

VANCOUVER HEBREW ACADEMY
החברה הוונקוברית

June 16, 2017 22 Sivan 5777

Shabbat Parshat: Sh'lach

Candle Lighting: 9:02pm

Volume 18, Issue 36

IN GOOD COMPANY

This week we read the story of the Meraglim. These twelve men were selected to spy-out the land of Israel and report back to Moshe on the best approach to conquer the land. Unfortunately, their return with a negative report caused a national hysteria, and this lack of faith in Hashem resulted in a forty-year delay in our entrance and inheritance of our homeland.

Before the departure of the spies, Moshe summons his trusted disciple and changes his name to Yehoshua by adding the letter 'yud' to his name. This extra letter represents a higher level of spirituality and would serve to give him the strength of character to withstand the evil influence of the other spies. Later we are told that Kalev detoured to Chevron so that he could pray on his own behalf at the graves of his ancestors. Ultimately, Kalev and Yehoshua were the only two men in this group who returned with a truthful, positive report about the land.

Rabbi Yechezkel Levenstein wonders why it was necessary for these extreme measures. Would it have been so difficult for these two great Tzaddikim to find the truth without the assistance of prayers or segulot? Rabbi Levenstein explains that the Torah is teaching us a valuable lesson about the incredible powers of peer pressure. The wrong environment or influence can lead even the greatest individual along the wrong path, particularly in the area of spirituality.

Fortunately, the same rule applies for the good. With the proper role models we can benefit immensely from their wisdom, example and company.

Shabbat Shalom,

Rabbi Don Pacht
Head of School

MAZAL TOV

Mazal Tov to **Dr. Marvin and Mrs. Ruth Huberman** on the birth of their grandson **Ari Zev**, born to **Baruch and Jordana Huberman**. Mazal Tov as well to the **Bitton Family** and the entire extended family.

ADVANCED NOTICE

Our last day of school is next Friday, June 23. Please note that it is **2:00pm dismissal**.

RUNNING CLUB

Today we ran 96 laps, which is a total of **32 kilometres**. See you again next Friday at 8:00am sharp for our last run of the year! We look forward to seeing you!

LOST & FOUND

The Lost & Found is overflowing. Please look for your children's jackets, sweatshirts, and water bottles as soon as possible. All items will be on display next Friday in the undercover area at dismissal time. **Any items not claimed will be donated to charity.**

THANK YOU

Thank you to **Shoshona Freedman, Chaya Rosenfeld, Shainy Wineberg, Henia Wineberg, Shirah Malka Zhornitsky, Shira Radomsky and Rabbi Yeshurun Blumenfeld** for driving and supervising preschool students on their field trip to Maplewood Farm. Thanks as well to **Miss Dana, Morah Tova and Morah Gabrielle** for planning and organizing this field trip.

Thank you to **Cirelle Rosenblatt, Ms. Genna Cohen and Rabbi Tzvi Goldman** for organizing and supervising the Grade 7 Graduation trips to Whistler this week. Thanks as well to the parents of these students for assisting with preparation for these trips.

Thank you to the **Student Council and Ms. Genna Cohen** for organizing a wonderful Talent Show this week. Thank you to all the students who participated.

GRADE 7 GRADUATION & PANORAMA PHOTO

Order your grad or panorama photo(s) online at: www.lifetouchevents.com. Use this password: vha2017. Photo(s) will be mailed directly to your home. Please note: There will be a \$7.00 shipping and handling fee applied to each order.

DISMISSAL FOR KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 7

Please be reminded that dismissal is at **4:00pm every day**. It is your responsibility to ensure you are on time to pick up your children.

SAFeway CARDS

Going to Safeway for your grocery shopping? Don't forget to pick up gift cards at the VHA office. Get your shopping done and help support YOUR PAC!

NACHAS NOTES

Do you have a Nachas story you would like to share? Please email us at vha@vhebrewacademy.com

ORDERING SCHOOL UNIFORMS

Just a reminder for parents to please have your orders for school uniforms to Cambridge Uniforms by early July. This will ensure that your child will have their uniforms ready to wear when school begins on September 5th. Contact Cambridge at [604-924-9069](tel:604-924-9069) for more information. ***Please see the attached letter for more information.***

ROYAL BC MUSEUM COUPON

The Royal BC Museum in Victoria would like to provide one free admission to the museum for children in grades K-7. One adult paid admission is necessary to use these coupons until September 4, 2017. Please print out coupons (see digital newsletter) for children if you would like to take advantage of this opportunity during the summer. A limited number of printed coupons are available in the school office.

2017-2018 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Thank you to Esti Loeub for creating a Google Calendar that includes all of the important dates. To download the .ics file (needed to import it into your Google Calendar) please view our digital newsletter. To view the calendar please go to our website: <http://vhebrewacademy.com/calendar.php>.

VHA PAC VOLUNTEER HOURS

Our family participation/school service program requires each family to contribute 18 hours of time assisting in various school programs throughout the year.

Please submit your PAC hours as soon as possible to vha.pta@gmail.com with HOURS written in the subject line. Many of you have done hours and unless you let us know, we will not be able to credit you for them. **If we don't hear back from you, your school service cheque will be cashed the last week in June.**

Thank you for all your efforts on behalf of our children.

THE TZEDAKAH PROJECT

Dear VHA Parents,

Our friends at [The Tzedakah Project](#) are inspiring members of our community to connect with the importance of giving Tzedakah. They are currently offering a one-one match for any donations made to VHA through [The Tzedakah Project](#). Every dollar we receive means so much to us, so please consider taking advantage of this match and please share this <https://chimp.net/groups/vancouver-hebrew-academy-vha> with your family and friends! To find out more please visit [The Tzedakah Project](#) where you can claim a free \$18 charity gift, easily find and give to any Jewish charity in Vancouver and have your donations matched. Giving Together Is Better!

Please mark your calendar

June 2017

- 19 Grade 7 Graduation, 5:30pm at Beth Hamidrash
- 20 Preschool Graduation, 11:00am
- 20 Carnival at VHA
- 23 Non-Uniform Day
- 23 Last Day of School (Preschool-Gr.7) (2:00pm dismissal)
- 23 Parents Pick-up Report Cards at 2:00pm in the gym
- 26 Administration Day (no classes)

Community Announcements

1. **Summer Spunk** – an active and exciting week-long experience. Jun 26-30, 9:30am-2:30pm at the Kamin home: 1068 West 41st Avenue. For ages 3-12 – groups will be divided according to age. \$25/day or \$100/week. Contact Henna Chaya at henchy123@gmail.com.