



## Parshat Teruma-Zachor February 19 2021

### The Week in Review

by Mia Parry  
Perth, Australia  
Carmel School

What an awesome week this has been!

On Thursday night we were privileged to have Mishmar run by our very own Madricha Elisheva Gold in honour of her third aliyanniversary- Mazal tov Elisheva!

Celebrating our newfound freedom post-seger, we embarked on a corona-safe out shabbat which involved half of the girls heading to student-hosted apartments in Jerusalem, and the other half to teacher's houses in the Gush. I was lucky enough to head to Neve Daniel where we got to look at the award-winning mikveh, see the beautiful lookout and, most importantly, have a socially distanced meal with Rabbanit Sally and her family. It was so nice to get a glimpse into the life of another community and to be in a more informal environment with our teachers where we were able to chat with them.

We kicked off our Adar celebrations in anticipation for Purim with hamentashen-making and learning new festive songs and even had a tie dye party in honour of Zoey's

birthday. The simcha continued with Chessed on Tuesday where we packed mishloach manot for the organization Chayenu, to be distributed to families affected by cancer.

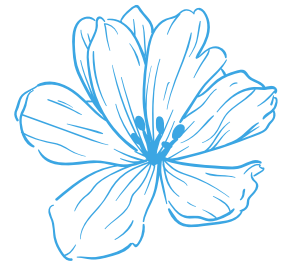
However, undoubtedly, the best part of this week were our snow days! On Wednesday classes were cancelled in anticipation of the snow set to hit Israel throughout the day. Despite the slight disappointment at the lack of snow in the morning the snow day activities persisted including waffle making and hot chocolate drinking. Luckily, in the afternoon the snow began to fall, and, coming from someone who never sees snow at home, it was truly magical! We ventured out into the cold to build snowmen, have snowball fights and embrace the cold. The fun continued on Thursday with more snow! Was really, truly awesome to be able to see Jerusalem covered in a layer of snow and an experience I will cherish!

We are looking forward to a beautiful Shabbat Zachor in Shadmot Mechola and our tiyul in the North on Sunday.

# Shabbat Shalom!







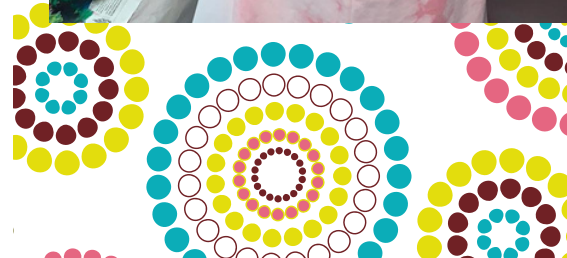
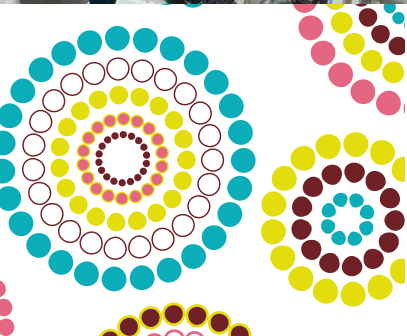
# Covid-safe out Shabbat







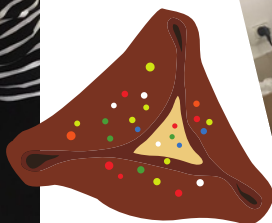
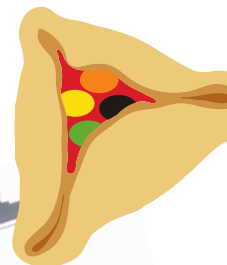
# Tie Dye Party!







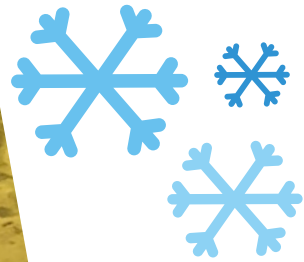
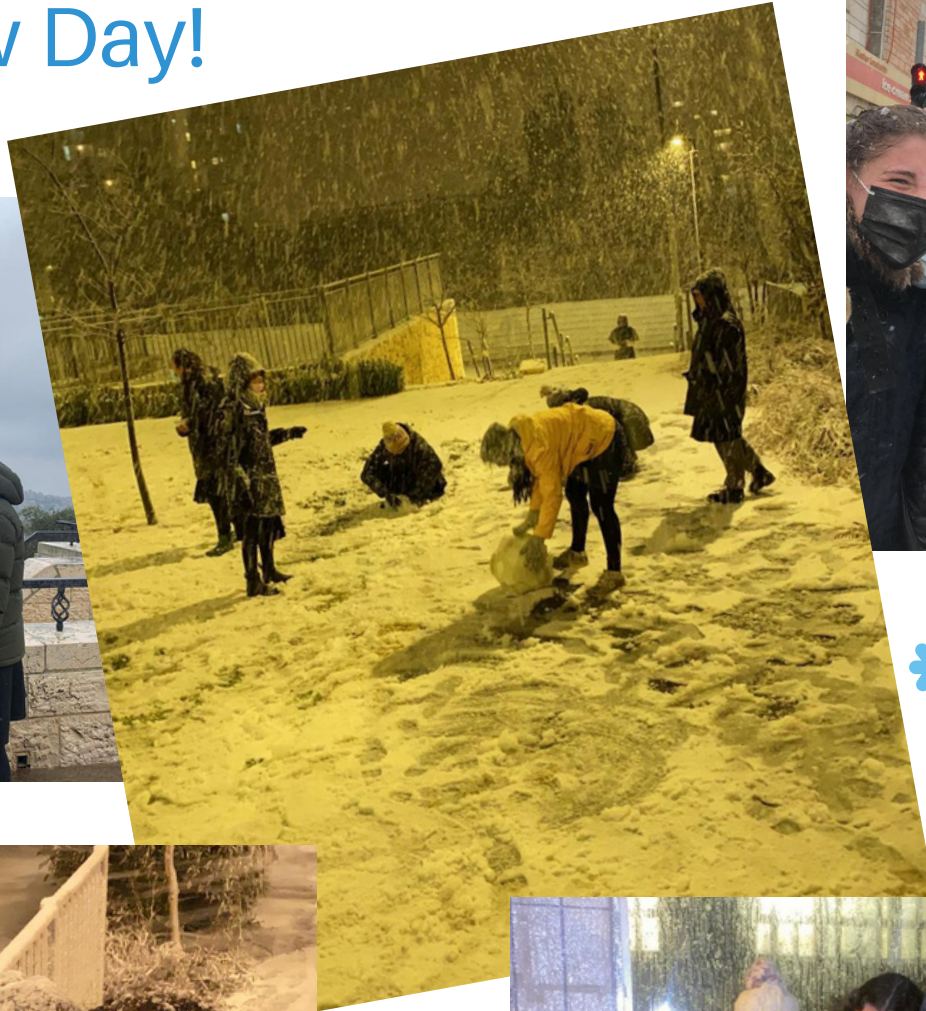
## Preparing Mishloach Manot







# Snow Day!



# D'var Torah from our Students

Lauren Stiefel  
Valley Stream, NY  
YUHSG

In this week's Parshah, Parshat Terumah, Hashem instructs Moshe on how to build the Mishkan. However, why does Hashem need a sanctuary for His Shechina to rest in? Isn't Hashem available to us anywhere?

The answer lies in the juxtaposition of the stories of Shemot: the commandment to build the Mishkan appears right before Chet HaEgel. While Moshe spent 40 days on Har Sinai receiving the instructions for the Mishkan, B'nei Yisroel were building the golden calf. Before Har Sinai, when Moshe was physically with the nation, B'nei Yisroel knew that Hashem was with them. When Moshe was on Har Sinai, they no longer had that bridge between them and Hashem, and created a golden calf. Therefore, Hashem decided to instruct Moshe to build a place for His Shechina to rest.

The Mishkan doesn't just give B'nei Yisroel a way to serve Hashem as a result of the Egel, it allows them to have a different relationship with Hashem. Before the Egel, Hashem had an overwhelming presence through all of the miracles he performed for B'nei Yisroel. But without the miracles and without Moshe, B'nei Yisrael could not feel the connection. The Mishkan allowed every member of B'nei Yisroel to access Hashem in their everyday life.

But how do B'nei Yisroel learn to communicate with Hashem in this new way? The name of this week's parsha, Terumah, answers this question. Hashem tells Moshe, "Speak to the children of Israel, and have them take for Me an offering (Terumah); from every person whose heart inspires him to generosity, you shall take My offering (Shemot 25:2)." Hashem tells them the way to communicate with Him is to give offerings. The Mishkan didn't bring Hashem and Bnei Yisroel closer through the quality of the materials used to build it, but instead through the fact that the Mishkan was built from gifts of people who wanted to create and establish this new relationship with Hashem.

We can take this lesson from the Parshah into our everyday lives. We can improve our relationship with Hashem through giving back to Him and to others. With Purim right around the corner, through Matanot L'evyonim and Mishloach Manot, we can both give others joy and improve our connection with Hashem.

