

VANCOUVER HEBREW ACADEMY

והחיה שבת והחיה

October 12, 2018 3rd of Cheshvan 5778

Shabbat Parshat: Noach

Candle Lighting Friday: 6:08pm

Volume 20, Issue 5

FIRST THINGS FIRST

The Torah describes Noach with three words; "איש-צדיק-תמים", (a righteous and wholehearted man).

At first glance the word "איש" (Man) might seem superfluous. Surely we would be able to gather such information from the context of the following verses.

Rabbi Moshe Feinstein suggests that the Torah is alluding to a fundamental principle.

Before one can be a Tzaddik, before one can reach great spiritual heights or amass a wealth of Torah knowledge, one must first and foremost be a Mentch. Sterling moral character, social and emotional sensitivities and a great deal of common sense all serve as the foundation. First be a Mentch, concludes Rabbi Feinstein, only then can we consider other titles.

This message is most appropriate when viewed through the perspective of VHA's ongoing Middod education program. Following the guidance of our sages, we constantly remind the students that "Derech Eretz Kadma LaTorah", proper behaviour must precede Torah study.

This year, our Middot Program will center on our own Guiding Principles (please see them listed below). These 4 themes focus all of our efforts and inform our every decision at VHA. It is our goal to impart these concepts to our students, to help them in their own decision-making process.

It is our hope that each child in our care will internalize these messages and grow to be a true Mentch.

Shabbat Shalom,

Rabbi Don Pacht

Head of School

EARLY YEARS OPEN HOUSE

Our annual Open House is right around the corner. If you know of families interested in VHA, please pass along the invitation to attend.

RUNNING CLUB

Today was our first run of the season, we had a fantastic turnout and we ran a total distance of 40km!!!!

PRO-D DAY OCT 19TH

Please note that there will be NO CLASSES on October 19th, 2018 as our teachers participate in the Province wide Professional Development Day.

PARNES HAYOM

Friday's Torah study was sponsored in perpetuity, in loving memory of Joseph Youngson, z"l by his dear children, **Mr. David Youngson and Mrs. Loretta Kaufman** upon the occasion of his Yartzeit.

FAMILY FEEDBACK FOURM

Dear VHA Parents,

In an effort to maintain open lines of communication between home and school, VHA will be hosting a series of Focus Groups beginning in November. The purpose of these gatherings is to foster open dialogue, on issues of importance to our families with the goal of sharing perspective, increasing understanding and strengthening our partnership, so that we can better serve the needs of the children in our care each day.

Rabbi Nuta Yisrael Shurack has volunteered to coordinate this effort. Please expect a call from him in the coming weeks. As we learn more about what issues are of importance to you, we will be better able to create a process that will allow for productive discussion and creative solutions.

We look forward to partnering with you!

Rabbi Don Pacht
Head of School

BEN SHAPIRO IN VANCOUVER

Don't miss an exciting evening with Ben Shapiro, editor-in-chief at the Daily Wire and the #1 Conservative podcast in the nation on October 30th at 7:30pm. Tickets are \$45 each. Contact VHA to get them!

CONTACTING THE SCHOOL'S OFFICE

The staff in the office are happy to assist with your requests and may be reached at 604-266-1245. Please note that calls going out to families are from a different phone number. The incoming phone line is 604-266-1245. So, when returning a call to the office, please do not hit reply on your cell phone as your call will be going to the outline, not the incoming phone line.

To contact the staff by email:

Ms. Nancy vha@vhebrewacademy.com
(from 6:30am-3:00pm) Monday - Thursday

Mrs. Taylor gayle-vha@hotmail.com
(from 8:30am-12:30pm) Mon, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday

Ms. Teagan office@vhebrewacademy.com
(from 9:00-5:30pm) Monday - Friday

PAC

Please join us at 8:00 p.m. on Monday, October 15th at the home of Rabbi Shlomo and Rachel Gabay (4425 Hudson Street in Vancouver) for our first PAC meeting of the school year.

ROSH CHODESH

Thank you to Yiska Sandbrand and Danny Tsitsuashvili and family for sponsoring the Rosh Chodesh treats this week in honour of the first Yarzeit of Yiska's father, Mr. Mordechai Sandbrand, z"l.

INTERIUM REPORTS

Interim reports for Kindergarten-Grade 7 students will be sent home with your child(ren) on Monday, October 15th, 2018.

VHA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SAVE THE DATE
NOVEMBER 7, 2018 AT 7:30PM

INDIVIDUAL STUDENT PHOTOS

Individual student photos will be taken on Thursday, October 18th, starting at 9:00 a.m. Please make sure that your child is on time for school and dressed in the full school uniform.

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent Teacher Conferences for Preschool-Grade 7 will take place on Tuesday, October 16th and Wednesday, October 17th. Dismissal will be at 2:00 p.m. both days and conferences will run at 15 minute intervals from 2:00 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.

The schedule for the Parent Teacher Conferences will be as follows:

Tuesday, October 16th, 2018

Preschool 3 and 4 - Morah Rutie, Morah Carmela and Morah Dikla
Grade 1- Mrs. Dayan and Morah Lichtman
Grades 3 - Ms. Wilson, Rabbi Lichtman and Mrs. Spector
Grade 4 - Mrs. Rubensohn, Rabbi Lichtman and Mrs. Spector
Grade 6/7 Girls - Mrs. Finkleman and Morah Chanie

Wednesday, October 17th, 2018

Preschool 3 and 4 - Morah Rutie, Morah Carmela and Morah Dikla
Kindergarten - Mrs. Dayan, Morah Lichtman and Morah Heffes
Grades 2 - Ms. Wilson and Rabbi Lichtman
Grade 4 - Mrs. Rubensohn, Rabbi Lichtman and Mrs. Spector
Grade 5 - Mrs. Altow and Mrs. Spector
Grade 6/7 Boys - Mrs. Finkleman, Morah Chanie and Rabbi Goldman

Students cannot be left unattended while parents are in conferences.

Babysitting will be available for a nominal fee of \$1.00 per child or \$5.00 per family for conferences times only. The Grade 7 students will provide the babysitting.

For families that have difficulty arranging

pickup at the early dismissal time, we are offering a 2 hour babysitting service from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at a cost of \$5.00 per child.

If you would like your child to participate in this special 2 hour program, please call the school to make arrangements by 12 noon on that day. After 4:00 p.m. babysitting will only be available for conference times.

Please note that the schedule for preschool classes on conference days remains the same from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Online booking of conferences began this week. Parents received an email from the school with instructions and a password. Please contact the office with any questions.

NUT RESTRICTED SCHOOL

Please keep in mind when preparing snacks and lunches for your children that VHA is a Nut Restricted School. Nuts and nut products are not allowed in the building. Below is a list of nuts that are included in this restriction.

- Peanuts and Peanut Butter.
- Tree nuts (including Almonds, Walnuts, Cashews).
- **Sesame Seeds and Sesame Oil. THIS INCLUDES HUMMUS.**

Products that MAY contain nuts are permitted. As well as the above items, there are other foods that do pose an allergy risk. Therefore, please remind your children that the sharing of food is not allowed.

October 2018

15 PAC Meeting, 8:00 pm at the Gabay Home
16-17 Parent/Teacher Conferences
2:00 pm dismissal both days
18 Individual Student Photos - 9:00 am start
19 Provincial Pro D Day (no classes)
24 Grade 6 Immunizations
26 Early Friday Dismissal Begins at 2:00 pm
30 Faigen Family Lecture with Ben Shapiro
7:30 pm at Schara Tzedek