



The Lion's Link

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TVT Senior, Charles DeLoach discusses this week's parasha.

Senior D'Var Torah

At first glance, this week's portion, Emor, seems to be a hodgepodge of rules surrounding the fit of animals for sacrifice, sacred times, and punishment for the blasphemer (Leviticus Chapter 21, ff). The rules about what to do with cows appealed to my southern side but in the end I knew y'all wouldn't understand. Ultimately, I thought about my brother, William. My little brother questions me in almost everything I do. So (as you can imagine) he had some trouble understanding the rules I laid out for him when my parents decided to hire me as his personal trainer over the summer.

Many of you know that I've been extremely dedicated to cross-country throughout my high school career. However, almost every time I tell someone that I enjoy running, they look at me like I'm crazy and ask how I could possibly enjoy such a thing. The truth is simply that a lot of the time I don't. Running isn't easy, and the open doors of the closest ice cream place always seem like a welcoming escape from such a ridiculous work out. This may sound stupid, but I keep running because I made a promise to myself back when I was 12 years old. At that time in my life I wasn't able to run at all, and I didn't know if I would be able to again. I had broken my femur and I was off my feet for more than half a year. I had no idea if I would ever run again, or if I'd ever be able to walk normally. At this point in my life I had already faced three doctors who doubted that I would get another chance to be physically active. I remember sitting in the hospital bed before surgery, unable to bear the thought of never being able to run again. I decided to do whatever it would take to get better. So after the surgery I developed a set of personal rules to help the process.

My number one rule has been to appreciate the gifts I have and take full advantage of them while I still can. I've made a rule to listen to my doctor, to eat healthier, to run every chance I get, and to push my limits. This is where my brother comes in: when we started working out I shared my rules, but he didn't exactly welcome them with open arms. As I encouraged him to push his limits and eat healthier, he fought me every step of the way. He didn't understand the reason for the rules, which made it easy to rationalize disobedience. This is similar to my experience trying to understand the rules in the Torah: the frustration of not being able to see how the rules could be connected to our lives.

There's one person I knew I could count on to help my brother see the light. My mother, being the extremely smart and talented woman that she is, gave my brother and me a well-considered explanation of authority. She said, "You are kids, and you don't know everything"; short and sweet, but informative nonetheless. If everyone questioned and disobeyed laws they didn't agree with or understand, we would have complete chaos. (Don't get me wrong, well thought out disagreements with the government are acceptable and necessary.) However, at a certain point we all have to realize that there are rules for a reason and we don't have to understand the reason to follow the rules. Chances are that the people who made the rule spent much more time thinking of the purpose for it than you spent trying to delegitimize it. Rules can be as important and traditional as the laws seen in Emor, or they can be as personal as guidelines that help you reach a goal. Just remember as a favor to me, that no matter where rules come from, they can be more important than you think.

Shabbat Shalom.

Calendar Highlights

Happy Mother's Day!	Sun 5/8
SAT Exam Upper School	Sun 5/8 8:00 AM
AP Exam Week Concludes	M-F 5/9—5/10
Faculty & Staff Appreciation Week	M-F 5/9—5/13
1-5 Yom HaZikaron Assembly LS MPR	M 5/9 8:15 AM
MS-US Yom HaZikaron Commemoration—US MPR	M 5/9 9:20 AM
MS Student Council Elections US MPR	M 5/9 12:20 PM
K-12 Yom Ha'atzmaut Assembly Lower School Courtyard	T 5/10 10:30 AM
9th Annual Research Conf. US MPR—Streaming Live Online	T 5/10 6:30 PM
Grade 5: Field Trip Astro Camp	W-F 5/11-5/13
Red Cross Club: Blood Drive US MPR	W 5/11 8:00—3:00
LS Parent-Admin Coffee Lower School MPR	W 5/11 8:05 AM
MS Sports Awards Assembly Gym	TH 5/12 2:25 PM
Spring Dance Recital JCC Theater—I Federation Way	TH 5/12 6:30 PM
K-5 Kabbalat Shabbat (KDG leads) In honor of Pre-School Directors	F 5/13 8:00 AM
Israeli Dancing Lower School Courtyard	F 5/13 2:15 PM
Coastline Case Studies College Counseling Event (off campus)	Sun 5/15
TVT Film Festival Upper School Field	TH 5/19 6:00 PM
TVT Hosts JCC Israel Expo Lower School Campus	Sun 5/22
Senior Graduation	TH 5/26



Sports Corner

Varsity Girls' Softball finished third in the Tri-Way League. **Varsity Boys' Tennis** and **Varsity Boys' Golf** both wrapped up the season with 4th place rankings in league play. **Varsity Boys' Baseball** is likely to head to the CIF play-offs after finishing league play next week. They played St. Michael's on Tuesday, winning 6-3. The **Middle School Athletic Awards** will be presented at an assembly on **Thursday, May 12 at 2:20 PM** in the school gym. Grades 5-8 will also host a 1-2 mile "fun run" on campus, **Tuesday, May 10 at 3:15 PM. GO LIONS!!!**

MS Boys' Volleyball vs Carden Hall (H) **W 5/11/11 3:15 PM**

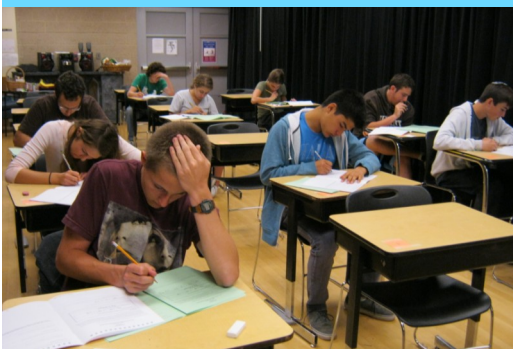
Varsity Boys' Baseball vs Liberty Christian (Windrow) **W 5/11 7:00 PM**

Varsity Boys' Baseball vs Liberty Christian (@ Brethren) **TH 5/12 3:15 PM**



Passover Photos Online

View photographs by **Mr. Marc Weisberg** (<http://marcweisberg.com>), who kindly volunteered his time to take pictures of TVT's Lower, Middle and Upper School Model Seders online: <http://www.tarbut.com/NewsViews/>



Upper School AP Exams

Students sat for an impressive 16 exams.



Awards Keep Coming!

TVT garnered eight awards (six of which were 1st Place ribbons) at the State of California's **2011 Schools' Agriculture and Nutrition Fair**, sponsored by the 48th District Agricultural Association—which uses the competitive American system of judging (where entries are judged against one another so that there is only one 1st place, one 2nd place, etc):

Grade 2:

1st Place: Spilt Milk Poster (Mrs. Oaks' Class)

2nd Place: Turkey Poster (Mrs. Carpe's Class)

Grade 3:

1st Place: Landforms Poster (Mrs. Bleiweiss' Class)

1st Place & Best of Show: Fair Theme Sawhorse (Mrs. Oaks' Class)

Grade 4:

1st Place: Butterfly Poster (Mrs. Oaks)

Grade 5:

1st Place: Garden Games Booth (Mrs. Oaks' Class)

1st Place: Butterfly Never-Ever Poster (Julia Wolfe, Abby Steinberg & Olivia Szabo)



7th Grade Catalina Trip

TVT sent 44 7th grade students to Catalina Island for an intensive outdoor education program: they climbed trails while learning about native flora and observing beautiful vistas, kayaked around the island and safely observed a sunbathing sea lion from close range, touched sea urchins, starfish, sea anemones, sharks, and sea hares as part of an island laboratory. Students also got to don wetsuits and observe these animals in their natural habitat. View the online slideshow: <http://www.tarbut.com/NewsViews>

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It's That Time of Year



Upper School students prepare for both AP exams and finals. Here students meet with psychology teacher, **Mr. Aldwin Domingo**, in a study session hosted at the home of **Dr. Laura Roth**, Upper School Principal.

Good & Wellfare

Ms. Leighann Pennington, Upper School English teacher, is now publishing a blog, with the challenging goal of reviewing young adult literature in 100 words or less. See if for yourself at: <http://ya100words.blogspot.com>

Please join us in welcoming **Masada Sklar-Parnes** and **Benjamin** and **Shai** (entering 2C) as well as **Galit** and **Bruce Reitman** and their children **Brendan** and **Ruthie**, who will be entering Grade 3C. Welcome to the TVT family!



History at Knott's Berry Farm

Third grade students journeyed back to the early history of California. Students toured Knott's Berry Farm as they learned about the development of the "Golden State." They met pioneer women who spoke of the hard and dangerous trip to California. They also met a blacksmith who demonstrated how to make a horseshoe and a weaver who taught them how to spin wool into thread. Most exciting was panning for gold. All of the students had the chance to shout "Eureka!" as they discovered gold in the bottom of their panning bowls.



Spring Book Fair

We hosted a fantastic Spring Book Fair last week in the Lower School Library. Congratulations to fifth grader **Abby Steinberg**, who won the "buy a teacher a book" raffle. Abby got to choose two free books from the fair. A huge thank you to all students and staff that bought books this year at the Fall and Spring Fairs. Profits will benefit the Upper and Lower School libraries. Kol Hakavod to all of the parent and family volunteers and especially to our 2010 – 2011 Book Fair chairs, **Mrs. Kim Davis** and **Mrs. Devorah Bader**.