



NOVEMBER 2020

A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER

**VHA ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR 5780/2019–20**



Proposed Slate — VHA Board of Directors 2020–21

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***Thank you to the following
outgoing Directors for their
service on the Board this past***

year: Rachel Gabay, Michael
Sachs, Rabbi Yisroel Shurack
and Shainy Wineberg

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& Head of School
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It is hard to believe that it has only been twelve months! The 2019-2020 school year began with the launch of our Capital Project. With the portables gone, our Intermediate grades were housed at Vancouver Talmud Torah, while preparations were underway at VHA for the installation of our new modular building.

It was a cold, rainy day in October (also known as normal Vancouver weather), when a HUGE crane moved in the ten large modules that comprise most of the new building. The next few weeks saw the installation of fencing, cement ramps, stairs and walkways, and utilities.

While construction was underway, there was progress on another front—VHA's new logo was unveiled! This modern look reflects the energy and excitement that permeates the halls of VHA.

We had hoped to be ready to move in when we returned after winter break, but it would still be a few days more. Our students and staff made the best of a difficult situation as they moved the entire school into the old building as the finishing touches were applied to the new.

Finally, in mid-January we cut the ribbon on the new building. Several days after that, we opened our full-day Daycare program. It was quite the journey but, boy, was it worth it! On February 9, 2020 we hosted our Chanukat HaBayit as we dedicated the new space and thanked our many, many friends and supporters who helped make it happen.

And then, just a few weeks later, COVID hit. We had to pivot quickly as our staff learned new

ways to stay connected to students, even when apart. Our teachers led Zoom classes, recorded lessons, and created virtual classrooms, as the administration and Board navigated our school through this uncertain time.

When schools re-opened in June, VHA students were thrilled to see their friends again!

Despite all of the challenges of construction delays, budget overruns, school closure and a global pandemic, we can proudly look back at all that we have accomplished as a school and as a community. We have successfully navigated some VERY uncertain times and, with the help of Federation and the broader community, we have come through it all stronger and closer than ever before.

We look forward to a comparatively boring year ahead!

Glenn Bullard
President

Rabbi Don Pacht
Head of School



Summer Garden Un-Party: Thank you Donors

*The annual VHA Summer Garden Party has become the must-attend event of the summer. Unfortunately, due to COVID, we had to cancel the event. While this was certainly a disappointment, we were so encouraged to hear that so many of our friends were ready to maintain their annual gifts. **Thus, the VHA Garden Un-Party became the non-event of the season!***

PILLARS OF TORAH

Samuel z"l & Frances Belzberg
Mel & Geri Davis & Family
Gary Averbach
Dr. Joseph and Rosalie Segal & Family
Isabelle, Craig and Carrie Diamond

The Diamond Foundation: Gordon,
Leslie, Jill & Lauri
Sarah Elias z"l Trust
The Kahn Family: Mrs. Evelyn, Mark,
Hodie & Saul

The Sacks Family: Abe, Leyla, Jeff & Dina
Dr. Robert and Marilyn Krell
Anita, Zev & Elaine Shafran
Rabbi Yosef Wosk

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Mark and Yolanda Babins
David Zacks
Daniel & Marilyn Friedmann
Harvey and Jody Dales
The Lohn Foundation: Mr. Jack Kowarsky

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Les & Dr. Tracy Ames
Dr. David & Ellen Freedman

Norman & Sandra Miller
Howard & Simone Kallner
Marsid Foundation: Marie Doduck, Kathy
Golden, Bernice Carmelli & Families
David & Susan Emanuel
Drs. Adam Saunders and Galit Sarfaty

BUILDERS OF TORAH

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Andrew and Lisa Altow
Ralph Markin and Bob Markin
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Harold Gutovich & Gail Mainster

Ariel & Rachael Lewinski
Horatio Kemeny
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Rob and Sue Hector
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Arnold and Anita Silber
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Colin & Shannon Brodie
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Dr. Jeremy and Sara Gilbert
David Goldman
Dr. Saul & Lindsay Isserow



A New Normal



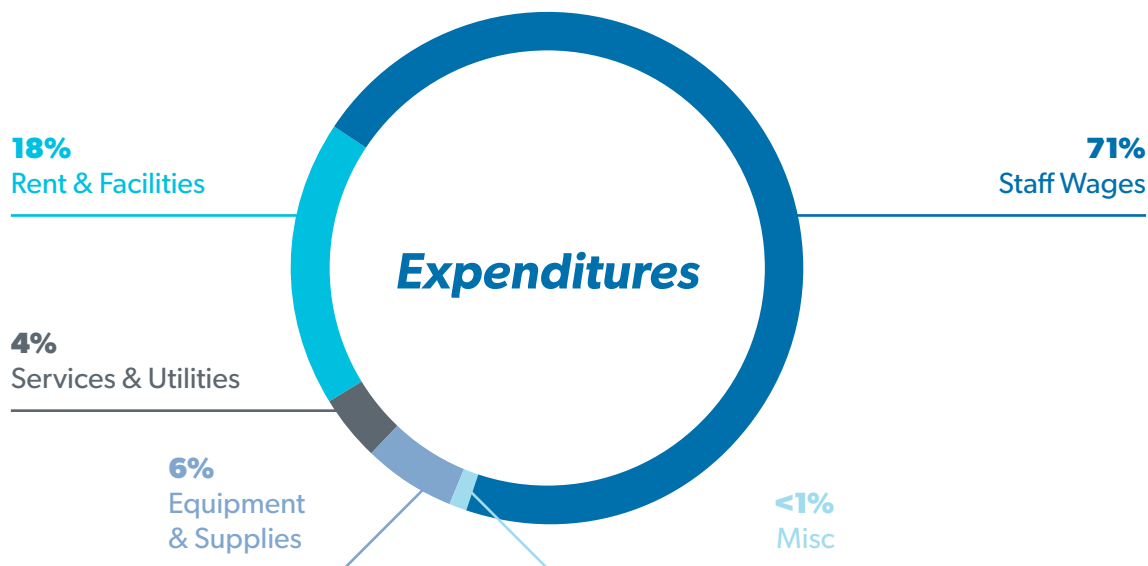
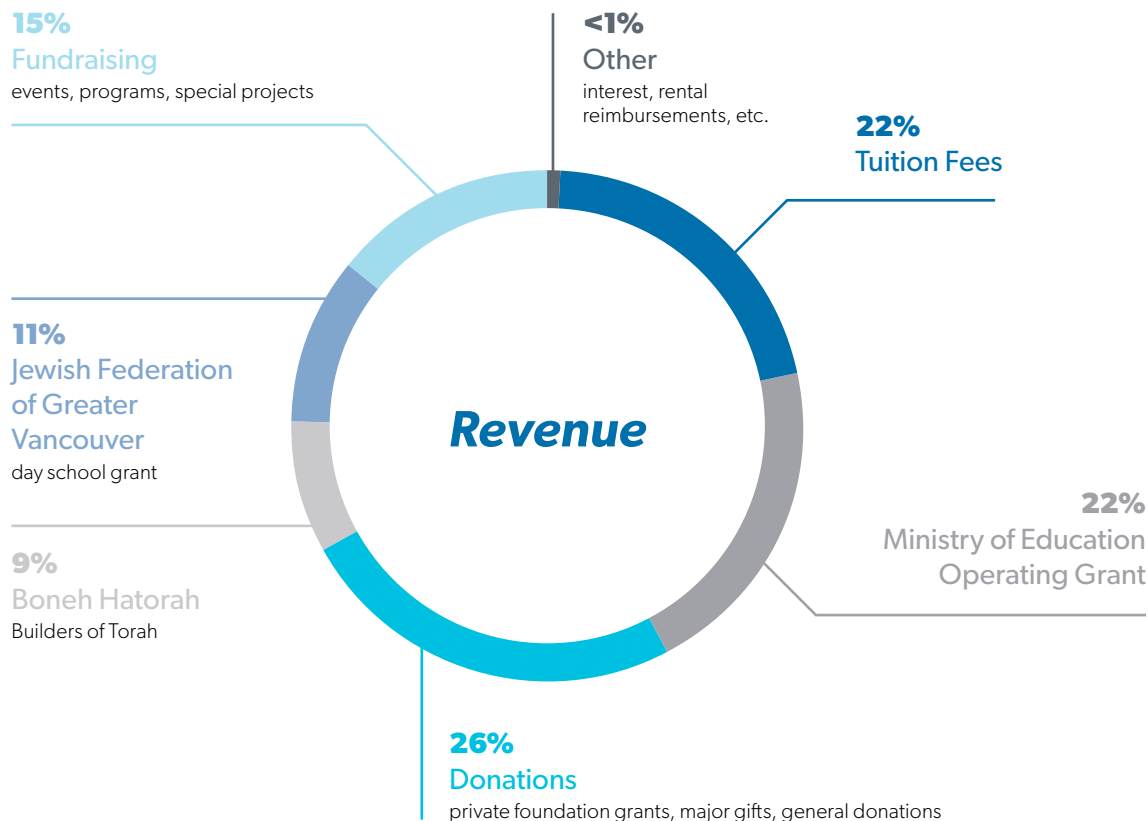
Be CALM.
Be KIND.
Be SAFE.

 - Dr. Bonnie Henry



Financial Summary Snapshot

June 30, 2020







Student Reflections



BEING A GRAD By Shira Goldman

Being a grad is new and old at the same time. It is old in the way that we are still students and still have the same curriculum as everyone else, math, contests, social studies, DPA, etc. We also have new things, like more responsibility in the school, grad sweatshirt (or soon anyway), grad meetings, fundraising for our grad trip, and more.

Being a grad also means one extra thing. We are going to a new school next year, in my case, to Shalhevet, without all the teachers who have helped us get to where we are today. We are leaving all those teachers who spent hours of their time teaching us the curriculum, and more. More, like if we want to work with a teacher during recess, they will give up their free time just for us.

My favorite part of being a grad is probably the grad sweatshirts. Just kidding.... I think.... maybe.... but really, the best part of being a grad is that by the end of this year I will be reaching a big milestone, a huge accomplishment. I will have GRADUATED!

I have so many feelings being a grad, some good, some exciting and some scary. I don't know what the future will bring, but I do know that if high school has teachers even half as good as those that teach in VHA, it will all be okay.



*The VHA family thanks the staff and families of
Vancouver Talmud Torah and Congregation Beth
Israel for their assistance during our construction.*

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