

# The BASH

THE BNEI AKIVA SCHOOLS HEADLINES

ISSUE 1 • FALL 2020

## Letter from the Editors

Hello reader!

We are the editors and we are super excited for another great year of the BASH ahead. Hard to believe we are officially back in action after all that we have experienced in this absolutely bizarre year of 2020.

Remember back in January when the world was panicking because everyone thought the United States and Iran were going to start World War III? Or how about February when we witnessed catastrophic wildfires destroying some of the most beautiful places in Australia? Then came March when COVID-19 took over, and things were not looking so good – but how much worse could it possibly get? Well, then came April and we were all forced into quarantine. Come May? MURDER HORNETS. June may be a bit fresher in your memory, with protests – some peaceful, some not so much – taking over the streets. And of course, you

know things are strange when in July, Kanye West announced a presidential bid and *no one batted an eye!* As the year continued, we were introduced to a brand new way of attending school and, needless to say, that we have all been anticipating the return to school and the ability to experience something as close as possible to the reality that we remember existed before 2020.

Is it going well? Is it tanking? Would we be okay taking school online, or would we be completely lost? We don't want to stay in the building because the masks are so uncomfortable – are there any better kinds? What's going on with sports? What's going on in the world?

That all said, the BASH is here for you. Whether it's to answer your questions, to guide you during these crazy times, or opening a forum for you to share your opinions and publish them to the world – or at least,

to the world of Bnei Akiva Schools – we'll help you. So much more than a school!

We're excited to bring you articles in both English and Hebrew, spanning from serious topics such as politics all the way to the more relaxing topics like sports, and, of course, funny memes to brighten your days. Check out whichever section piques your interest, and give us feedback on how you liked it!

Want to share something without writing a whole article? Contact one of the editors for the opportunity to submit a quarantine story, or a question for the advice section (please keep all entries appropriate). Let's hope this school year turns out even better than the last! Enjoy the newspaper, and have an incredible day!

Sincerely,

Your Editors in Chief

Chaim Sitnik, Chaim Straus, Rena Torczyner, Eli Yissar

## Sports and Corona Do Not Mix

SASHA AARON

When COVID-19 began to take over the world, many people believed it would not last. "Don't worry," they said. "It'll be okay," they said. "Nothing bad will happen to you," they said. Wrong. Hi, my name is Sasha Aaron, and it is such a flex to say that yes, I had Corona. If you know me, you know I talk too much about it, so I am sure you will all be glad to know that this is not what I am writing about. COVID-19 has affected me greatly, but one of the worst things it did to me, my friends, and BAS as a school was putting a stop to all BAS sports teams this year.

If you are not involved with a BAS sports team – or just not involved in sports at all – let me give you a sense of what it is like. On most teams, a sense of community and welcomeness is always present – both on and off the court. You can always rely on your teammates for help with things that are not necessarily sports-related because your teammates are also your friends. In Ulpana, the vibes of the school really rely on how close each grade is to one another. Practices where we could connect with each other really helped strengthen the bond we all had with different grades, and now that this opportunity is gone, we have all had to adjust in our own ways. Many kids who were on sports teams also considered this to be their outlet during the week – but now, the place where they were once able to burn off some steam has been put to better use as a socially distant classroom. With all the pressure and stress your average BAS student has, it is unfortunate that we are no longer able to burn off some steam with a quick sports practice in the gym.

Although the pandemic has made things extremely difficult, I would still like to applaud the school's effort to make it as normal as possible while maintaining a socially distant environment. COVID-19 has absolutely destroyed many things this year, but one thing the virus cannot take away is the BAS school spirit. Even though it is clear that this school year will no longer include the advantages of sports teams, next year is looking very promising!



## President's Welcome

COBY COHEN,  
YOC STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT

To my fellow BAS students,

Welcome back for the 2020-21 school year! I hope everyone had a relaxing and meaningful summer and that you are all ready to get back to some learning. It is no secret that this year is unique and will be much different from years past, but despite the non-ideal situation which we have been placed in, we will do our best to make the most of it and have a great year. We can look at this year in two ways. We can either see it as a terrible year where nothing is going to go our way, or we can use this as a motivation and in-

spiration to grow as individuals. Although COVID-19 was supposed to keep us apart, I believe it will bring us closer together.

To start off, despite no tisches or lunch basketball, the Or Chaim halls are still filled with happiness and smiling faces (even under the masks). We have all been home six months, so everyone was happy and relieved to be back, even if we have to wear masks and stay apart from each other. We have been able to have special learning activities and are planning different lunchtime activities. Arba Minim sales and Sukkah building were a hit this year, and lunches are still running smoothly at YOC. If we take a step back, this school year has

actually been a great success so far!

It was nice to see everyone back in school on the first day, as well as some new faces. Despite being gone for so long, it almost feels like we never left. We jumped back into things right away and the year has been off to a very triumphant start. Our school is very united, so there was no way this virus would have been able to tear us apart.

Student council has many exciting plans for this year, and we hope that later on, as the curve hopefully flattens, we will be able to run normal activities which we would during a normal year. This year so far has been anything but normal, but knowing what we are all capable of, we will make this year incredible!

## The Fools that Came to School

IZZY ADLER

It takes only one day of quarantine to realize that you should have never taken advantage of a day at Ulpanat Orot. After seven long months without donuts, tishes, or kugel, the doors of Ulpana have finally opened and everybody is preparing for their first day back. The morning starts with what could easily be mistaken for a bulldozer digging through my closet looking for a flared skirt. While this was happening my neverending rant about how much better pencil skirts look on me continues through the morning. When I finally find a flared skirt I decide which books I am bringing to school. Since we do not get lockers this year I need to bring as little as possible. Of course I feel obligated to bring them all “just in case.” I strap on my mask and beg my parents for a ride to school using the excuse that the TTC is a breeding ground for COVID.

Entering the building is like walking through an informal airport security line. The screening check gets shown at the door like

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*It takes only one day of quarantine to realize that you should have never taken advantage of a day at Ulpanat Orot*

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a boarding pass. By the time I get to school class has already started, but the teachers are still figuring out how to connect the online students to the smartboard. When they finally figure it out the online students are completely humiliated by the fact that their faces have been projected larger than life on the screen in front of the class. The majority of what you say has to be repeated because you cannot hear a word people say through the mask. You finally get a spare, but quickly realize that they are ineffective because you can't even take a power nap on the locker room couches anymore, instead you are forced to sit in a communal room with the freshies.

You know... this has actually been the most eventful day I have had since the beginning of quarantine. For seven months all I have thought about was coming back to school and seeing my friends. So should I really be complaining about flared skirts and locked locker rooms? At least we have independent davening and shorter days. I think the lesson here is that



# The In-Person Perspective

MICHAEL ROBERTS

It is September 2020. A month earlier, Bnei Akiva Schools announced they would resume in-person learning. Being a student who is currently learning inside the building in YOC classrooms, here's an inside look into what has changed.

The first major difference occurs before entering the YOC building. Between approximately 6:00 a.m. and 7:20 a.m. every school day, I must fill out a daily screening form. The only way to get cleared and be allowed to enter the YOC building is to answer, “no” to every question. Answering, “yes” to even one question will prohibit you from entering the YOC building until you submit a negative COVID-19 test taken.

The second difference occurs when I am physically in the YOC building. Previously, I could freely exhale carbon dioxide-rich air as I pleased. It never occurred to me before COVID-19 that I would have to cover my exhalations, just in case the air I release contains droplets

carrying an infectious disease. But these are different times. Wearing a mask over your nose and mouth is mandatory, to cover your breath just in case COVID-19 droplets are within your breath. Yet, there are exceptions. The major one is during breakfast and lunch because it's impossible to eat with a mask on. Water consumption during class isn't barred, so it is permitted to take off your mask to drink. An immediate consequence of wearing a mask is sometimes not being recognized by people you know. I experienced this first-hand when one of my teachers didn't recognize me at the beginning of this year. After all, a mask covers nearly half of your face. Fortunately, this situation is super rare, as we're really familiar with our peers.

The third major difference is always binding. It is forbidden to touch any person outside of one's bubble, which is one's immediate family.

The next difference is

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*An immediate consequence of wearing a mask is sometimes not being recognized by people you know. I experienced this first-hand when one of my teachers didn't recognize me at the beginning of this year.*

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classroom attendance. Before March 2020, if you were sick, you missed school. The classic movie *E.T.* has Elliot, a young boy, lie about being sick to spend time with the extra-terrestrial creature he befriended hiding in his closet. This changed. If you are sick now, you are expected to attend class – virtually. Further, you don't need an excuse for the virtual option. For example, desiring to stay home and attend a class vir-

tually is a valid reason to do just that. Feeling the need to take a sudden break from mask-wearing mid-school day isn't only valid, but even embraced.

Besides these differences, school hasn't changed much. Most schools in Toronto including the public schools and the Tanenbaum Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT) have quadesters. Quadesters last for one quarter of the school year and every quadester, a student takes two high school credits. Whereas at BAS, every student takes seven high school credits in addition to a full load of religious studies, just like every other year; the full complement.

The courses are still great, and I can still talk to my friends and peers in school like I used to, though less often. While the vibrant singing and dancing has stopped, the YOC vibe hasn't otherwise become less familiar. It's awesome to come back after being away for almost six months.

we should never take things for granted. It is important to remember that we are at school because of our amazing teachers. I think you would all agree that renaming this article “The Fool that DIDN'T Come to School,” is much more fitting. Plus I think the flared skirts are kind of growing on me anyways ;)



## YOC Online Schooling

GABRIEL KAPLAN AND AHRON ABRAMS

*What is different about schooling online v.s. in-school at Or Chaim?*

One of the main differences between online and in-school is the ability to interact with a classroom, and with friends. This is probably one of the biggest drawbacks. When you are online, you miss the in-class experience and involvement that ranges from raising your hand to ask questions, to being called on to answer them. The learning is more personal when you are in the classroom while being online can feel like more of a detached lecture. However, being online definitely has many advantages. When learning from home; there is no commute to school, it is easier to keep organized in one workspace, and there is higher freedom and flexibility. Learning from home provides the ability to be present in class anywhere in the world and allows you to work on other things as if you're listening to a podcast. Being online can deliver large benefits and also be detrimental, but in the end, it depends on an individual's ability to adapt and learn.

*What was the reason for being online and how does it affect one's ability to learn?*

Ahron: I started school online for two reasons. I had a sibling visit from outside the country and my family wanted to wait a few weeks for the waters to be tested. With my previous experience of school online, it's clear from the beginning of the advantages and drawbacks. The best advantage of school online is being able to get up later because you don't have the extra travelling time. The greatest drawback for me was not being able to have the social interaction you get from being in school. It's also easier to get distracted from the action going on within the house. Even though I prefer being in the classroom, the way online school was setup made it as easy as possible to learn and feel very close to being in the classroom without physically being there.

*What was the reason for being online and how does it affect one's ability to learn?*

Gabe: Some started the school year online due to unavoidable circumstances that lead to a quarantine. However, for the most part, I chose to begin virtually. Choosing between going back to school where you are physically close to many other students and teachers, or being online is no easy decision. I decided it was best to wait out the first couple of weeks and play it safe, and then if nothing goes wrong, come back to school. Being online came with certain drawbacks that made it difficult at times, although it was generally workable. For example, virtual learning, more than anything else, puts your ability to manage your time to the test. If you don't watch out, you may miss classes or fall behind on work. Overall, I prefer being in school with the familiar learning atmosphere created by my fellow peers, and I hope to be back with them soon.



## Ella and Reena Story

ELLA RENNERT & REENA BERNSTEIN

Hello! These are your favourite seniors, Reena and Ella, and we are here to tell you about our senior year. If you are new to the school, you probably don't know who we are because we haven't actually been in school this year.

Since the start of high school, we have been looking forward to reaching the milestone of senior year. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the senior year that we have been waiting to experience has been disrupted. Since March 13, 2020, school has completely changed. We even had to complete the last school year online! For this school year, all students were given the option to continue learning at home or to go back to school in person. We are a part of the few who chose online school, and we can tell you that being online is certainly different but also has its advantages.

Every morning, our classmates have to line up outside of school to be screened. Meanwhile, we are getting some extra sleep, only to wake up five minutes before our first class starts. This will be especially nice as the weather turns colder, and everyone must stand outside in the snow while we are in our warm beds. Since the beginning of the school year doesn't have such a heavy workload, we were able to get used to the schoolwork and being online at the same time. This is different from last year when the school suddenly shut down in the middle of a very busy time filled with tests and assignments, so we were forced to navigate online school and to somehow complete our mountains of schoolwork.

On the other hand, we are sad that we don't get to experience a normal school year. It can be hard to focus during some online classes, especially when there are technological issues. It definitely helps that there are real classes going on instead of everyone being online because it is more interactive. This makes it a bit easier to focus because instead of listening to a teacher talking for fifty-two minutes straight, there are students sitting in class, ready to chime in and carry the conversation in different directions.

One of the biggest disadvantages to online school is that some teachers insist that we leave our cameras on for the entire class to see. While we are flattered that they care so much about seeing us, it is very awkward when they project our faces on the smartboard for the entire class to see.

While our senior year is not at all what we thought it would be like, we plan on making the most of it. We hope that in the future, we can look back on these months and think of all the happy memories that came out of this pandemic.

## How It Feels to Be a Freshie

LIR SARAH YISSAR

Being a freshie feels like many things,  
Easy, scary or stressful are some emotions it brings.

It may be an easy transition for some,  
But for others, leaving middle school leaves them numb.

Being stressed out is a part of high school,  
That's the one part that is so cruel.

There are other feelings too,  
Excitement, love and sometimes feeling blue.

Everyone's excited and hoping for so much,  
We think we've come prepared for the BAS touch.

We had a great year where we got to feel so grownup,  
But now we are the ones keeping our heads up.

Now we have a chance to make new memories,  
And get used to being called the *Freshies*.

It's hard now since everything is still so new,  
But most people would say we'll make it through.

On the bright side I have fun stories to share,  
Getting lost in the hallway is one of many; I swear.

Stressful, easy or scary,  
But no matter what, it *will* be merry.

# Quarantine Tales

*On the first Thursday of quarantine, after the end of a nice online class, I was hungry. Really hungry. Seeing that we had very little food prepared and I did not want to spend hours cooking just for a quick snack, I decided to prepare Frank n' Beans. Little did I know that this would be a grave mistake. I found leftover hotdogs in the fridge and grabbed a bag of red kidney beans from the pantry. Since all of my experience with bean dishes was cooked using canned beans I had to find a way to prepare these raw legumes. I decided to boil them. After some impatience, I took out the beans from the hot water and added them to the sauce with the hot dogs, thinking that the heated mix of tomato sauce, spices, and mustard would finish cooking these hard kidney beans. I was wrong, but ate through them anyway because it would be a waste of food to throw them away. Then came the pain and confusion. I had an uncomfortable headache and a very agitated stomach. I pulled out my phone, did a quick Google search, and found some shocking news; Beans are poisonous. At least raw beans are poisonous due to a protein they contain called Lectin. And apparently, rushing the cooking process or eating semi-raw beans can still be mildly dangerous. Logically, I was nervous for the next few hours, thinking that the end was near. And because I ate beans of all things! Luckily, this story ends with me being safe and learning from my questionable cooking skills. That is how I got poisoned by beans (and lived).*

—Anonymous Chef

*It was a cold Monday morning on March 23rd, I had fallen asleep by the news the night before and I was hearing non-stop talk about getting exercise, moving around, staying fit, all statements I never recognized til that day. It was in my head for months,*



*“Lir, go out, do some sit ups,” but no matter how much I tried to push myself, working out was just not in my vocabulary. I don’t know how it happened. How was my body able to defy its normal routine after thirteen years of life? I was working in my basement and it’s always so much colder down there. I had two choices; either go all the way upstairs to get a sweater, or get myself naturally heated up. I could feel an angel telling me on one shoulder, “Do some Chloe Ting workouts, join the Tik Tok trend. Be healthy.” On the other hand, the devil was so convincing too, “Why give into peer pressure? Just go up the stairs. Working out won’t keep you warm*

*for long anyway.” It was in my hands, what choice would I make? It may seem shocking but I, Lir Sarah Yissar, decided to workout. Turning on the TV, getting the workout video set up, drinking water to stay hydrated. I would never be able to comprehend how much my life changed from those decisions. After that one workout, I started meal prepping, eating healthy, working out every morning. This one event during quarantine changed my life forever.*

—Lir Sarah Yissar

*I gave my friend a haircut at the end of May because hair salons and*

*barbershops were closed. It was my first time cutting hair and I had no idea what I was doing. It was an absolutely awful haircut but it worked. We now have a ritual where I cut their hair every month and I’ve been getting better! 4 months and counting!!*

—Anonymous Teacher

*My little one Shirli yelling out the window to whoever was walking by and telling them they can’t come in because it’s Corona!*

—Morah Efrat



## My COVID Experience

**BINYAMIN MAZIN**

The COVID-19 pandemic has turned my life upside down and made me see the world through lenses I never thought I would look through. I found connecting with family and friends to be tough as a lens is no substitute for being together. Making small talk is possible through a device but making a real connection to loved ones or friends was increasingly difficult. Online school became very hard as coordinating with teachers was challenging. Surprisingly, it was not until the spring that COVID-19 gave me stress because then the uncertainty of my future began to set in. Suddenly, this wasn’t just a few bad months; it was a new reality. As fall began, things started to worsen, and cases went up. I realized the comfort I had felt from our low summer numbers was gone, and we were back to uncertain times.

Yet Coronavirus has also helped to foster a stronger global unity and has made us all feel closer; we are looking at the world through a new lens and see that we must unite to get through this. Tragedy brings people together, and this has caused people to do acts of kindness. For instance, one man raised money to build handwashing stations for the homeless. Or how a medical student wrote a book to help kids feel at ease during the pandemic. And Canada has pledged to donate some of their COVID-19 vaccine to less fortunate countries. These acts symbolize hope and take away some of the stress COVID-19 has inflicted on me by showing me that we are in this together. We will get through the pandemic if everyone continues to look at the world through a lens of kindness and safety.



## Israel's Pandemic Narrative: A Cautionary Tale as we Reopen Schools

JOSEPH NEWMAN

In the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, the world hailed Israel's success in fighting the Coronavirus as a miracle. Deep Knowledge Group, a reputable Hong Kong-based think tank, ranked the Jewish state's response to the pandemic as the world's most effective, and countries around the world rushed to emulate its disease-control policies. At that time, it seemed highly likely that the country would be the world's first to experience a full return to normalcy.

But with the country now seeing upwards of eight thou-

*Israel, months ago having stood on the cusp of eradicating COVID-19 within its borders, now teeters on the brink of disaster.*

sand new infections daily, and its hospitals overwhelmed, it is clear that something has gone wrong. Israel, months ago having stood on the cusp of eradicating COVID-19 within its borders, now teeters on the brink of disaster.

As our schools reopen after months of closures, Israel's heartbreaking pandemic narrative should serve as a cautionary tale to all of us.

Containing the spread of

disease is fiendishly difficult. Community transmission is often impossible to track, and lengthy incubation periods mean that anyone could unknowingly become a vector of disease at any time. As outbreaks are suppressed, more will inevitably crop up.

The coronavirus is no humanitarian – its sole goal is to reproduce, and it will do so by whatever means possible. No one is immune from this

insidious virus; it has no regard for our teenage sense of invincibility, and prayers alone will not convince it to avoid us.

In fighting the spread of a deadly pathogen, we cannot allow ourselves slack, as appealing as it may seem to play football or enjoy an epic flash tisch with friends. Israel failed to recognize this, and now finds itself in a crisis the likes of which it has not seen since the Yom Kippur War of 1973.

Our efforts will see no success unless we all take unified action against this disease; a chain, after all, is only as strong as its weakest link.

In these times of crisis and contagion, we are truly playing with fire, and a single mistake on our part could have devastating consequences for our school and community.

The crisis at hand is undeniably grave, and our battle against COVID-19 is far from over. The road ahead may well be bumpy. But our school community is a special one, and with vigilance and perseverance, we can and will defeat this virus.

## Abraham Accords

Yael Gryn

On September 15, 2020, the leaders of the U.S.A., the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Israel signed a peace agreement called The Abraham Accords, altering the face of the Middle East forever.

The Abraham Accords, named after the common ancestor of both Islam and Judaism, are a normalization of ties. This means that Israel, Bahrain, and the U.A.E. will not only maintain peace, but also interact in a wide range of

economic, political, and even social spheres. The text of the treaty specifically mentions collaboration in financial investment, open tourism, scientific innovation, environmental preservation, telecommunications, healthcare and medicine advancement, agricultural development, sustainable water use, and energy use. Visas will be made available to travel between these countries, and Consulates will open to further diplomatic interaction. Israel's watercraft will be given access to the other countries' ports for cargo and transportation purposes, and vice versa. Additionally, these countries' cargo and passenger planes will be

allowed into each other's airspace and can even fly directly from one country to another. The treaty also specifies that disputes between these countries will be settled by peaceful negotiation.

By opening so many channels for cooperation and peaceful interaction between these Middle Eastern countries, The Abraham Accords are a huge step toward normalizing peace in the area. Since Israel was founded, many Arab countries have turned down Israeli offers because of the ongoing conflict with the Palestinians. Israel has proposed multiple peace deals offering to give up Israeli land in exchange for peaceful rela-

tions. However, the success of The Abraham Accords proves that Israel does not have to trade its land for peace, and that the issue of Palestine does not have to be a barrier for normalizing relations in the Middle East in general.

The citizens of Israel, the U.A.E., and Bahrain feel the effects of peaceful ties, with options being open to citizens like joint university programs, direct flights, and tourism between countries. For example, as reported by CityNews Toronto on October 5, 2020, during the Jewish holiday of Sukkot a traditional Jewish sukkah was erected in the middle of Dubai. It belonged

to the first kosher restaurant in the U.A.E., recently opened thanks to the normalization of ties between the Jewish state of Israel and the United Arab Emirates.

As a condition of the deal, Israel will suspend its annexation of the West Bank, meaning that Israel will not declare sovereignty over that land for the foreseeable future. However, many believe this is a small price to pay for a monumental treaty of normalized relations that completely redefines the way these countries interact and is an enormous leap toward the ultimate goal of peace in the Middle East.

# Kohelet, "A Time for Everything"

RACHEL GOLDSTEIN

Sukkot is a time of pleasure and contentment. We see this theme reappear various times throughout the Tanach, whether speaking about laws pertaining to the Chag, or simply speaking about the essence of the Chag. For example, in Devarim chapter 16 verse 14, it states:

”וְשִׂמְחַת בַּחֲגֵךְ אֶתָּה וּבִנְךָ וּבִתְךָ וְעַבְדְּךָ וְאִמְתְּךָ וְהַלֵּל וְהַגֵּד וְהִיָּתוֹם וְהָאֵלְמָנָה אֲשֶׁר בְּשַׁעְרֶיךָ: שִׁבְעַת יָמִים תַּחֲגֵל לָהּ אֶלְקִיךָ בַּמָּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר יִבְחַר ה' כִּי יְבָרְכֶךָ ה' אֶלְקִיךָ בְּכָל תְּבוּאֹתֶיךָ וּבְכָל מַעֲשֵׂה יָדְיךָ וְהִיָּת אַךְ שִׂמְחָה:”

“You shall rejoice in your holiday: you, your son, your daughter, your servant, your maidservant, the Levi, the stranger, the orphan, and the widow in your communities. For seven days you will celebrate for Hashem in the place that Hashem will choose, because Hashem will bless all your crops and your undertakings. You will have nothing but joy”.

We commemorate that Bnei Yisrael lived in Sukkot, meaning huts, when we were taken out of Mitzrayim and were travelling in the Midbar. Therefore, we live and eat outside in huts for eight days (seven in Israel), and perform this commandment with happiness. Additionally, we shake the Lulav each and every day of Sukkot, with happiness. Almost everything we do on the holiday of Sukkot is related to this theme of happiness or cheerfulness, but what about the megillah that is read on the Shabbat of Sukkot? Why does the megillah seem to be displaying the opposite message of “don't worry, be happy”?

Kohelet, as written by Shlomo HaMelech, is the section in Ketuvim that is read during Sukkot. Kohelet starts off by teaching us that “הַבָּל הַבָּלִים הַכֵּל הַכֵּל”, “futility of futilities!



All is futile”. This means that nothing in the world is of substance. The book then continues along this path of depression and despair, “מִה-יִתְרוֹן לְאָדָם”, “בְּכָל-עֲמָלוֹ שִׁיעֲמַל תַּחַת הַשָּׁמֶשׁ”, “what value is there for a man for all that he gains under the sun”?

According to Kohelet, there is a set season and time for everything under the heaven, “לְכָל זְמַן וָעֵת”, “לְכָל-חֶפְצַּךְ תַּחַת הַשָּׁמַיִם”. Some of the examples he raises for this are: “a time to love, a time to hate, a time for war, and a time for peace”. Even more so why, if there is a time for everything, once again, do we read Kohelet on Sukkot?

The second-last Pasuk of Kohelet is as follows: “סוּף דְבַר הַכֵּל נִשְׁמַע אֶת-הָאֱלֹקִים יִרָא וְאֵת-מִצְוֹתָיו שְׂמֹר כִּי-יָהֵא אֶת-כָּל-הָאָדָם”.

“In the end, when everything has been considered; fear G-d and keep His commandments, because that is a man's duty”.

Kohelet is trying to explain that the only way one may find true happiness in life, is by fearing Hashem and fulfilling mitzvot. Life is meaning-

less without recognizing that there is G-d who controls everything.

During Sukkot, we are given seven days to fulfill mitzvot that are not required at any other time of the year. So too, we should be thankful and appreciative to Hashem for allowing us to do so. One way to understand as to why we read Kohelet on Sukkot, is that while we are celebrating a joyous holiday, we must also focus on what is truly important, which is our connection with Hashem. The essence of Sukkot is to be happy, and Kohelet is teaching us that the only way to attain happiness is by serving Hashem. Life has no meaning if one does not recognize that there is a G-d controlling everything.

In these uncertain times, it is sometimes difficult to celebrate a holiday whose main focus is on happiness. It is even more important to revisit our values and remember how they are relevant in our times as they were in the past. Like the main message of Sukkot as portrayed by Kohelet, let us all attempt to strengthen our relationships with Hashem this upcoming year.

## חסדי כדורי

אלי יסר

הנושא שעלה במחשבה של כולנו בחודשים האחרונים הוא הקורונה. נכון לעכשיו, אני בטוחה שלרבים מאיתנו נמאס לשמוע על זה, אך אני מאמינה שהקורונה נותרה כל כך הרבה זמן בחיינו כדי ללמד אותנו משהו. אולי, ללמד אותנו על ערבות קהילתית, ועזרה לזולתנו. אני בת מזל שהכרתי אישה כזו, שכל כולה נתינה. קוראים לה נעמי טבקה וזה המסר שלה: “השבוע אנחנו מתחילים את ספר בראשית=התחלה. לכולנו ניתנת הזדמנות להתחיל התחלה חדשה וטובה יותר בכל המישורים ובעיקר בגמילות חסדים. התורה מתחילה בגמילות חסדים, בפרשת בראשית ה' עשה עם אדם וחווה חסד בכך שנתן להם בגדי עור, ומסתיימת בגמילות חסדים שה' עשה עם משה שקבר אותו בעצמו.

פירוש גמילות חסדים היא לעזור לאדם שזקוק לעזרה כלשהי, וה' משמש לנו דוגמה לכך, ה' נתן בגדים למי שאין, לאדם וחווה. עצם העובדה שה' התחיל את התורה עם "גמילות חסדים" מראה לנו עד כמה הדבר חשוב בעיני הקדוש ברוך הוא. אנחנו חייבים לעזור לאחרים שאינם יכולים לעזור לעצמם.

החפץ חיים מציין שלמרות שה' דאג למקם את גמילות החסדים בתחילת התורה ובסופה, ניתן לראות שלאורך כל התורה מוצאים גמילות חסדים. רבי סימאלי כתב שבכל התורה יש גמילות חסדים, ולכאורה התורה עצמה היא חסד שה' עשה עמנו ונתן לנו את התורה שהיא הדרכה לחיים טובים. האירגון "חסדי כדורי" נוסד בשנת 2013. אירגון זה



מבוסס על 100% מתנדבים ועל תמיכה של הקהילה. האירגון מספק מוצרי מזון למשפחות נזקקות בטור-רונטו והסביבה.

סלי המזון כוללים מוצרים טריים כגון פירות וירקות ומוצרים יבשים כגון אורז ומוצריי היגיינה.

סלי המזון מגיעים לבתי הנזקקים באמצעות המתנדבים המסורים של האירגון.

האירגון ממשיך את פעילותו גם בתקופת הקורונה תוך כדי שמירה על כללי הבטיחות והבריאות של המתנדבים.

לפני תקופת הקורונה כל המחלקות תופעלו באותו זמן, כיום אנחנו עובדים במשמרות. למשל: משמרת א'- אורזת את המאפים, משמרת ב' ממיינת וכו'.

אנחנו רואים עלייה משמעותית בכמות הנזקקים מאז שהוירוס התפרץ.

ובעקבות כך חסדי כדורי נערך לקלוט את המשפחות. באמצעות הסיוע של הקהילה המדהימה שלנו אנחנו עומדים במשימה, אם כי המספרים ממשיכים לעלות.

בהזדמנות זו ברצוני להודות לבתי הספר ומשפחות רבות שנרתמו ולקחו על עצמם פרויקטים על מנת לאסוף מוצרי מזון שחסרים לנו וכמו כן מוצרי היגיינה ומוצרי נקיון.

כולי תקווה שנחזור במהרה לשגרה ונוכל להמשיך לערוך פעילויות וסיוורים במחסן של חסדי כדורי, על מנת להכיר את הארגון מקרוב.

לידיעתכם, ניתן לקבל שעות התנדבות גם על יוזמות שונות, הן בבתי הספר והן פרטיות. לפרטים נוספים נא צרו קשר דרך האתר: [www.chasdeikaduri.org](http://www.chasdeikaduri.org). שנה טובה, שנה של בריאות איתנה ושגשוג בכל המישורים.

## Bubble Trouble

AHARON TORCZYNER

The Toronto Maple Leafs only survived for two weeks in the 2020 Stanley Cup Playoffs. They left the ice with a few themes. Captain John Tavares and William Nylander agreed that they had the advantage of a younger team. Auston Matthews added that: "A lot of it is a mindset. We have to figure out [the] playoffs, and how to get out of the first round." While they all are correct, not everything about the loss was their fault. The worldwide pandemic took a lot of it out of their control, as we can see through "The Bubble".

The Bubble was the quarantine of everybody involved in the NHL playoff run. Two cities were chosen to host the games (Edmonton and Toronto) - that was where the players stayed until their team was eliminated and they dropped out of the competition. Sportsnet analyst, Steve Dangle addressed life there: "They [the players] praised the bubble, it worked very well, it served its purpose, but that didn't make it EASY."

Why wasn't it easy?

1. No Travel: We all know how it can be hard to come to school nearly every day for months. Still, what we've learned from online school is that staying at home can be even more difficult. It's harder to hang out with friends, harder when you have

no change of scenery because you're barely outside your house. So too, a playoff series with no travel will hurt the teams' performances.

2. No Fans: Some people question how important fans are to a game. After all, the players can't hear individual fans. However, players have talked about buildings being loud and how they either rode or attempted to block out the energy. For example, according to ESPN, Milan Lucic of the Boston Bruins said before Game three in Toronto in 2013: "...to silence a crowd is a different feeling, it's cool," Lucic said. "It's tough to explain, it's almost an accomplishment. You have to do your best to feed off an opposing crowd and kind of get yourself going as you would off your home crowd." Or, according to Tyler Seguin when speaking about playing in the Air Canada Centre: "It'll be loud." So, you see, crowds can have an impact even if the fans in attendance aren't the ones playing the game. That is something the NHL couldn't fit into the bubble and it might have put the teams in a disadvantage.

3. Strict Restrictions: One flaw of the NHL's return to play is that people tried to point out about how this year's playoffs were going to be easier than past years' and that there should be an asterisk next to this

year. A ton of people came out when this opinion was formed, explaining multiple reasons why it was false. One of them was because of the grind of everyday bubble life. In fact, when bubble life became the plan, the NHL released a huge statement with a list of restrictions including how many people could be in the bubble, how to interact with teammates, trainers, bar-tenders, limits on number of people in elevators at once, and so on. These restrictions distracted players, and really took a toll on them. I'm not saying that these restrictions weren't necessary or that they didn't contribute to nine weeks of zero positive tests, but it can't be denied that the restrictions didn't have an impact on the players.

In order to come back to play the postseason, the NHL knew that it was going to be tough. The players also knew that they would have to go through mental obstacles, for example staying put in the bubble, having no fans at the games, and sticking to strict restrictions. And even though it might seem that for some teams it wasn't worth coming, we can see that getting kicked out early wasn't entirely their fault.

So before you go ahead and criticize the Leafs' terrible defense, think about these reasons and consider: What could you have done differently in this situation?

## Stay Away From Pigeons

ORA LACOB

One of my favourite words of the English lexicon is *bourgeoisie*. Actually, scratch that, it's a French word. But the English like to colonize and our language is no exception. You're probably thinking, what does "bourgeoisie" even mean? It sounds like some fancy pastry or bakery. If you thought it meant bakery, you would be incorrect! The French word for bakery is *boulangerie*, which, when said in a French accent sounds quite similar to *bourgeoisie*. *Bourgeoisie*, pronounced "buj-wa-zee", means the "middle class". I could elaborate but I don't don't want to... mostly because I don't fully understand it myself. Apparently in America, the *bourgeoisie* refers to the rich people at the top.

Why is all of this relevant? Because BIRDS. Yes, like pigeons. Essentially, if you ever see a pigeon, you haven't. That's not a pigeon, that's just what the *bourgeoisie* want you to think. They have implanted chips into these robot pigeons to watch us and spy on us. I cannot for the life of me understand why the richest percentage of America wants to be watching me. Imagine being so filthy rich you can implant chips into an entire bird species, but you use it to watch a bunch of poor people struggle so you can laugh and pity them. Pity is always appreciated with donations.

Now, you're probably scared. As you should be. But don't worry, the *bourgeoisie* don't want your bank information or money - they don't need it. What they want is *you*. Next time you see a pigeon, refrain from making eye contact. Pigeons like staring contests, so don't engage because they can sense fear through their lifeless eyes.

I personally would recommend avoiding all pigeons, but if you happen to come in contact with one, you can be sure they are working for the *bourgeoisie*. A con artist won't give up until the last moment when they know it's surrender or die. A *bourgeoisie* pigeon is no different. You can run up to it, screech like a banshee, howl, etc., and that silly bird will stay put. But when you come close to being about to catch it, it knows you're onto it. Only then will it fly away. Those are the ones, you can always spot them.

Don't worry, not all birds are evil. Pigeons may look unintelligent but that's exactly what the *bourgeoisie* wants you to think. If they chose eagles to be their main surveillance bird, everybody would know. But a pigeon, nobody suspects a pigeon. People like to feed pigeons in the park, but that's where they get you. You might think you are giving the pigeons bread crumbs, but in reality, all you are giving them is the DNA from the bread crumb which you threw, they "digest" it into their computerized system and return it to the *bourgeoisie* for their DNA collection and for their bread crumb collection. This also helps them save money since they don't have to buy bread crumbs to coat their chicken. Oh, and yes, chickens as far as we know are safe. The *bourgeoisie* has not yet corrupted them. And seagulls act like they are in the *bourgeoisie* but they are in fact just plain stupid. The point is, always be on the lookout.

## The Future of Education Lies in Distance Learning

JOSEPH NEWMAN

Pandemics are perhaps the greatest catalyst for social change. For millennia, outbreaks of disease have toppled mighty empires, inspired revolutions, and changed the course of wars. Invariably, they expose flaws in the societies they strike, engendering profound change. Though the present pandemic will one day come to an end, our experiences throughout this crisis will dramatically reshape the world. Our society, contrary to the promises of our political leaders, will never return to its pre-pandemic normal.

But parting with the past is nothing to fear. Throughout history, crises have driven societies to reshape themselves for the better. In the aftermath of the Black Death, which resulted in the death of nearly half the population of 14th Century Europe, worker wages and living conditions improved dramatically. John Snow's observations during a devastating 19th Century outbreak of Cholera in England led to the development of modern epidemiological theory, giving the world knowledge on how to respond to public health emergencies. The chaos and lack of unified public

health leadership during the 1918 Flu Pandemic drove countries across the world to form governmental health agencies tasked with preventing and responding to future outbreaks of disease. The ongoing AIDS pandemic, which has claimed nearly 33 million lives since its outbreak in 1981, has prompted global conversations about the connection between poverty and illness and has led to an increase in concern for LGBTQ rights.

As the world recovers from this pandemic, we will examine our pre-pandemic society with a critical eye, and rebuild based on what we have learned from this crisis.

Our education system has long been plagued by inequities. Of these problems, chronic student absenteeism is among the most widespread and severe. According to Attendance Works, a US initiative working to reduce student absenteeism at schools, 1 in 7 American elementary and high school students miss nearly a month of school every year, due in many cases to health issues that render students unable to attend school in person. Studies indicate that attendance issues, particularly for high school students, can have damaging cumulative educational effects, and

in some cases affect the trajectory of a child's life.

For far too long, we have forced students to choose between their health and receiving an education, leaving the parents of immunocompromised or sick children in an impossible, heart-wrenching situation.

The availability of an online experience parallel to in-school learning, necessitated by the current public health crisis, has had many unintended but welcome consequences. Following the introduction of an online learning program in the Australian states of Queensland and Victoria, rates of student absenteeism fell by over fifty percent from the previous year. Similar trends have been observed around the world. Many school systems, now equipped with the infrastructure necessary to offer online school as an alternative arrangement for students who need it, are beginning to recognize its far-reaching educational and social potential.

With our crisis-stricken world now a pilot project of massive scale, we have unwittingly started an educational revolution. The world will eventually return to relative normalcy, but with schools continuing to provide students with the option of distance learning, our post-pandemic education system will allow all students to succeed.

**The R + R Corner** Mikayla Daniel

**Book Name:** *Spin the Dawn*  
**Author:** Elizabeth Lim  
**Rating:** 10/10  
**Genre:** Fantasy



**Favourite quote:** "But hope was a valuable weapon, and we were sharpening its every edge."

**If you like this, I recommend:** *The Throne of Glass* series by Sarah J Maas, *The Guinevere Deception* by Kirsten White, and the *Folk of Air* series by Holly Black.

**Summary:** Maia Tamarin is a talented teenage tailor, but she lives in a time where girls are housewives, not tailors. Her father, a renowned dressmaker/tailor, is summoned by the royal messenger to compete in trials to become the Imperial Tailor (the Imperial Majesty's personal clothier). What they don't know is that he is a man whose talent and will-to-live escaped him after Maia's mother died. Ultimately, Maia pulls a "Mulan" and goes to the trials undercover dressed as her brother, and all kinds of chaos occur - but are you really surprised? Backstabbing, sabotage and, surprise, attempted murder- but she stumbles upon and befriends a Lord Enchanter (that's a long story: but Maia is also kinda magical) who sees right through her - and her disguise.

*Disclaimer: Books mentioned and recommended reflect the individual taste of the reviewer and are not officially endorsed by the school.*

**Book Name:** *They Went Left*  
**Author:** Monica Hesse  
**Rating:** 8/10  
**Genre:** Historical Fiction



**Favourite quote:** "Abek to Zofia, A to Z. When I find you again, we will fill our alphabet."

**If you like this, I recommend:** *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak, *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* by John Boyne, and *Girl in the Blue Coat* by Monica Hesse.

**Summary:** Set in Germany, 1945, teenager Zofia Lederman has just been released from the hospital after being liberated from the Gross-Rosen concentration camp. Zofia and her brother Abek are the last remaining pieces of the Lederman family, but there is one problem- she doesn't know where Abek is. While her mind plays tricks on her, Zofia goes on a journey throughout Europe, searching high and low to find him. As she looks, her hope never wavers. On her journey, Zofia finds a group who are in the same situation as her. While at a Displaced Person camp, Zofia uncovers a possible future waiting there for her.

**Book Name:** *Sorcery of Thorns*  
**Author:** Margaret Rogerson  
**Rating:** 8.5/10  
**Genre:** Fantasy



**Favourite quote:** "Are all librarians like you, or is it only the feral ones who have been raised by booklice?"

**If you like this, I recommend:** *The Aurora Cycle* series by Amie Kaufman, and *The Merciful Crow* series by Margaret Owen.

**Summary:** I used to wish books could talk. But now... this book made me rethink that. Elisabeth Scrivener was dumped as a baby onto the stairs of the Great Library of Summershall, which is filled with grimoires (magical textbooks) that range from mild to murderous, throw-you-off-a-cliff behaviour, and that's not even the worst of it. Elisabeth, having grown up in the Great Library, is more than comfortable with the mostly- well, completely- nefarious grimoires and has a connection to them on two different levels. Falsely accused of murder, she goes on a journey with a kind sorcerer, Nathaniel, and almost kills him at their introduction (clumsy as she is) but they become close, and set out together to save the world before it's destroyed by a grimoire-hating saboteur.

**Riddles**

ALEEZA DEUTSCH

I have cities but no houses, mountains but no trees, and water but no fish. What am I? *A Map.*

What disappears when you say its name? *Silence.*

What can't talk but can answer

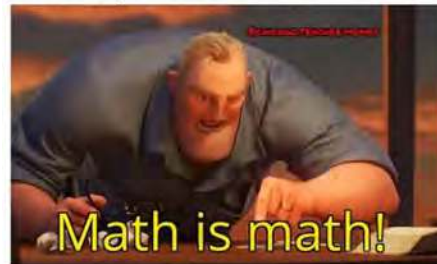
when spoken to? *An echo.*

A girl has as many brothers as sisters, but each brother has only half as many brothers as sisters.

How many brothers and sisters are there in the family? *4 sisters,*

*3 brothers*

When the coronavirus has parents teaching math and their child says "That's not how my teacher shows us."



changing the date on ur paper to a few days earlier so the teacher doesnt see that u did it last minute



Teacher: The test isn't that confusing

The test:



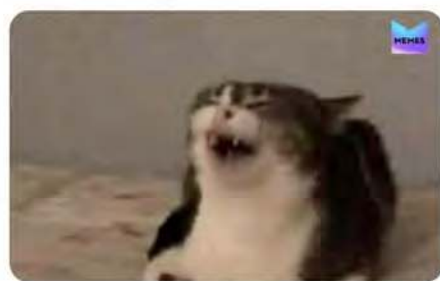
- Option A: 567.89
- Option B: 455.78
- Option C: 0.3467
- Option D: 0.7743

My calculator: 125,990

Me:



When you try to hold in a cough so people don't think you have the Coronavirus



Zoom meeting, audio only

Zoom meeting with video



**High School wordsearch**

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

**The BASH**  
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freshstart	drama	english	maths
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languages	classrooms	art	food
pens	pencil	ruler	rubber