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# Now in Color!

## The Israel Connection

By Lior Galili

Israel has been going through some tough times lately, as we have seen from the flotilla incident and many others. Currently, Gilad Shalit is still being held captive after four years, which is a great discomfort to many Israeli citizens. In July, thousands of people

marched across Israel as a call for action. The Israeli Army Radio has now stated that negotiations between PM Netanyahu and Hamas have resumed during the past few weeks. Critics point out, however, that no new offers are being made.

As far as the

economy, business and trade are still doing well. Warren buffet, a billionaire philanthropist, is still putting a great fortune of his money into Israel because of its inventions and technologies are still outdoing other nations. In addition, Bloomberg has predicted a 4.1% increase in...

*(Continued on Page 3)*

## Warning Bells Ringing

By Katriel Sigala

Picture a high school student. Let's name him Hubert. Now, Hubert is a good student; does his work, studies for tests, and so on. Hubert, despite his name, also enjoys basketball. He plays during all his breaks, unless he's eating or doing work. However, when Hubert plays basketball, he often loses track of time. That's okay, right? The bell rings, letting him know it is time for class. Except for one problem: Hubert doesn't have super-hearing. He can't hear the bell on the

second floor when he's playing on the court. In fact, he can't always hear it when he's eating outside. His teachers scoff, "What does it matter if you can't hear the upstairs bell? There is still one downstairs!" Hubert should be able to hear that and realize the error of his ways. Except that the downstairs bell doesn't work. How can he be expected to be aware that class has begun if he wasn't notified? Hubert doesn't own a watch, and there isn't a clock outside. He relies on that bell. Yet, it consistently lets him



down. The only thing ringing in his head is the sound of teachers yelling at him, warning him not to be late. But that's supposed to be the bell's job. And Hubert isn't the only one with this problem.

## A Day At The Park

By Ben Kiaei

Rinnnnngggg! It's funny how one 11:15 bell can turn the quiet and tranquil halls of Valley Torah into a loud and rather rambunctious craze of boys running to their next classes.

On October 14, however, that daily routine was interrupted by a rather fun and exciting event organized by our stellar *rebbeim* and student council. On Thursday, instead of running to their next classes, students poured into vans and cars and headed towards North Hollywood Park for a barbecue and a basketball tournament. When they arrived, many boys eagerly ran straight to the basketball courts to shoot around, while others stayed to help cook the delicious burgers and hot dogs. Once everyone had arrived, the tournament, along with the cheering of enthusiastic bystanders (i.e. Coach Noel Bloom), began. Basketballs were bouncing

everywhere, feet were running up and down the courts, sweat was dripping down backs; the boys had an amazing time, competing and bonding with each other at the same time. In the final round everyone crowded around the half court and watched anxiously to see which team would score seven baskets first: Netanel Tzion's team or Mat Gillis's team. Well, the winner was Tzion's team, but Gillis's team does deserve props' for

making it into the final round. Following the games, which seemed to pound away at everyone's appetite, the students hoarded to the grills to grab plenty of food. After a quick sweep and clean up they were off to school again, most probably thinking of when the



## Practical Lessons From The Parsha

By Michael Farnoosh

It says in *Bereishit Rabbah* 24:7, "Rabbi Akiva says, 'Love thy neighbor as thy self; this is a great principle of the Torah.'" In Parashat Veyera, we see that Avraham is visited by Ha-shem on the third day—the most painful day—after his *brit milah*. At that time, Avraham was sitting at one of the openings of his tent waiting for travelers to pass by his tent so that

he could aid them with food and drink. Then, as Ha-shem is speaking to him, Avraham sees three people and he runs, even with all his pain and under the terrible heat of the day, to welcome them. It was more important for Avraham to honor the three strangers than it was to speak with Ha-shem!

We may never face the same physical challenges that Avraham faced, and we may not be able to ever

do the amazing things that Avraham did, but we can still perform many other acts of righteousness....

We can run to help someone in need instead of walking by. We can at least try to respect our friends almost as much as Avraham respected strangers. We can honor our parents and teachers instead of treating them with a lack of appreciation.

This—this we must try to remember and do at all times.

next awesome VT event would be.

A special thanks goes to all the *rebbeim*, especially Rabbi Felt, for all the work they put in to planning the event. Thanks to those who helped with the barbecue and congratulations to the winners of the basketball tournament.



# THE DEBATE:

*Is the block schedule beneficial or detrimental to VT's schooling system?*

## The Up Side

By Yosef Yasmeh

High school is all about time: getting to school on time, managing your time, spending time with friends and family, and so on. To make things harder, us guys at Valley Torah have to balance Judaic studies and a 6 o'clock dismissal on

top of everything else. So where can we find any time?

The answer is through the block schedule. In addition to giving us two nights to complete our homework, the block schedule lowers the amount of tests we have

## The Down Side

By Akiva Leyton

As a freshman, learning to adjust to the new block schedule is rather difficult. First off, there are the double class sessions that double as endurance tests. Some classes occasionally finish their agenda more quickly than the teacher anticipates, lending to an atmosphere where the students feel less challenged. Teachers only need an hour to teach what they require that day, leaving another hour and a half of sheer boredom. Another point is that if a student should need to stay home for a day, they miss a considerably more amount of lesson

content, making it harder to catch up. Furthermore, when it comes to homework, having two days to complete an assignment is not such a great idea. Besides for the possibility of forgetting an assignment, one might procrastinate and justify himself by saying that he will complete it tomorrow, resulting in a chain ending with him ending up not completing the assignment. The way I see it, the block schedule ends up blocking out more education than it does time.

on any given day. Feel free to imagine—for just a second—what your night would look like if you were studying for not two, but for *four* of your secular studies subjects. Not too pretty. Nevertheless, the block schedule does more than give us more time to do our work at home; it improves the quality of time spent learning in school.

For example, longer periods mean less time wasted transitioning in and out of classes. This becomes especially true when you factor in that some teachers are still getting used to using their SnapGrades roll books. Furthermore, longer classes allow teachers to go at depth into a subject and allow students to ask questions more freely. This all goes without mentioning that the block schedule prepares us for college, where the same scheduling method is used.

Overall, the block schedule is a great time saver and improver.

## The Israel Connection

*(Continued from Page 1)*

...Israel's economy over the next year due to the rise of consumer spending, exports, and home construction.

On a separate note, there is now an iPhone app available that allows users to track settlements in territory acquired by Israel from the Six Day War and on—from West Bank, to Gaza, to the Golan Heights. It is now available in the app store under the name "Facts on The

Ground." It can be a powerful reference tool when learning about Israeli history or something you can check out just for fun.

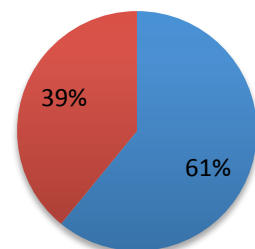
And that's your Israel connection.

**Poll:**  
What type of cell phone do you own?

Submit your answer in the school's poll box!

**Last week's poll:**  
Do you believe that the iPad and other tablet computers are just a temporary fad or are they destined to be the devices of the future?

### The Results



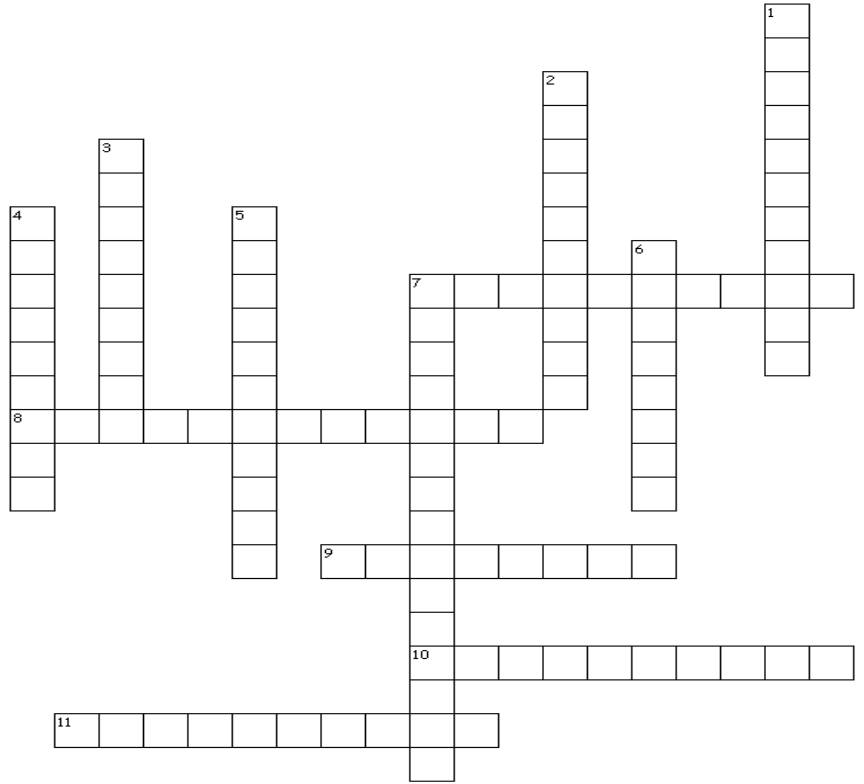
- Yes, they are just a fad.
- No, they are the technologies of the future.

**Across**

- 7. "The Dodgers are horrible" and "The Lakers don't have a chance" are all famous quotes from this Rabbi.
- 8. Some students in Valley Torah say this local restaurant is the closest you can get to Jeff's in the valley.
- 9. Our school basketball team is represented by this icon.
- 10. One of the newest additions to our great staff.
- 11. Don't forget to check your \_\_\_\_\_ daily!

**Down**

- 1. Don't leave shacharit too early or else you'll miss key information from the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2. Whether it's 3-2-1 or a pickup game, this sport is played nonstop at VT's courts.
- 3. Have an issue? Get in line! This *rebbe's* office is usually busier than Istrin's Grill is during lunch time.
- 4. Whether playing air guitar or being a chazzan, this teacher's a great guy.
- 5. We all love to eat this after a long davening in the morning!
- 6. If this teacher tells you he will blow your spiral notebook up if you bring it to class—it's a promise, not a threat.
- 7. He's a great *rebbe* and speaker, and without him, Valley Torah wouldn't be the same.



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See VT Times and other  
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**The Answer to Last Issue's Riddle:**

The woman was pregnant and died during childbirth, and the stranger was the baby.

**The Rabbi Felt Sudoku**

1		8	3	6	9		7	5
	7			1				
3								
		7			2	1		9
							5	
			9		1		4	
9	8		5	2		4		
5	2		6		4			3
					8			

**This Issue's Riddle:**

Paul is 20 years old in 1980, but only 15 years old in 1985. How is this possible?

Make sure to read our next issue for the answer!