועה האורתודוקסית המודרנית והציונית, זה דבר מאוד חשוב לי בחיים כיוון שזה חלק מאוד מרכזי שמפרש מי אנחנו כקהילה ובמה אנחנו מאמינים. אנחנו אוהבים את ארץ ישראל, אנחנו מאמינים בזכותה להתקיים, כל יום אנחנו מתפללים לשלום המדינה, וכאשר אנחנו נואמים, "בשנה הבאה בירושלים", כל אחד מאיתנו מתכוון לזה.

אבל כל הדברים האלה הם לא ציונות פרקטית, ציונות שהארצישראלים כמו דוד בן גוריון, יצחק בן צבי, ונחמן סירקין נאמו לגביה. הארצישראלים האמינו ולחמו כדי שליהודים תמיד תהיה מדינת משלהם, מקום שבו הם לא יצטרכו לגונן על עצמם, מקום שהם יוכלו ליצור חיים חדשים לכל עם ישראל בלי אנטישמיות. מדינה שבה כל היהודים יוכלו להיות מי שהם באמת.

אבל אנחנו, היהודים שחיים בגולה לא חיים את הציונות הממשית. אנחנו מקיימים רק ציונות תיאורטית. אנחנו לא חיים בארץ, אנחנו לא ממלאים אותה בחיים ועבודה, אז, האם אנחנו אפילו זכאים לקרוא לעצמנו ציונים?

אני חושבת שכן, אנחנו יכולים.. אדם ציוני שחי בגולה מקבל "מושב בשורה הראשונה" לכל האנטישמיות הקיימת בעולם, מפני שהדברים האלה קורים לנו, לחברנו, לשכנינו, לקהילה שלנו. כמה שזה נשמע מחריד, זה נותן גם לנו את ההזדמנות לקום ולהילחם. לעשות זאת כדי שהאמת שלנו תשמע. אם כל היהודים בעולם היו חיים רק בארץ ישראל, אף אחד לא היה נשאר כדי להילחם נגד האנטישמיות מחוץ לארץ. וזאת בדיוק העבודה שלנו. זאת האחריות של כל אחד מאיתנו: להילחם באנטישמיות.

אני רואה את זה כך: היהודים בארץ ישראל והיהודים בגולה תלויים אחד בשני. היהודים בישראל צריכים לממש את הציונות הפרקטית. היהודים בגולה חייבים להגן על כל הזכויות של היהודים וארץ ישראל.

אז תודה ליהודים ששומרים על ציונות פרקטית בחיים, ותודה ליהודים ששומרים על ציונות תיאורטית בחיים. אנחנו צריכים את שניהם כדי שהציונות תישאר בחיים.

YOC Shabbaton, cont.

we had maariv and a powerful havdalah to cap off an unforgettable Shabbat.

After Shabbat was over, we went to our Saturday night activities. Students had the choice between roller skating, bowling, or basketball/volleyball. Everyone had an enjoyable time at their activities, and then came back to the resort for dinner. Following dinner, we had more dancing and a bonfire. We then watched the very entertaining grad video to end off the night. Exhausted from the extremely eventful day, we all headed back to our rooms.

The next morning, we got up, davened, ate breakfast, packed, loaded the buses, and headed out. Even though this incredible weekend came to an end, we will never forget the memories we made.

Ulpana Shabbaton, cont.

we all participated in the traditional UO kumzitz, where it is not unusual to find a senior crying her heart out.

We departed Fern Sunday morning and arrived home in the early afternoon. Sleep deprived and with just enough coffee to sustain us throughout the day the shabbaton was O-ril-lia fun experience. Thank you to all the seniors and staff who made it as amazing as it was!

Is it Safe for Jews to Attend Canadian Universities?

ELI YISSAR

Recently, antisemitism has become a more prominent matter, including on university campuses. As high school students, we are urged to think about our futures, particularly with respect to post-secondary opportunities. We consider the potential seminars or yeshivas we want to apply to and also think about which universities we want to study at, after that. Many of us who graduate Ulpanat Orot or Or Chaim choose to take a gap year in Israel, but there are also many who decide that post secondary school is where they want to be after high school. This makes the recent antisemitic events in universities across Canada extremely important for all of us, as we consider the likes of these institutions for the next stage of our respective educational journeys.

The incidents that occurred recently at the University of Toronto and York University were the most publicized. Many people posted videos on their social media in order to spread awareness of the issue, but there is a lot left to unpack regarding these events.

Hillel is a Jewish campus organization. On November 11, they brought a notion to the Graduates Students Union, requesting to make Kosher food available for Jewish students on campus. Hillel then received a response saying that the Union “might be reluctant to bring the notion as a result of Hillel being ‘pro-Israel.’” This brought up feelings of discrimination and isolation among the Jewish students, whose need for Kosher food has nothing to do with Israel. Many Jews vocalized their strong opinions on this topic, calling it antisemitic and therefore clearly untenable. One of these people was a Torontonians lawyer named Guidy Mamann, who strongly advocated for a boycott from funding and

supporting the university for “as long as they allow institutionalized #antisemitism on its campus.” This received support and many people continued vocalizing about the issue, influencing the Union to come out with an apology to Hillel. Ultimately the university came out with an email that stated, “[t]he external commissioner did not intend to do harm in using this language, but recognizes that this is not an excuse for the harm that the wording of this response caused to the individual receiving it, as well as to Jewish students at U of T... The UTGSU Executive Committee is deeply sorry for the harm that this response has caused.” Following this email, Hillel and the Graduates Students Union set a day when they would meet, in order to start the discussion regarding this request.

The event in York University demonstrated antisemitism of another nature. A non-profit organization started by IDF veterans called The Reservists on Duty was scheduled to make an appearance at the university. They planned to talk about Israel “with confidence and knowledge.” A student group called the Students Against the Israeli Apartheid put up posters declaring: “No Israeli soldiers on our campus!” They did not succeed in canceling the event, and instead the university called officers from the Toronto Police Service, as well as private security officers in order to ensure the safety of all the students who wished to hear from The Reservists on Duty. The Students Against Israeli Apartheid group showed up to protest against this event and among them was a well known Holocaust denier named Nazih Khatatba, a man who praised the 2014 Jerusalem massacre and has called the Jewish Religion a “Terrorist religion.” The protest became violent and the police and security officers stepped in to intervene.

These two events are important for us all to understand that we must continue to stand up against antisemitism when it occurs in our own backyard. We must show the world that humans do learn from our history. “Never again.”

Did Jews copy Christmas?

SHALOM ZALMAN FEUER

Every year at Chanukah time, my whole family (cousins, grandparents and the like) get together for a Chanukah party. My family puts a very specific emphasis on one Chanukah tradition: gift-giving. However, if you trace back the history of Chanukah, gifts were never exchanged. Rather, the only directly correlated traditions with the story of Chanukah are lighting Chanukah candles and spinning the dreidel. One can argue that making latkes and donuts are also correlated because oil is used to make them, but we all know that is just an excuse for Jews to eat junk food on Chanukah.

So why do we give gifts on Chanukah? The immediate assumption people jump to is that the origin of gift-giving is from the Christian holiday Christmas. This theory could make sense; at Christmas, people give presents to each other and parents give gifts to their kids through an imaginary man named Santa Claus. When Jews came from different places in Europe post-Holocaust, they wanted to conform to Western culture and it's possible that when they saw non-Jews giving gifts to each other, they wanted to include the fun act of gift-giving in their “Jewish Christmas” called Chanukah. This theory does have a lot of evidence to back it up as almost all Jewish Hollywood references are to Chanukah (i.e. every Adam Sandler Jewish joke ever). Whenever you go into a Dollarama nowadays, you will always see products for Christmas and for Chanukah as those two Holidays are often juxtaposed with each other. This is because since Christmas happens to coincide with Chanukah, people associate gift-giving with Christmas *and* with Chanukah.

Believe it or not, this is *not the true reason for gift giving*. In fact, the true reason for gift-giving is actually connected to the history of Chanukah. Once the Maccabees defeated the Greeks, they created coins in order to commemorate their battle victories and their new independence over the Greeks. The Jewish people made “chocolate coins” in order to commemorate these coins called “Chanukah gelt”, based off the Yiddish word for money (which is gelt). Chanukah gelt is chocolate wrapped in golden foil and has the appearance of a coin. According to Professor Eliezer Segal, these gelt were not

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...Until the Fat Lady Sings: A bipartisan analysis of the 2019 Federal Election

JACOB BRODT AND JOSEPH
NEWMAN

On October 21st, 2019, Canadian citizens from Surrey to St. John's took to their local polling stations to cast a decisive and pivotal vote – a vote that would determine the Canadian Prime Minister for the next four years. However, when the Federal election was held just over a month ago, it would decide so much more than a leader. The very structure of Parliament, its balance of power, would be determined on that fateful day in October. The day that would reveal how the jigsaw pieces of Red, Blue and Orange fit together in the House of Commons. Although the exact outcome hadn't yet been determined, it would most likely come in the form of a minority government. With so much uncertainty and mayhem surrounding the 2019 campaign, we're here to break it down for you.

Here are the winners and losers of Canada's 44th federal election.

JAGMEET SINGH AND THE
NDP

It is unclear whether the New Democratic Party deserves to be lauded or scorned for their result in the election. On one hand, the party fell victim to a negative 3.78pp swing in the polls, losing 15 seats. However, NDP leader Jagmeet Singh soared in popularity, gaining respect and support among Canadians when there

was still doubt regarding how this country would respond to a federal leader of colour.

ANDREW SCHEER

This verdict is slightly unique in the sense that the evaluation of the candidate doesn't apply to the performance of the party itself. In fact, the argument can be made that Andrew Scheer and the Conservative Party of Canada met completely opposite ends in the election. While the Tories as a whole ticked off every box on their campaign checklist (except winning, of course), and should be commended by supporters for their effort to unseat Justin Trudeau, Scheer has rightfully taken the brunt of the blame for their ultimate failure to do so. With all the pieces in place for Scheer to reclaim the mantle of PM for his party, he still managed to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory. Whether due to inadequacies in his platform, poor campaigning strategy, or because he just wasn't seen as fit for the job, the Conservative leader who lost the race for his colleagues and supporters, is at risk of losing the title altogether.

MAXIME BERNIER

Despite running an aggressive and highly controversial campaign, the far-right People's Party failed to win a single seat in the House of Commons. Party leader Bernier, a figure who has long attracted a great deal of attention, proved unable to recapture the riding of



Beauce where he, as a Conservative, was elected in 2015. The future of the party, which garnered a measly 1.6% of the national vote, is at best uncertain and very likely laden with insurmountable obstacles. Analysts, in the wake of the party's electoral failure, predict that its dissolution is near. Bernier, through his feeble attempt to spite the party that in his eyes "had wronged him," ultimately split Canada's conservative vote, creating the conditions for his political archnemesis to return to power for a second term.

JUSTIN TRUDEAU

The most obvious winner in any federal election is usually the candidate elected to be the federal leader for the upcoming term. Presumably, the case of Justin Trudeau in the 2019 campaign follows the same logic; he consolidated his position as Canadian Prime Minister, evading controversy and overcoming the greatest level of adversity he's faced in his political career. While Trudeau's victory is a resounding one, it may not be as straightforward as it seems. The Liberals did hang on to some semblance of power in the House. However, their cabinet for the next four years will come in the form of a minority government. This means that in order to maintain

diplomatic control of Parliament, Trudeau and his party will need to maintain diplomatic relationships with all their fellow members. Is Trudeau a winner? Undoubtedly. He also has a mountain of work ahead of him if he wants to prevent this election from becoming his greatest loss.

THE BLOC QUÉBÉCOIS

To look at Quebec's electoral map is to take a trip back in time to the days of the 1970's and 80's – a period during which calls for Quebec's secession from Canada began to louden, eventually culminating in the unspeakably nail-biting and nearly devastating referendum of 1996. Under new leader Yves-François Blanchet, the Bloc Québécois, which had following the 2015 federal election lost official party status and been widely declared dead, has experienced an explosive resurgence in popularity. The number of seats in the House occupied by the Bloc has ballooned by 220% (32 seats), and the party's level of support following the election continues to increase. The rising tide of Québécois separatism, in the eyes of many, is a cause for great concern, and is sure to be a topic hotly debated within the chambers of the House of Commons over the next electoral term.

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Horoscopes

FEIGA WERNER

CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 22–JANUARY 19)

You like to laugh, but sometimes you cry when someone throws a potato at your head. You will have good fortune.

AQUARIUS (JANUARY 20–FEBRUARY 18)

You hate when letters appear in words consecutively. M&M's bother you.

PISCES (FEBRUARY 19–MARCH 20)

You look amazing every other day and you pay attention to your friends when they have extra snacks. You will be blessed with paper clips.

ARIES (MARCH 21–APRIL 19)

You enjoy eating lunch with your friends when you are not busy avoiding them. You will have a pleasant day soon.

TAURUS (APRIL 20–MAY 20)

You like reaping the fruits of your effort except if it's tomatoes, since you do not consider tomatoes to be fruits.

GEMINI (MAY 21–JUNE 20)

You are a big kid now and know how to count to at least seven! We are all very proud of you, happy 15th birthday. May you be blessed with lots of carrot flavoured carrots.

CANCER (JUNE 21–JULY 22)

As usual nobody wished you a happy birthday because they were at camp. That and YouTube ads bother you.

LEO (JULY 23–AUGUST 22)

You enjoy talking! Please stop.

VIRGO (AUGUST 23–SEPTEMBER 22)

Chag Sameach, Shana Tova, etc. Were you born in a sukkah? You will be blessed with less splinters.

LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 23–OCTOBER 22)

You enjoy giving things liberally, unless the things are yours. You enjoy good food.

SCORPIO (OCTOBER 23–NOVEMBER 21)

You like to read but you will never admit it. You consider yourself mysterious.

SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 22–DECEMBER 21)

You like having down time to pursue your hobbies. You are creative and enjoy drinking water when you are thirsty.

Don't Stress!

RENA TORCZYNER

So you've made it past the first days of school. You thought you were safe, assumed you'd gotten all the sarcastic advice you would ever be unfortunate enough to need in life and dropped your satire column in the trash. After all, you've got everything covered. You're keeping track of this assignment, and that test, and those quizzes... hang on, *multiple* quizzes? And there's another test... and another assignment... Mr. T just assigned the History ISP... Grade 9 just learned Morah Sara's tests are accumulative...

But it's okay, you think. I'll do it during the next big break.

The one that's in a month.

Shoot.

It's okay, we all go through the same mindset around this time of year, when there's a seemingly endless stretch of tests and other assessments without enough breaks. A Monday after school Shabbatonim, great. As if anyone was planning on waking up at any time that day. There could have been school, it would just have been empty, and the teachers would have accomplished about as much as they always do. They'd receive the same attention as well. All facts aside, those days off are not as useful as one might hope.

Realizing this, you've come crawling back to your friendly newspaper, looking for some advice about just how you're meant to survive this period of time- the longest unbroken period of the school year, when tests abound and deadlines leap to swallow kids whole, while the teachers never seem to stop assigning new work.

But this is an advice article, and I will give you a few recommendations. First: organization. Put your thousands of tests into a calendar, separate from the BAS testing one on the website, because we all know that half the time teachers will forget to register their tests- and half of that they forget they assigned it at all. See? Organization.

After you've written your tests in, set times to study. If you aren't too busy with extracurriculars or have already realized and accepted that school sabotages your

social life, study a little every day, and definitely don't cram the night before. Sometimes it does work, but most of the time it just leaves you with a headache and knowing the only parts of the test material that didn't make it onto the test at all. According to PhD psychologist Nate Kornell, things stick in your brain more easily when you wait a little before reviewing them. Don't go over it five times, one after the other. For the effort you're putting into studying, you don't deserve to forget this material.

Another strategy: listen to music. With the right songs you can get into any mood, and though I don't want to dispute that truth definitely hurts, music that talks a lot isn't generally the best idea. It tends to distract you, and you'll be trying to read material when your attention gets diverted. You'll end up sitting in the same spot for minutes on end, just spacing, then realize that the booklet you're studying is actually upside down. But we give full points to abstract methods.

Whether rap music is your preference or not, there are easier songs to set as studying background. Songs that are more musical are useful, or, if you can find a song that's only instrumental which you can get into- go for it. Any song that you listen to enough will eventually become background, and you'll be able to focus. Scientifically speaking, a study came out of Stanford declaring that "music moves [the] brain to pay attention". If that isn't an excuse to blast Imagine Dragons throughout your house, I don't know what is.

Besides for that, here's a few class hacks that may help you out a little bit:

Mr. T: Participate in class

Mr. Saltsman: ALWAYS perform above the minimum for projects

Morah Sara: Don't come late

Mrs. Fixler: Appreciate her generosity when marking, she won't be teaching you every year

Dr. Levy: Listen to the things she says that aren't on the booklet - write them down

Mrs. Ripsman: Practice constantly

Don't overstress if you're struggling. We're all there with you. After all, 'tis the season.

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

Last week's answers:

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



Copying Christmas, cont.

originally chocolate coins. Rather, back in the olden days of Europe, Torah teachers would teach Torah to young children without taking a salary due to the prohibition (according to some opinions) of receiving money from Torah teaching/learning. On Chanukah, parents would give their kids “gelt” (translated as money) to give to their teachers as gifts for teaching Torah to their kids. Thus, some say that the tradition of gift-giving is derived from the gifts parents used to give their son’s teachers.

To conclude, people always come to the assumption that Jews are trying to conform to non-Jewish culture. While this is true in some cases, I feel that Jews would never take customs from non-Jewish holidays to implement into Jewish holidays. As modern orthodox Jews, we have the hardest mission out of all the Jewish sects: to separate non-Jewish culture and Jewish tradition. The only way to do this correctly is by making sure that non-Jewish culture is never mixed into Jewish tradition. That is why I think that gift-giving on Chanukah has no connection to gift-giving on Christmas and that the reason we give gifts on Chanukah is to remind us of the ancient tradition of giving presents to the Teachers/Rebbeim of kids during Chanukah. Let us take this Chanukah to think about all the Rebbeim and Teachers that deserve recognition for their hard work throughout the whole school year. Happy Chanukah!

Political Analysis, cont.

CANADIANS

After illustrating how the events of the past election affected the people and parties involved, there remains a burning question to ask. How have they affected the average Canadian, and has the outcome bettered Canada as a whole? There are many ways to go about answering this. One could argue that a minority government translates to more political points of view being addressed in Parliament and that the Liberals have been given a deserved second chance. One could also look at the changes in attitude towards succession, how the cries for autonomy have grown fervent in both East and West. With so many campaign slogans stressing the “you”, multiple platforms with mind-sets of individuality, it seems like

politicians have gotten what they asked for. When multiculturalism is supposedly at the forefront of Canadian identity, division is still running rampant through our streets. Does this very evident issue point to a general flaw in our society, or is the manner in which this country goes about its politics to blame? Either way, there is one thing that our leaders must ensure if they really do care about the citizens they govern. In an election so divisive and closely contested, when one will do anything to gain leverage on the opposition, it is important that Canadian’s aren’t the ones being taken advantage of. If your quest for votes ends up hurting the people that vote for you, you have crossed the line from admirable ambition to unforgivable greed.

N	O	T	A	B	B	A	H	S	L	D	T	F	D	S
S	R	I	A	T	S	H	A	L	V	A	O	A	E	H
A	L	L	I	F	E	T	B	A	S	H	D	N	T	L
I	B	D	N	L	A	L	I	Y	A	H	I	R	E	I
G	T	F	S	R	E	Z	E	L	J	H	M	A	N	C
B	R	E	A	K	F	A	S	T	C	D	T	M	T	H
C	N	M	S	A	I	L	R	A	E	B	A	H	I	I
M	E	E	D	T	O	R	M	S	N	B	M	S	O	M
G	I	M	W	C	S	G	T	E	I	D	Q	I	N	X
S	I	D	K	S	N	T	I	S	O	A	G	M	D	P
N	P	E	I	I	P	A	H	O	M	E	W	O	R	K
H	R	O	D	M	K	A	F	G	D	O	N	U	T	S
S	S	N	R	I	T	T	P	T	I	S	B	U	L	C
X	E	E	V	T	R	A	J	E	O	N	S	S	M	W
V	Y	A	G	U	S	C	M	W	R	S	K	H	H	I

BAS WORDSEARCH

Find all the words and unscramble the remaining letters for a hidden message!

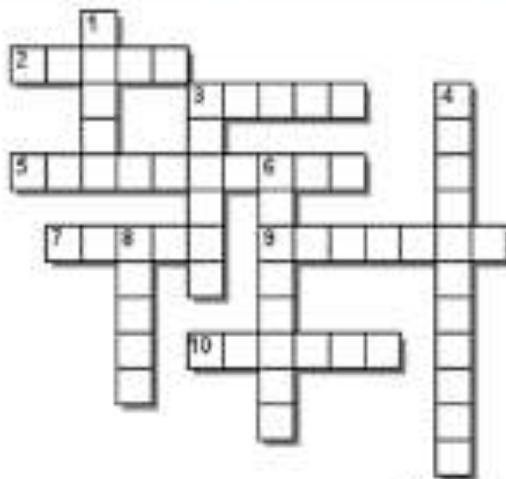
Editor's Note: Due to popular demand, we lowered the level of difficulty for the word search. We have now provided a word box. The level has since been demoted from Hard to Medium

HIDDEN MESSAGE:

☹️ _____ , _____ ! ☹️

ADMIN	GEMARA	SHABBATON
ALIYAH	GESH	SHLICHIM
BASH	HOMEWORK	SKIRTS
BNEI AKIVA	ISRAEL	SPORTS
BREAKFAST	KNIGHTS	STAIRS
CLUBS	LOCKERS	TEFILLA
COOL KIDS	MATMIDIM	TESTS
DETENTION	MATMIDOT	VELCRO
DONUTS	MISHMAR	VENDING
FOOD	NEWSPAPER	MACHINES

Spring Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 2 - flower; Dutch flower from a bulb
- 3 - Sow these in the ground and they grow
- 5 - A day for moms; holiday
- 7 - Sign of spring; bird
- 9 - April showers bring May _____
- 10 - A small pool of water

Down

- 1 - Farmers _____ crops
- 3 - Season after Winter
- 4 - Bug that turns into a butterfly
- 6 - flower; yellow or white
- 8 - Spring _____ vacation

