

# VHA is...



**VANCOUVER  
HEBREW ACADEMY**

TORAH EDUCATION FOR LIFE כי הם חיינו

...celebrating another year of success

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 5776 / 2015-2016  
NOVEMBER 2016



# ...FOSTERING EACH CHILD'S UNIQUE GIFTS

Dear Friends,

Each new school year brings with it a sense of freshness and excitement. While we may be returning to a familiar building, each child enters school on her first day back in anticipation of a new classroom, a new teacher and a new opportunity to shine.

I have always appreciated that just a few short weeks (sometimes less), into the school year, we also begin the Torah cycle anew. I enjoy viewing the most familiar narratives of the Torah with fresh eyes and a new perspective. And I never fail to learn new lessons.

In Parshat Lech Lecha, our forefather Avraham sheds the light of monotheism in the world and helps people to understand their Creator and what He asks of us. In return, Hashem will always harbor good will towards Avraham and his offspring (that's us), sharing Avraham's eternal reward with subsequent generations.

In describing the legacy that Avraham is destined to create, he is told to walk outside and gaze to the heavens "הבט נא השמימה וספר הכוכבים" (Please look heavenward and count the stars...so shall be your offspring). In its basic understanding this is meant to convey the vast numbers of descendants that will follow from Avraham's lineage (the very name Avraham is an acronym for Av Hamon Goyim – father to a multitude of nations), that his offspring would be "as numerous as the stars in the sky." However, Rabbeinu Bachya, the 11th century commentator, adds another layer of meaning to the verse.

Rabbeinu Bachya explains that the comparison between Avraham's children and the stars in the sky moves far beyond just the numbers. Just as each star in the sky is unique, so too, each and every child is unique. Some stars appear larger, some smaller.



Some shine brighter in the spring and others in the fall. Still, each and every point of light is a necessary component in the mosaic of the universe. Each star impacts the others around it and its absence would have an immeasurable impact in the fabric of space.

Similarly, each one of us, Avraham's children, has a unique light that we are meant to share with the universe. No two of us can fill the exact same role, and no two children are alike either. As parents and educators, we must hold this truth forward and help each and every child identify his or her unique gifts; the light that they must share with the world.

At VHA, we do not view education as fitting children into a particular mold. Rather, it is our mission to help them find their unique place from where they will shine light upon the entire world.

Thank you for partnering with us in the vital mission.

**Rabbi Don Pacht**  
Head of School

# ...CREATING A UNITED LEARNING COMMUNITY

## 2016 / 2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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*Jeff and Elizabeth Nider*

When you walk into VHA you enter a place where children from diverse Jewish backgrounds embrace one another's differences and enjoy each other's similarities. You enter a school that teaches children what it means to be Jewish, instills in them a lifelong love of Torah, and develops their relationship and love for Israel.

I have been a VHA parent for 7 years, and I continue to marvel at the passion my children have for learning in both General and Judaic studies. The stories my children bring home about their funny teacher, helpful friend, and caring principal remind me that VHA is like a family, where the students know and look out for each other, and where teachers have endless amounts of enthusiasm and patience, and are incredible role models for my children.



*Glenn Bullard and Shelley Riskin*

But warmth alone is not enough, and I believe that a school must promote academic excellence- VHA excels here as well. We consistently rank among the top schools in the Province in our performance on standardized tests. Our Judaic Studies program is designed to offer students the building blocks to be lifelong Judaic learners. Whatever secondary schooling option our graduates choose, VHA aims to prepare them to succeed.

My husband, Jeff and I are proud to see our children grow and thrive as part of this warm and caring family.

Elizabeth Nider, on behalf of VHA  
Co-Chairs

Glenn Bullard

Elizabeth Nider





Vancouver Hebrew Academy celebrates the legacy of giving at our successful Summer Garden Party at the home of Lorne and Melita Segal.



# ...ACHIEVING

## ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

### Report Card

#### Vancouver Hebrew Academy

Providing excellence in education... Based on the provincial benchmark assessment, the Foundation Skills Assessments, VHA students in grades 4 and 7 performed well above provincial averages. In fact,



100% of our students met or exceeded expectations in numeracy



100% of our students met or exceeded expectations in writing



95% of our students met or exceeded expectations in reading

Additionally:



100% of our students graduating in 2015-16 went on to attend a Jewish high school



Our students are always strongly represented in the winners' circle of the Jewish Federation's Annual Public Speaking Contest



# ...ASSEMBLING

## COMMUNITY CHAMPIONSHIP & SUPPORT

### PILLARS OF TORAH

#### עמודי התורה

Sam & Frances Belzberg  
Syd & Joanne Belzberg  
CHIMP, Charitable Impact Foundation  
The Diamond Foundation  
Gordon, Leslie, Jill & Lori  
The Diamond Family  
Charles, Isabelle, Craig & Carrie  
The Kahn Family  
Mrs. Evelyn, Mark, Hodie & Saul  
Joseph & Rosalie Segal & Family  
The Snider Foundation

### FOUNDERS OF TORAH

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The Sacks Family  
Abe, Leyla, Jeff & Dina  
The Shafran Family  
Zev, Elaine & Anita

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Brenda, Ruben & Claudio Grubner  
Rabbi Yosef Wosk

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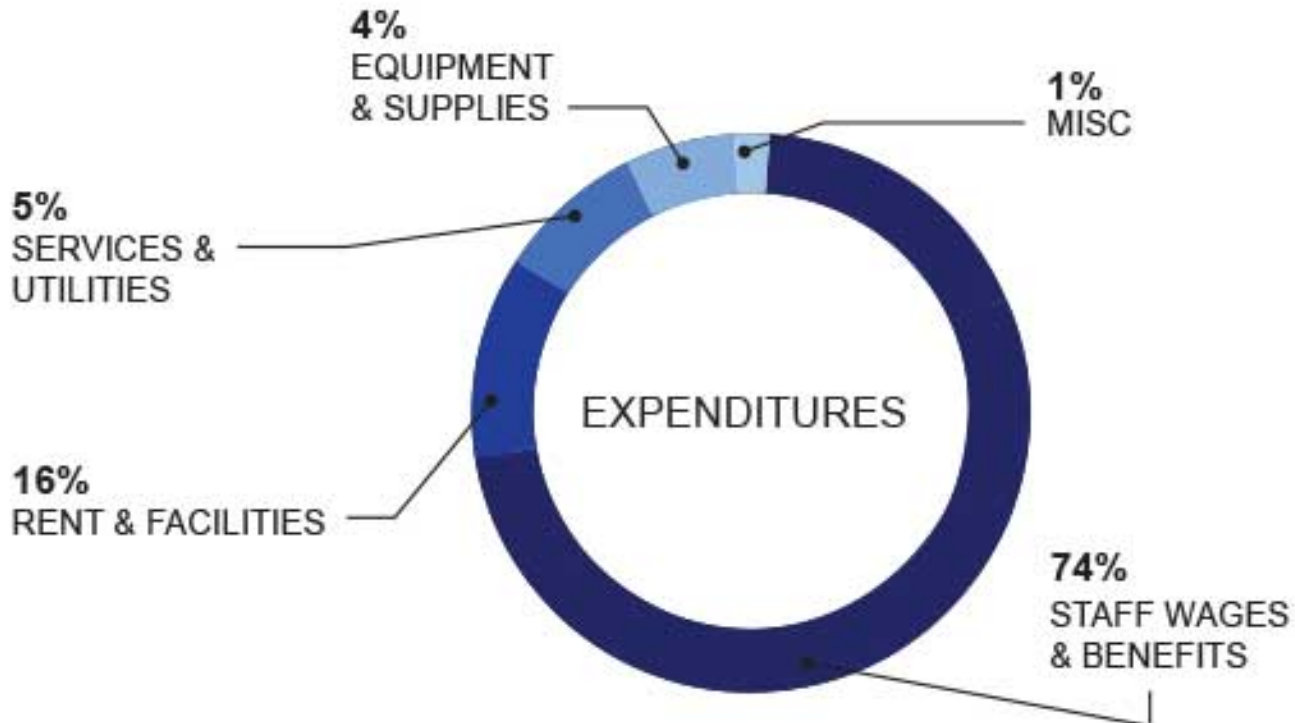
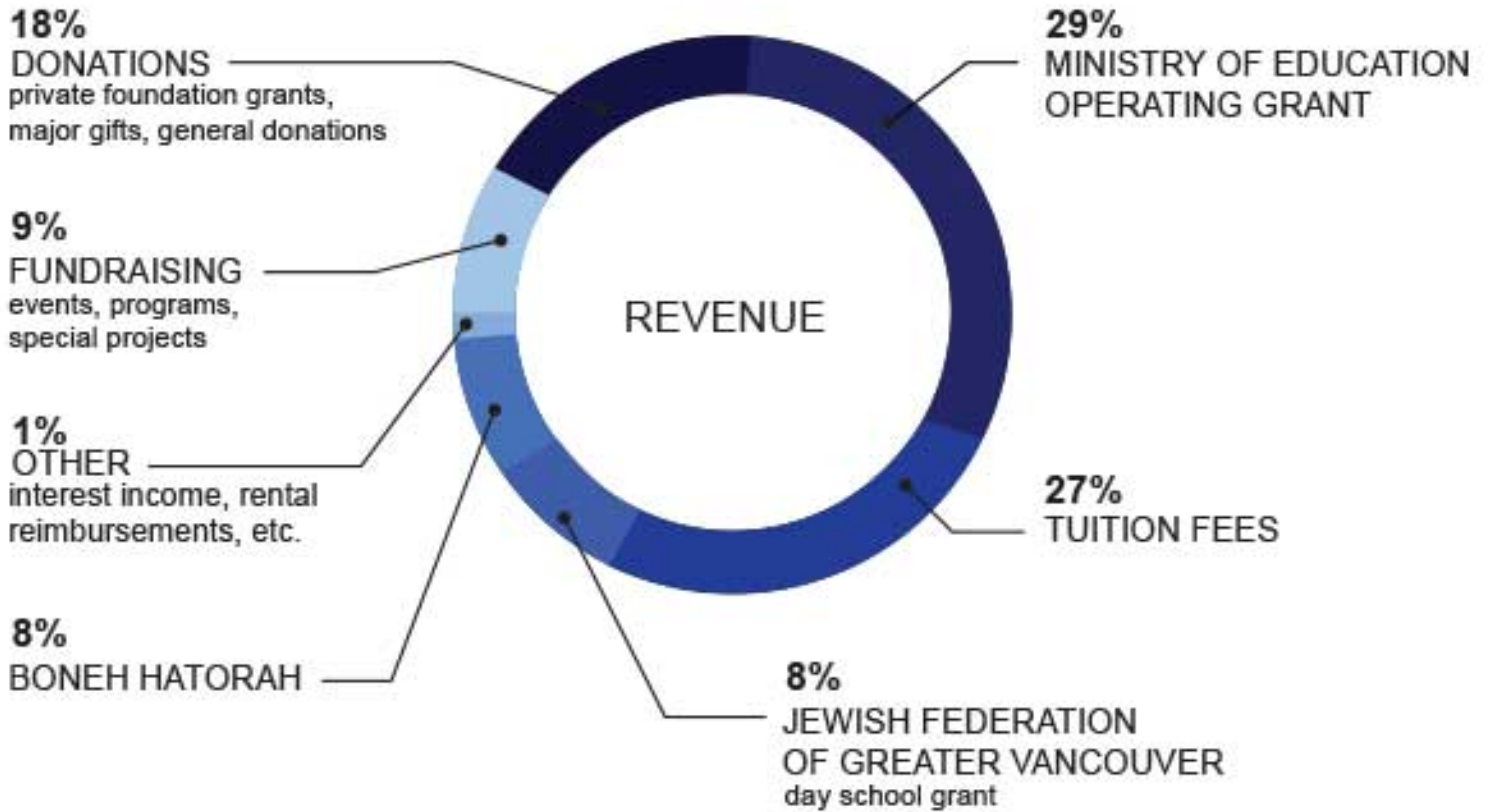
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Razi Mizrahi  
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# ...MODELING

## CONTINUED FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY





# Vancouver Hebrew Academy is...



**TORAH EDUCATION FOR LIFE...**

**כי הם חיינו...**