

VANCOUVER HEBREW ACADEMY  
התורה והשבת

Friday, May 11, 2018 26th Iyyar 5778

Shabbat Parshat: Behar-Bechukotai

Candle Lighting Friday: 8:26pm

**TOIL**

"אם בחקתי תלכו ואת מצותי תשמרו"

"If you will go in my statutes and guard my commandments..."

With this introductory phrase, the Torah teaches us the way to guarantee our prosperity, security, and closeness to Hashem. This verse is often translated "If you will go in my statutes and observe my commandments."

Rashi notes that the first half of the verse cannot refer to performance of the Mitzvot, as that is expressly stated in the second part of the verse. Rashi therefore explains "go in my statutes" as a reference to "toil in the study of Torah."

It is noteworthy to point out that Rashi did not simply state "the study of Torah", but specifically to toil in its study.

Rabbi Shmuel Rozovitzky explains what Rashi means, and how Rashi reached his understanding. Torah study cannot be approached as an ordinary academic pursuit. Rather, the precepts of the Torah serve as the blueprint by which we lead our lives. The indicator to this approach is the Torah's use of the word (go [in my statutes]), if the Torah were just a book of laws and information, this would hardly be an appropriate term.

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It is not enough to study Torah, attain some knowledge, and allow our growth to stop. We must continue to toil in Torah, and to reach ever higher all the days of our lives. This lesson is most poignant as we approach the Chag of Shavuot as we reaffirm our commitment to the Torah and its values.

Shabbat Shalom,

Shabbat Shalom,

Rabbi Don Pacht  
Head of School

**THANK YOU**

Thank you to **Yaffa Pavlich** for assisting with Class Photos this week.

Thank you to the volunteers that helped with our General Studies event, Camp Read S'more. **Hannah Amar** for helping put together the passports, **Meira Pacht** for picking up the marshmallows and the **PAC** for donating them and **Rutie Mizrahi** for helping us paint and decorate.

## **MAZOL TOV**

Mazal Tov to **Yehoshua and Carmela Ben Saadon** on the upsherin of their son **Daniel!**

Mazal Tov to VHA Alum **Teddy Freedman** (Class of 2004) upon his engagement to **Katrin Zavgorodny!** Mazal Tov as well to Teddy's parents **Dr. David** (former VHA Board Chair) & **Ellen Freedman** and the entire family!

## **RBC RACE FOR THE KIDS**

VHA is gathering a group to run or walk together on June 3rd!

You can choose a 2k or 5k run and raise money for Cancer research!

## **PAC NEEDS VOLUNTEERS**

Would you like to put in a couple of hours toward your 18 school service hours? The preschool is planting the gardens outside the office. Needed is a parent who would be willing to bring a shovel, garden gloves, empty 11 bags of mulch, mushroom manure and top soil (already at the school) and mix it all together for the preschool to spread. Please phone the office if you are available to help next week. Many thanks for your acts of service.

## **SAVE THE DATE**

- VHA Annual Garden Party on Thursday, July 26, 2018. Hosted by Jonathon and Karly Leipsic. Honouring our Capital Campaign Contributors.
- Faigen Family Lecture Series Presents: Ben Shapiro in Vancouver. Tickets now on sale. Get your Early Bird ticket today!

## **GRADE 7 GRADUATION**

Mark your Calendars! VHA Grade 7 Graduation is on Monday, June 18, 2018  
5:30pm Graduation Ceremony 6:30pm Dinner

## **UNIFORM G'MACH**

This year we are hoping to reintroduce the uniform g'mach. The idea is to collect uniforms that are in good condition and then offer them to families in need at a heavily discounted price. We are currently looking for donations. If you have uniforms that are still in good condition (no holes or discolouration) that you would like to donate, they can be dropped off at the school office. Details will be forthcoming about how to purchase these items.

## **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 via email at: [vha.pta@gmail.com](mailto: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. Thank you for all of your efforts on behalf of our children.

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Jewish Foodbank is looking for a driver starting in June to work 18-20 hours per month. Valid driver's licence mandatory.

All interested candidates, please contact  
Marnie Greenwald:  
mgreenwald@jfsvancouver.ca

Marnie Greenwald  
Food Bank Coordinator  
Direct: 604.558.5705  
Email: mgreenwald@jfsvancouver.ca

Work Days:  
Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday

- Shavuot Lunch at Schara Tzedek at 11am on Sunday, May 20th. \$15 Adult, \$8 children (3-11).

## STUDENT COUNCIL SCOOP

Student Council is excited to be sponsoring the following upcoming events:

Basketball Tournament Concludes! Congratulations to the following basketball teams for winning in their divisions:

**Intermediate Girls: Phoenix**

**Primary Boys: Cheetahs**

**Intermediate Boys: Aardvarks**

## PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**May 2018**

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 7  | Class Photos at 9:00 am<br>Panorama Entire School Photo at 11:45 am<br>Grade 7 Graduation Photo |
| 8  | Cambridge Uniform Fittings<br>2:00-6:00 pm in the gym   |
| 9  | Camp Read S'More 6:45-8:00 pm   |
| 18 | Shavuot Break (school closed)   |
| 21 | Statutory Holiday (school closed)   |
| 18 | Yom HaZikaron   |
| 22 | Pro D Day (no classes)  |

## 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.

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.