

January 12, 2018 25 Tevet 5778

Shabbat Parshat: Vaera

Candle Lighting: 4:21pm

Volume 19, Issue 13

Contrast Care

In this week's Parsha we read of the beginning of the Jewish Nation's redemption from Egypt as Hashem brings one horrendous plague after another to afflict Egypt and to force Pharaoh to release his captives.

The first of these ten plagues is דם (Dam-Blood), as the waters of the Nile River were turned to blood. For seven long days the Egyptians could not drink from the river. However, this did not phase Pharaoh and he still refused to allow the Jews to leave. In the words of the Torah..."ולא שת את לבו גם לזאת", (he did not take to heart this either). A number of commentators offer to explain the potentially out-of-place words "this either". What is the Torah trying to include in this phrase as the object of Pharaoh's indifference?

Rabbi Naftali Tzvi Yehuda Berlin (known as the NETZI"V), explains this inclusion as referring to Pharaoh's apathy to the plight of his own people. Although they were without clean drinking water for days, Pharaoh paid no heed and did not allow this to affect his decision regarding the Jewish people.

If, however, we were to examine the leadership qualities of Moshe Rabbeinu, we would find an interesting contrast to Pharaoh's coldness.

Moshe was known for his care and concern of others, even if he had no personal connection to them at all! Last week we read of several instances in which Moshe stood up as a champion of justice in situations from which he could easily have remained aloof.

Pharaoh, on the other hand, managed to remain cold and disconnected from his own people; even when their suffering could be attributed to his own failed leadership.

The message is quite clear, and we are offered this lesson from the Torah to help bring clarity to our own lives and choose the proper path.

Shabbat Shalom,

Rabbi Don Pacht
Head of School

WELCOME TO TERM 2

We hope that everyone had a restful and enjoyable Winter Break. We look forward to a very productive Term 2 for all of our students!

LICE CHECK

Thank you to **Leah Estrin** for volunteering for the lice check this week. We had excellent results from the lice check this week. Please help us maintain a lice-free environment for all students and staff by regularly checking your child(ren)'s head for lice.

PARENTING WORKSHOP

The Safety Kid is a comprehensive child abuse prevention program. Deborah Fox, Director of Magen Yeladim International Safety Kid Program will be handling the workshop on Monday, January 15, 2018 at 7:30pm at Chabad Richmond, 200-4775 Blundell Road, Richmond.

CONDOLENCES

Our heartfelt condolences go to **Rabbi Eleazer** and **Mrs. Shulamis Durden** on the passing of **Mrs. Durden's mother**. May her memory be for a blessing.

MAZAL TOV

Mazal Tov to **Rabbi Yeshurun** and **Sarah Blumenfeld** on the birth of their son **Dovid**. Mazal Tov as well to the entire extended family.

WELCOME

We would like to welcome back **Mrs. Mahla Finkleman** (Shapiro), who returns to our teaching staff after her Maternity Leave. We welcome **Morah Carmela Ben Saadon** and **Morah Eliana Claman** to the Preschool staff team and **Ms. Teagan Horowitz** as the new Project Coordinator!

We also have several new students in Preschool this term: Welcome to **Shiri Finkleman**, **Chana Mochkin**, **Daniel Ben Saadon** and **Chana Varnai**!

BOOKMARK CONTEST WINNERS

The winners for the Isaac Waldman Library's 2017 Bookmark Contest winners are: **Yossi Arustamov**, Grade 5, Vancouver Hebrew Academy, **Baila Shapiro**, Grade 4, Vancouver Hebrew Academy and **Akiva Meltzer**, Grade 2, Vancouver Hebrew Academy. The bookmarks will be on display and copies available at the Library for all patrons to use and enjoy.

SAVE THE DATE

Save the Date for the VHA Family Shabbaton February 23-24, 2018, Parshat Tetzaveh.

LUNCHTIME CHESS CLUB

On Wednesdays there will be a Lunchtime Chess Club with **Mrs. Finkleman**.

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.

...AND IN WITH THE NEW

The North Playground structures have now been removed and the new structure is on its way in! We hope to see it in use by late next week!!

AVOT UBANIM

Saturday, January 13, 2018 at 6:20pm held at the Beth Hamidrash 3231 Heather Street. Where family can learn the Torah together while enjoying great food and prizes.

SAFEBAY/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!

NACHAS NOTES

Today during lunch recess, **Li'el Kep** and **Davidi Radomski** (grade 2) did a beautiful mitzvah and collected all the garbage from the playground and the field. I've asked them if they wanted to do a mitzvah, and without hesitation they agreed. They not only collected the garbage I've asked them to, they went beyond and gave up on their whole recess and spent all 25 minutes collecting a full bucket of garbage from the field and playground.

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

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 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.

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.

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>

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 **Eliana** at 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!

Please mark your calendar

January 2018

8	School Reopens
9	Lice Check
16	Hot Lunch
18	Non-Uniform Day
24	Grade 5 Field Trip to the Vancouver Museum
29	Pro D Day (no classes)
31	Tu B'She'vat Assembly at 3:15pm led by Gr.5

Community Announcements

1. **Parenting Workshop – how to keep your children safe in the modern world. Monday, January 15, 7:30pm at Chabad Richmond, Suite 200-4775 Blundell Road.**