

SPECIAL עֵשׂוּת אֶרֶב EDITION

Preparations for ראש חודש אדר began many weeks ago, as the ELT, EC heads Mrs Levene and Mrs Librae and the programme teams started plotting and planning how they would make this year's festivities the best ever. On Monday night, girls from Year 11 spent many hours transforming school into a watery world, with all sorts of sea and ship themed decorations. The message was that life is like a "journey at sea, a voyage of faith and destiny. The waters will challenge the fortitude and courage of every man, but the stars that light up the night will be our map, our compass, our guide." (With thanks to Abie Rotenberg). Of course

the staffroom was chosen to be the spot of the treasure trove, representing the quality of our precious staff and valuable lessons they teach each day.



The school day began with a ונהפוך הוא as the Year 7 girls led the school in a beautiful musical davening of שחרית and הלל. The Year 11 girls looked like they'd just rolled out of bed as they sat in the Year 7s seats, yet they still set an example with their enthusiastic תפלה. Staff, many in 'disguise', joined in הלל too.



The first few lessons took place as usual, before all the girls were called into the hall for an emergency assembly, where Mr Myers announced that the school had unfortunately had an influx of mice! Pretty soon the girls realised this was, of course, a colour war break out, as music played and confetti was showered.



Mrs Levene, Mrs Librae and the programme team came onto the stage to explain the rules and what each team needed to produce over the next 24 hours.

Everyone immediately set to work, as the girls assembled in their teams, and quickly decided how each girl would play their part in trying to produce the best choir, dance, poster, play, cheer song, chant and costume.



Every girl was involved, whether using her artistic and creative talents to produce posters and costumes, her musical abilities, acting or dancing skills. There was something for everyone to do.





On Wednesday, the girls were greeted with music and clowns upon their arrival at school. After davening, they quickly got back to work.

Year 11 showed outstanding leadership skills as they expertly organised and managed the rest of the school. They were all given iced coffees as a reward for their excellent behaviour and for shining as role models to the school.

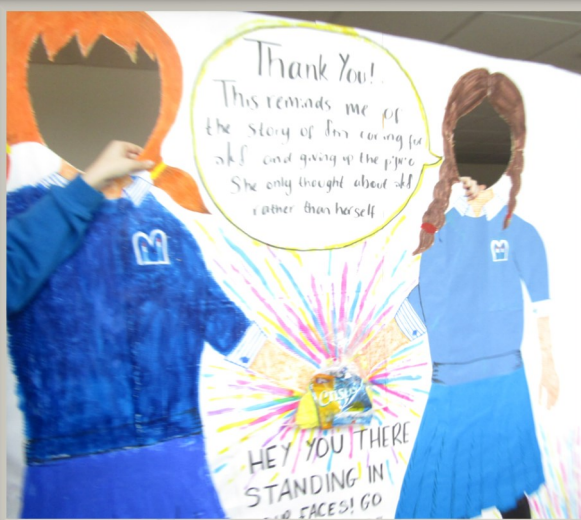


On Wednesday afternoon, each team had a turn to present their productions. Each team was based on one of the four מצוות of פורים, and had to connect their choir, dance, act and poster to a פסוק and idea within that מצוה.



First up was מגילה who explained that their clever poster could be viewed as two different scenes from the פורים story. In life too, we need to look behind the scenes to find ה' who hides His ניסים amongst טבע.

Next was מתנת לאבינוים, whose poster depicted the 3 things on which the world stands, תורה, עבודה and גמילות חסדים.



The מנות משלוח team explained how this מצוה is supposed to spread friendship, and encouraged girls to give משלוח מנות to others with whom they are not so friendly. And the משתה team described the different times in the calendar and life cycle where we celebrate with a סעודה, and how this connects us to ה'.

The whole school watched respectfully and cheered enthusiastically. Everyone was wowed by the high standard of the productions created in such a short space of time, and even the professional videographer, Mrs Shprecher, was impressed.

An expert panel of judges graded each performance.



Each team performed their theme song, before going back to their areas to tidy up while the judges added up all the scores, including those for good behaviour during the performances, teamwork, תוכן and tidiness.

Many thanks to the fabulous and indefatigable Mrs Librae and Mrs Levene, the brilliant Year 11 programme team, the rest of Year 11, and all the staff who ensured this was the best ראש חודש אדר ever at BYJHS!



Everyone was thrilled to hear that the green team—מתנות לאבינוים - had won, and will be receiving their prize of a team pizza party next week.

