

**VANCOUVER HEBREW ACADEMY**  
**התורה והתורה**

February 23, 2018 8 Adar 5778

Shabbat Parshat: Tetzaveh Shabbat Zachor

Candle Lighting: 5:29pm

### **MATERIAL REWARD**

In Parashat Tetzaveh, the Torah introduces the detailed discussion of the design and production of the Bigdei Kehuna (Priestly Vestments) with the following statement, "והם יקחו את הזהב ואת התכלת" (And they shall take the gold, turquoise wool, etc.), instructing the craftsmen to gather the materials that will be used in the task of creating these special garments.

The question is raised: why, if the Torah will shortly list the required materials for each garment, was it necessary to have a specific directive to the craftsmen to gather each of these items?

Rabbi Simcha Zissel Ziv Broida, known as the Elder of Kelm explains, that not only does Hashem recognize and reward the actual performance of every Mitzvah; but even the preparatory actions (such as gathering the needed materials) are rewarded as well. Even the thought and intent to perform a positive action is given credit as a Mitzvah itself and provides yet another opportunity for spiritual growth. In this example, even the simple act of gathering materials, is a goal unto itself.

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This idea represents yet another example of Hashem's loving kindness, in providing us countless opportunities to improve ourselves and bring ourselves closer and closer to our lofty goal. It is up to us to take hold of these special gifts and use them to their fullest extent.

Shabbat Shalom,

***Rabbi Don Pacht***  
***Head of School***

### **MAZAL TOV**

Mazal Tov to **Rabbi Stephen** and **Mrs. Sarah Berger** on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter **Chasya**. Mazal Tov as well to the entire extended family.

### **VHA TUITION RECEIPTS READY FOR PICK-UP IN THE OFFICE**

Parents please pick-up Tuition Tax Receipts for Kindergarten to Grade 7 Tuition and Preschool Tuition Receipts from the school office.

### **RUNNING CLUB**

March 16th at 8:00am. Join us for the first run of the 2018 season! Don't forget to wear your VHA lighting t-shirt!

## MINISTRY OF EDUCATION VISITS VHA

This week, we received a visit from representatives of the Ministry of Education. This visit was part of our regularly scheduled monitoring inspections to ensure that VHA is in compliance with all guidelines and requirements for Independent Schools.

We are thrilled to report that we received GLOWING feedback about our program and our school! Special mention was made about the proactive approach we take towards creating positive behaviour through our Second Step curriculum and we were commended on our overall organization and preparedness for the inspection (thanks to **Ms. Nancy** in the office). In fact, one Inspector remarked "I wish we could bottle this and take it to some other schools"!

### THANK YOU

Thank you to the Hot Lunch Team for a great lunch this week: **Ruth Penarroyo, Janet Ragetli, Dikla Mizrachi, Esti Loeb, Adela Heffes, Carmela Ben Saadon, and Odeyah Hoffman.**

Thank you to the Pack-A-Thon team for helping us pack 200 bags for the Jewish Family Services: **Yaffa Pavlich, Meira Pacht, Dikla Mizrachi, Morah Adela Heffes, Rabbi Lichtman, Morah Devorah Brody and The Grade 4's and 5's**

Thank you to everyone who helped out with the JFSA Food Bank: **Dikla Mizrachi, Meira Pacht, Rachael Lewinski, Yaffa Pavlich, Shimie Pacht, Chaya Yeshayahu, Dan Mizrachi and Adina Ragetli.** Thanks as well to the **Grade 4 and 5 students** for an awesome job preparing the bags for the JFSA Food Bank.

Thank you to **Rachael Lewinski** for all of the countless hours invested to make this program happen and a HUGE thank you to **Superstore** for sponsoring all of the goodies that went in to

the packages.

## PINK SHIRT DAY

VHA is proud to be participating in the upcoming nation-wide Pink Shirt / Anti-Bullying Day. Students, parents, and staff are encouraged to wear pink to show solidarity in taking a stand against bullying.

The pink t-shirts have been ordered but if you did not purchase a t-shirt you are encouraged to wear pink articles of clothing (while respecting VHA uniform norms) **on February 28th.** We look forward to showing that VHA is a community that does not support bullying!

### JUST A REMINDER

Pink Shirt Day: please note that if you are participating by wearing an article of clothing that is pink, you need not wear your uniform that day.

## SIMCHA WEEK

Monday Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> The Student Council has proposed to have **Character Day** (Dress up like any character you want. It could be someone from The Torah, Purim story, a Superhero, character from a book etc.)

Tuesday Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> **Purim Dress Up Day** (This is our annual Purim dress up day) Get as creative as you want

Wednesday Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> **Pink Shirt Day** (Join the rest of Canada in wearing a **pink** article of clothing to show solidarity in taking a stand against bullying)

## SAFeway/SUPERSTORE CARDS

Going to Safeway or Superstore 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! Cards are in stock now at VHA!

## CONTACTING VHA STAFF

To contact VHA Staff by email, please go to our website for a full list of email addresses: <http://vhebrewacademy.com/staffcontact.php>

## STUDENT COUNCIL SCOOP

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

- Basketball Tournament: there will be both girls and boys tournaments taking place during lunch recess times over the month of February.
- Pink Shirt Day: The Student Council will be taking the lead in orchestrating VHA's participation in this year's Pink Shirt / Anti-Bullying Day on Wednesday, February 28th! Please see the Pink Shirt Day section of this newsletter.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our student government!

## AVOT UBANIM

Saturday, **February 24th, 2018** at **7:25pm** held at the Beth Hamidrash 3231 Heather Street. Where family can learn the Torah together while enjoying great food and prizes. **It will be the final session for the 2018 season!** Don't miss it. There will be chicken nuggets for our snack and a grand raffle prize!

## SHALHEVET GIRLS

A play produced by the Shalhevet Girls High School. For women all of ages. March 5th, 2018 at 6:15pm at Schara Tzedek.

Ticket prices: Children... \$15 - Adult... \$20 - Premium... \$50 2 Premium... \$90 - 3 Premium... \$135 4 Premium... \$180

## VHA OPEN HOUSE

Registration packages for  
Preschool-September 2018 will be sent to soon. Please let us know if you are planning on sending your child.

## MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dear VHA Families,

Our Board of Directors is currently engaged in a Strategic Planning process which will lead them to setting goals for the coming years. This process allows us to focus on the future and take the appropriate steps to realize a vision for the future of VHA.

At this 'information collection' stage, the Board would like to solicit the input/feedback of all families. While you are always able to contact the school's Administration, we would invite you to connect directly with Dr. Terry Neiman who is acting as Facilitator through this process.

If you would like to share your thoughts, concerns or ideas for consideration through these deliberations, please contact Terry via email at [tneiman@alum.mit.edu](mailto:tneiman@alum.mit.edu) to arrange a time to speak.

Thank you for your input and we look forward to continued growth and success!

Yours truly,

Glenn Bullard President, Vancouver Hebrew Academy Society

## 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.

## PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### February 2018

- 28 Pink Shirt Day
- 28 100th Day of School
- 28 Ta'anit Esther (2:00pm dismissal)
  
- 18 Purim Assembly at 1:15pm led by Kindergarten class

### March 2018

- 1-2 Purim Break (school closed)
- 13 Hot Lunch
- 15 Non-Uniform Day
- 15 Speech Contest at the JCC at 7:00pm for Gr 4-7
- 19 Term 2 Pick-up for Report Cards for Kindergarten-Grade 7 at 4:00pm
  
- 20-21 Parent-Teacher Conferences  
Preschool-Grade 7
  
- 28 Last day of school before Pesach Break
  
- March 29-April 6 Pesach Break (school closed)

## 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.

## SHARE YOUR TIME & TALENT WITH THE STUDENTS OF VHA

As we plan for our lunchtime and after-school extra-curricular programs, we invite friends and family of the school who have a special talent or interest that they are willing to share with our students to run workshops, clubs, or activities. For Term 1, Mrs. **Ettie Shurack** ran two VERY successful programs for Duct Tape Crafts and Chess Club.

Is there an area of interest that you can share? Please keep in mind that we do not need a commitment of several weeks; perhaps there is a project that can be completed in 1 or 2 sessions that students can be guided through. Please contact **Teagan** at [office@vhebrewacademy](mailto:office@vhebrewacademy) if you are able to volunteer your time and enrich our students' school experience. Some ideas include: Woodworking, Music, Art, Lego, Mishnah, Scrap-booking. We look forward to another term of wonderful programming!