



ASSOCIATED
HEBREW SCHOOLS
בית ספר קהילתי

סתיו תשפ"ד Fall 2023



We Are Associated

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WE ARE ASSOCIATED is distributed to members of the AHS community, including parents, grandparents, alumni, friends, and supporters of the school.

ASSOCIATED HEBREW SCHOOLS: Hurwich Education Centre - Danilack Middle School- Kamin Elementary School
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Research has shown that the spatial qualities of a classroom have the power to enhance the learning that takes place within, and to influence student mindset, achievement, and well-being. At AHS, we strive to provide the best possible student experience, and we are eager to work with you to design innovative classrooms where our students will thrive.



Together, we are shaping the future of Jewish Education.



A Message From the Board President Jonathan "Jono" Halpern

On behalf of the AHS Board of Directors, it is my honour to share greetings with our school community as we start a new School year 2023/24 under the leadership of our Head of School Dr. Lee-Ron Kaye.

The horrific events in Israel on October 7 have impacted our whole community, both locally and internationally, spiritually and physically, emotionally and intellectually. I am proud of how our school community has come together to support each other, as well as our community in Israel, as we deal with the unprecedented loss of life and freedom when we are under attack. We extend our condolences to the families of the loved ones lost in the attacks of Simchat Torah, a Refuah Shlaimah to those injured, and a speedy and safe return to those who remain in captivity.

At a recent Board meeting, our members were asked to brainstorm ideas for a slogan that represented the school's ideals, and over 80% of the responses contained the word "Community." Combined with the emphasis on a Jewish education, these two principles drive every decision we make at AHS, to ensure that everyone in our community feels welcome and able to obtain a Jewish education for their family.

Providing a quality Jewish education should be the number one priority of any Jewish community. As Rabbi Jonathan Sacks z"l wrote, "To defend a country you need an army. But to defend a civilisation you need schools. You need education as the conversation between the generations." A community that lacks the proper institutions to educate its children will soon wither away.

For this reason, and even though our halls and classrooms are bustling to capacity, our Board has taken on the mandate this year to focus on the future sustainability of our school through fundraising and development efforts, as future economic conditions can change quickly, affecting both our families' ability to afford tuition, and the school's ability to fund its operations.

I look forward to continuing to work with the Board, faculty, and administration to continue our combined efforts in educating our children and ensuring the future of our community and its institutions.

Wishing everyone continued success in this school year, and sending strength and courage to those fighting on our behalf in Eretz Israel. Am Yisrael Chai!



A Message From the Head of School **Dr. Lee-Ron Kaye**

Each year, we introduce a new organizational theme to our faculty, serving as a source of inspiration and also as a lens through which we view and approach our work at the educational forefront. This year we have embraced the theme The Joy of Creation Between Heaven and Earth - שמחת היצירה בין שמים וארץ, a theme that resonates deeply with our Jewish heritage and with the spirit of our school. Much like an inspirational quote, this theme may resonate with each one of us differently and engender different thoughts and meanings in each of our minds. Diversity in thinking and inclusion of all viewpoints is our greatest strength as a community school.

At AHS, joy permeates through both the process and the experience of learning. We want our students to experience the joy that comes from making and creating; from bringing their ideas to life, their visions to fruition, and their dreams into reality through collaboration with their teachers and peers. The Talmud teaches us, "Every blade of grass has its angel that bends over it and whispers, 'Grow, grow.'" In a similar vein, our educators serve this role for our students, guiding them, inspiring them, and whispering words of encouragement. It is a joy to witness the blossoming of young minds, to see them take root in the fertile ground of knowledge and tradition, and to watch them reach for the heavens with their creativity and ambition.

Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks ז"ל explains the subtle yet profound difference between the biblical words for happiness (ashrei) and joy (simcha). While one can experience happiness alone, joy, in Tanach, is a shared emotion.

The joy derived from our students' explorations, innovations, and achievements is not theirs alone; it is a collective joy, shared amongst our entire community of students, teachers, administrators, parents, lay leaders, alumni, and friends.

Against the backdrop of the challenging times we find ourselves in both locally and globally, it is now more important than ever to create and relish in these moments of shared Jewish joy. Our Jewish joy fuels our resilience and serves as a beacon, dispelling the darkness. At AHS, our connection to our homeland is unwavering, and we stand together, unified in our support for its well-being. Our thoughts and prayers are with the people of Israel, now and always.

As we flip through the pages of this magazine, let us celebrate the many ways in which our students and community have embraced the joy of creation. From building empathy and Jewish knowledge, to celebrating the accomplishments of our athletes and our graduates, let each story remind us of the beauty that emerges when we bridge the gap between heaven and earth, integrating the wisdom of our past with the promise of our future.



Creativity in the Bet Hayered Classrooms

When you walk into a Bet Hayered classroom, one of the first few things you notice are students building on the carpet and engaging in dramatic play. You may look around and see other students reading in the book nook, or exploring a centre at one of the tables. You may even stop and think to yourself: "Wow - this room is upside down!" This, however, is exactly what a Bet Hayered educator wants to see in their classroom. The "mess" which you see is part of youngsters expressing their creativity; they are using a range of learning techniques, such as kinesthetic, visual, auditory and tactile learning, and are developing their creative minds.

At AHS, one of our favourite ways for the students to explore their creativity is by using Design Theory and the Maker Mindset. Design Theory shifts the focus to the students' curiosity, and encourages them to be the leaders

of their learning. The Makerspaces in our Bet Hayered classrooms are dedicated areas in the classroom full of recyclable materials, scraps, markers, glue, tape, boxes, etc., and they are open freely for the students to venture into throughout their day.

These spaces are intentionally designed to encompass the Design Theory of thinking and accommodate all types of learners. For example, our students were tasked to create a home for animals to live in during the winter, which had to be sturdy and weather-resistant. In the Makerspace, the students made use of the open space to demonstrate Design Theory thinking as they created their animal homes, tested their creations, added to them and re-iterated until they were satisfied with their animal homes.

The next time you are visiting AHS, see if you have the chance to pop your head into some Bet Hayered classrooms and check out the creative minds at work and play!

"When our students enter their classrooms, each day is a new adventure, promising novel discoveries that ignite curiosity and foster a lifelong love for learning."

Associated with Intergenerational Learning



Remembering where we come from helps guide us on our journey and figure out where we want to go. By inviting Grandparents, close family members, and mentors to participate in programs with our students, we create special moments and elevate the learning for everyone.

Students in Bet Haya'eled shared a Shabbat experience together with their Grandpals. They said Brachot over candles, grape juice, and challah, and sang Shabbat songs together. Students and their Grandpals also worked together to create art projects related to Shabbat, such as making candlesticks, decorating placemats, and creating flowers and vases for a Shabbat table. Watching Shabbat traditions get passed down from one generation to another makes it meaningful.

Middle School students invited their Grandpals to experience a "Day in the life of a Danilack student." The day started off with a workshop on memory and connection, in which Grandpals reminisced about significant life events and shared stories that shaped their lives. Everyone participated in a ruach-filled Tefillah B'Yachad, and the Grandpals joined the students in their daily classes.

Yaad Destination: Judaism



What should an Associated graduate know about Judaism?

Should they know what signs make an animal kosher? The Hebrew dates of all Jewish holidays? The history of Medinat Yisrael?

The answer, of course, is “all of the above” - and more.

This year, we implemented a curriculum companion called “Yaad.” The Hebrew word “Yaad” means “destination,” referring to the journey that we are all travelling on throughout our learning; “Yaad” is also an acronym for “Yahadut, Arachim, Demokratia” - “Judaism, values, democracy.” These three important principles are part of our mission statement at Associated, and are embedded throughout our Judaic Studies and General Studies curriculum.

Compiled and edited by our Director of Operations, **Becky Friedman '07**, and made possible by a generous donation from the **Mansell family**, the “Yaad” curriculum companion is used across grades to focus on different aspects of Jewish life. Each section ranges from basic to more complex - from the days of the week to the contents of each tractate of Mishna. There is something for everyone. This cross-grade and multi-subject approach teaches students an additional lesson: that taking an active role in one’s Judaism is relevant in every class, and is supported by every AHS teacher.





SUSTAINING OUR JEWISH DAY SCHOOLS

Wednesday, March 6th 2024

HOLD THE DATE DAY of GIVING 2024

On Wednesday, March 6th, 2024, AHS will once again be participating in the city-wide Day of Giving to raise funds in support of Jewish education in the GTA. We thank all of the matchers, donors and volunteers for stepping up in support of our School every year. Because of you, we can continue to provide exceptional learning experiences that enrich our students and prepare them for an exciting future.

If you would like to pre-pledge your support, please contact Rella Margolis at 416-494-7666 x 261 or rmargolis@ahschools.com

The Jewish Future Begins with YOU



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Associated with a Love of Learning:

The Rush-Gordon Family

Although they grew up not far from one another, **Dr. Raffi Rush** (himself a former AHS student) and **Dr. Lauren Gordon** didn't meet until university. Now both working as doctors - Raffi as a rheumatologist and general internist in the Toronto area, and Lauren as a vascular surgery resident at the University of Toronto - they send their two children, **Gabriel and Noa Rush-Gordon**, to the Bet Hageled at Associated's Posluns campus.

Many friends, neighbours, and relatives recommended AHS as the right place for their family. They felt like they had found where their family belonged when they moved Gabriel to Associated for JK, and had no hesitation sending his younger sister to AHS for Nursery this year.

Gabriel quickly transitioned into his new classroom and became fast friends with many of his classmates. His JK teachers taught him to read and write, helped him learn basic geometry, and encouraged his individual passions. When he grew interested in geography, his teachers helped him learn to draw a new flag every day.

Gabriel's Jewish learning skyrocketed during *chala u'dvash*, the time set aside for Hebrew learning each day. He came home excited to share what he had learned about *tzedakah*, *Tefillah*, and the weekly Torah portion. Each year before Pesach, our JK students perform in a model Seder to which parents are invited. Raffi's and Lauren's hearts were warmed by Gabriel's Seder last April. "I came for the model Seder," Raffi recalls, "and I was almost in tears! I couldn't be happier with all the middot Gabriel's developed and what he's learned."

Gabriel's enthusiasm for school was infectious, and his little sister Noa couldn't wait to follow him to Associated. Raffi and Lauren were thrilled to see her first impressions of the school at the Bet Hageled Meet'n'Greet. Lauren admits she'd been worried about her daughter being overlooked in the bustle of her first time in a classroom, but those worries were quickly forgotten: "She helped the teacher corral all the other children into a circle," Lauren laughs. "And she's already found most of the elephants [Noa's favourite animal] in the room."



"Noa got very upset about school as I was putting her to bed," Raffi recalls about Noa's first day of school. "I was very confused. Then she clarified: 'I don't want half day! I want whole day!'"

Raffi and Lauren are thrilled with every aspect of their children's and family's AHS experience, from the way the kids on the bus look out for each other, to all the staff, whose care for their children is deeply felt, and the learning that their children bring home every day. "Gabriel taught Noa *brachot*," Raffi says, glowing with pride. "And his Hebrew accent is way better than mine."

It's not just the parents who feel they've found a second home at Associated: Gabriel couldn't wait to get back to school after a summer at camp. Recently, Gabriel and Noa told their parents that when they grow up, they want to be surgeons who teach at Posluns together.

They're looking forward to Noa getting that full-day experience next year in JK, and to both children continuing to flourish and to grow by leaps and bounds at Associated, along with their close friends. "We feel privileged to have them at AHS."

Pathway to Posluns

Cindy Closner, our Posluns Branch Principal, has been working in the field of education for 25 years. Her path to Posluns has encompassed many diverse professional experiences.



With a focus in special education, Cindy's career began as a primary teacher. She supported students and staff as a Reading Recovery Teacher and Literacy Coordinator - but it was Cindy's position of Behavioral Regional Support Resource that led her to realize her passion for educational administration. She went on to serve as a Principal across four TDSB schools, each in a different community and with varying needs and challenges. "In each school I've had the privilege to serve, I've strived to cultivate a nurturing and intellectually stimulating educational environment where students can truly thrive."

After spending many years in the TDSB, Cindy considers it a privilege to be a part of a Jewish community school. "In my short time with the school, I already feel the warmth of the community at large even as I reflect on the simple things like the pleasure of wishing everyone Shabbat Shalom or Shana Tova." Cindy's Jewish identity is central to her life. She enjoys gathering with family for Shabbat dinner, celebrating Jewish holidays together, and attending synagogue services.

Cindy values being a part of an institution whose educational mission resonates deeply with her personal philosophy. "AHS Posluns offers a distinctive educational experience where each child's voice is valued, every learner is empowered to thrive, and every student is encouraged to explore and develop their unique talents and passions."

Central to her role as Principal is developing meaningful relationships with parents, students, and the community - as well as creating an environment that sets students up for success and high achievement. In the words of Rabbi Sacks ז"ל:

"There is only one way to change the world, and that is through education. Children must be taught the importance of justice, righteousness, kindness, and compassion."

This quote resonates with Cindy, who tries to bring it into her daily practice. She believes that the most critical role of education is shaping a more just, compassionate, and morally upright society.

When Cindy is not at school, she loves spending time with her husband, their two daughters, and her extended family and friends. She considers herself a bit of a candy connoisseur who loves binge-watching shows with her family.

Cindy, we are so happy to have you as a member of our AHS community, and that your path brought you here to Posluns.

Connecting to our Jewish Heritage

AHS students participate in a wide variety of programming to enhance what they are learning in class and use it in a real-world context.

During the Aseret Yemei Teshuvah, Kamin Grade 3 students learned about the origins of Tashlich and the symbolism behind it, and about the process of asking for forgiveness. They then had the experience of walking to the JCC and completing the Tashlich ritual as a class. In the weeks leading up to Sukkot, our AHS students learned about the process of building a sukkah, and then made cross-curricular connections between the laws of Sukkot and Math to build a scale model of a sukkah using only recycled materials. Embedded in these learning activities were the Jewish principles of Tikun Olam and preserving nature.

The Grade 1 Tekes Aliyah is another wonderful example of a communal activity that connects students to their families, to Israel, and to other students at their campus. At each our Posluns and Kamin Elementary branches, each Grade 1 student is paired up with a Grade 5 buddy who supports them as they leave Bet Haya'eled and enter grade school. **Lucas and Nazeem**, two Grade 5 students, shared about the value that the Grade 5 students see in participating in this way in the Tekes Aliyah. "It's to welcome the Grade 1 students. We're receiving them."

Noya Zaltzman, an AHS staff member who takes a leadership role in coordinating some of our experiential learning activities, knows the impact that these programs have. "Students have the opportunity to practice the dinim and minhagim that they learn about in class. These are hands-on experiences for students. They learn things in the classroom in theory, and this brings it to life."



An Evening of Community and Commemoration:

AHS's Annual General Meeting, June 13, 2023



Associated has been holding its Annual General Meeting for many years. The AGM is an opportunity for the Board and School Administration to provide various reports, sharing with our wider community about how things currently stand at the school.

This year, though, the AGM also marked a special occasion, as we formally concluded the tenure of our outgoing Head of School, **Ora Shulman**, in that position, and welcomed our new Head of School, **Dr. Lee-Ron Kaye**, to the role.

To mark this occasion, we heard deeply moving speeches from **Daniel Rotenberg '23** and from **Stephanie Greenwald**, speaking as a student and a parent in our AHS community respectively, who described the warmth, care, and nurturing of each child that Mrs. Shulman demonstrated in everything she did throughout her time at AHS. We know she will continue to exercise these traits in her new role at Associated as Director of Advancement. To conclude the evening, the Board of Directors presented Mrs. Shulman with a plaque recognizing the creation of the **Ora Shulman Legacy Fund**, honouring her dedication to student success through a school fund that will support our students for many years to come, and announced her appointment to the Board of Governors.

AHS is proud to be a community school, and our community was truly present in full force at the AGM, bringing together staff, Directors, Governors, students, parents, alumni, and even grandparents from our school community. We work relentlessly to ensure we are fiscally responsible, as was evident in the financial statements shared, and we were thrilled to be able to honour our rich history of connections, while taking our next steps in working with our community through the sharing of educational and operational updates, enrollment reports, and plans for the future.



Bringing Israeli Life and Culture to AHS



This year, we welcomed **Stau Dreyer** and **Daniel Shorr** to our school community as our Shinshinim. Stau lives in a small Israeli town called Tzur Yigal, while Daniel lives in the bustling city of Jerusalem. As Shinshinim, their goal is to teach students about the beauty and complexity of Israel.

Stau and Daniel prepare activities for our students about Israeli culture, Israeli geography, and important historical sites in Israel. They also teach about the many diverse populations that make up our homeland. In addition to providing our children with this valuable Israel education, Stau and Daniel will be joining the IDF next year, further contributing to Israeli society.

We have also welcomed to our AHS community our Bnot Sherut, **Liron Salem** and **Yaalla Yafee**. Liron and Yaalla are supporting Hebrew language acquisition in SK and Grade 1 classes. Both from the beautiful city of Netanya, this is their second year serving as Bnot Sherut. Last year, they each worked at Israeli schools providing support to students with special needs. Liron and Yaalla shared that the most

important part of being Bnot Sherut, for them, is “being a listening ear for students,” and “always having a smile to share.” Their goal is to support our students and the Jewish community here in Toronto.

Stau, Daniel, Liron, and Yaalla - thank you for bringing your love of Israel to our students. We look forward to many more of your engaging educational activities as the year progresses!

Fun Facts:

- Yaalla's hobbies include gymnastics and baking in her spare time.
- Liron enjoys reading and drawing.
- Daniel loves swimming.
- Stau likes travelling, being outdoors, hiking, and diving

New Major Gifts

We are continuing to enhance spaces and programming at AHS thanks to our open-hearted Major Gifts supporters.



The Ed and Fran Sonshine Judaica Art Wall

As our students walk downstairs to Tefillah in the Koschitzky Beit Midrash and back each day, they now pass the Ed and Fran Sonshine Judaica Art Wall. Displaying meaningful Jewish artifacts that attract the eye and pique one's curiosity, this special wall embodies AHS's values of inspiring in our students a love of their Jewish identity. We are grateful to **Ed and Fran Sonshine** for sharing their passion for Judaism with us to create this beautiful monument to our heritage.

CDL Enhancement

Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous family, we have continued to enhance programming with AHS's Centre for Diverse Learning (CDL) to support all students. These enhancements include our new AHSCoNECT peer-to-peer student mentoring program, psychology consultations and assessments through Growing Minds, and offering a range of school clubs, activities, and student and parent workshops throughout the year to foster positive relationship-building and safe social media use, as well as making it possible for us to continue to have a Child and Youth Worker supporting student well-being at each of our Elementary branches.



The AHSPA Serving Centre

Each day, Danilack Middle School students gather in the lunchroom to enjoy the unstructured time to eat and socialize over their lunch period - often enhanced by their selections from the AHSPA Hot Lunch Program, which offers a range of options to pre-order for each day. Now, these hot lunches are distributed from the beautiful AHSPA Serving Centre, made possible courtesy of our own AHS Parents' Association.

We Are Associated with Israel



We are one community - our AHS community is united with Israel and with the Jewish community worldwide, now and always.

We are so proud of our AHS alumni who are supporting Israel's war effort through serving in the IDF, working as emergency physicians, and other acts of volunteerism.



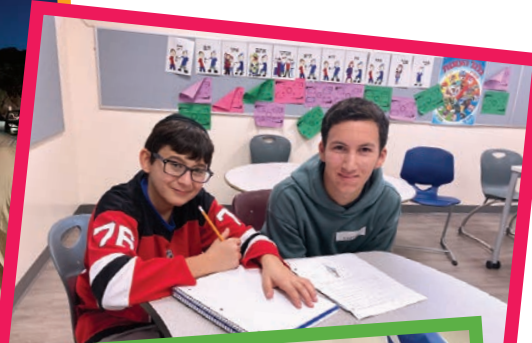
Our thoughts are with all our alumni studying in Israel this year, and all our alumni who have made Aliyah.

We take great Nachat in how our community has truly come together in support of Israel, and in support of our new families who have just arrived from Israel, through donating, volunteering, and sharing messages of support.



אחינו כל בית ישראל

Our community has also come together in support of one another: we are grateful to mental health professionals and AHS parents **Dr. Steven Selchen, Dr. Jessica Cooperman, and Dr. Maya Roth**, for leading a workshop for parents on how to best care for our children and ourselves during this difficult time.



AHS has been proud to open our doors and our classrooms to new students arriving temporarily from Israel, to offer them the comfort of routine, the warmth of community, and the excellence in education that we give to all our students.

AHS alumni have returned from Israel to share their recent experiences and inspiring messages with our students.

Associated With Sportsmanship

As we embark on another full year of Associated Athletics, we celebrate the positive effects that sports and active lifestyles have on our student athletes.

Whether they are competing on school teams, enjoying intramural sports, getting together with friends for open gym, or participating in gym classes, Associated students gain many life skills that can be utilized in all areas of their day-to-day well-being through athletics.

AHS has celebrated many successful seasons over the years, but nothing is more fulfilling than watching students grow into true athletes who strive to make everyone around them better.

We have seen our student athletes turn into leaders right before our eyes, on and off the field of play, through encouraging words, leading by example, and sharing knowledge and experience with one another.

While trophies and championships are always celebrated, the impact that athletics has on shaping the character of AHS students is our priority. Our Phys Ed faculty places emphasis on helping our students to improve their sportsmanship, teamwork, and leadership skills, while helping them navigate the highs and lows of playing sports.

Associated Athletics is a platform that helps students learn how to be the best citizens they can be.

Practice creates confidence, confidence creates opportunities, and opportunities lead to a brighter future!

#WeAreAthletes





Pictured from L-R: Coach Richard Stoll, Max Colomby '22, Cooper Brown '22, Evan Abrams '22, Asher Greenwald '23, Harris Meirouitch '23, Des Rucker '22, Connor Adam '23. Absent: Assistant coach Gideon Fluxman '20.

FOOTBALL FAME for **ASSOCIATED** **ATHLETES**

On October 25, TanenbaumCHAT's Junior Boys Flag Football team captured the TDCAA Championship for the second consecutive year. Of the 19 players on the team, 7 are graduates of Associated Hebrew Schools. The TanenbaumCHAT Tigers roared to victory by defeating Neil McNeil 34-6 in the semi-finals and Father Redmond 33-6 in the finals. While all 7 AHS alumni made significant contributions to the team, two members particularly stood out: Quarterback **Evan Abrams '22** led the Tigers to scoring drives on every possession in every game (for the second year running), and **Cooper Brown '22** scored seven touchdowns in a single tournament. TanenbaumCHAT is looking forward to continued sportsmanship and success next year, aided, of course, by the current and incoming pool of amazing Associated athletes!

Reach Ahead: New High School Credit Course at Danilack Middle School

Engagement is a cornerstone of effective learning. Starting in Grade 7, our students exercise voice and choice in their learning by selecting two interest-based semestered courses. This initiative significantly reduces risk of academic disinterest, ultimately leading to improved performance and a deeper passion for learning. This year, our Grade 8 had the opportunity to choose to take a Grade 9 Geography credit course. By empowering our students to take charge of their education, we prepare them to be proactive learners, and we continue to set AHS apart from other day schools.

At Associated, education is a journey without rigid boundaries. As the world evolves, so does our approach to learning. Offering Grade 8 students the opportunity to take a Grade 9 Geography credit will yield a multitude of benefits. Beyond providing knowledge, this initiative nurtures intellectual growth, fosters responsibility, and equips students with essential skills that will serve them well in the future. This course continues our tradition of exposing students to a high level of academic rigour. By navigating more demanding coursework at an earlier stage, students develop resilience, time management skills, and study habits that will undoubtedly contribute to their success in their future academic pursuits.



Transitioning from Middle School to high school can be daunting. This course is another step AHS provides for ensuring a smooth transition to the more demanding academic environment of high school. Grade 9 Reach Ahead Geography, taught by AHS educator **Mr. Rafael Brusilow**, introduces students to a range of skills that extend beyond the classroom. Through research projects, map analyses, and critical examinations of global issues, students cultivate skills such as information gathering, data analysis, effective communication, and teamwork. Providing opportunities like this one represents our commitment to nurturing the full potential of every student.



Associated with Achievement and Accomplishment

On June 22, 2023, the AHS Class of '23 lined up in their royal-blue gowns for their graduation procession down the aisles of Adath Israel Synagogue, as so many Associated graduates have before them.

Graduation is always a special time. In June, we enjoy so many celebrations of our students' learning, and it is a great privilege to come together for this culmination, at the end of their AHS career, taking this time to honour them for how far they have come before sending them on their way toward the next steps of their educational journeys. The 2023 Graduation Ceremony, **generously sponsored by the Davidson family in memory of Morris Shoom ז"ל**, was no exception.

The Class of 2023 Valedictorians, **Theodore Grad '23** and **Benjamin Rosenstein '23**, each spoke eloquently, representing their classmates with poise and great animation. They spoke about the growth, knowledge, and community that they have gained through their years at Associated, expressing gratitude and appreciation to all those who have nurtured and helped their cohort throughout their educational journeys thus far.

Along with our Valedictorians, we heard from the Grade 8 members of the 2022-23 Student Council, **Aaron Herr '23**, **Daniel Rotenberg '23**, **Harry Mandel '23**, and **Natalie Shlesinger '23**, who shared about their experiences as leaders and reminisced about the incredible programming that the Danilack student body enjoyed thanks to their efforts and the efforts of the staff supporting them.



In addition to meaningful remarks from Danilack Principal **Kevin Knopman**, Board President **Jono Halpern**, and then-Head of School **Ora Shulman**, who connected this year's graduation to her own Grade 8 experiences in a very moving address, this year's Graduation enjoyed a brief but touching presentation from former Board member and current parent of graduates **Mayeer Pearl '88**, thanking Ora Shulman on behalf of the entire parent body for the wholehearted dedication that she gave their children throughout her tenure as Head of School.

Our spirits were further uplifted through music, with AHS's own **Eleni Kahn '23** singing O Canada and Hatikvah at the start and end of proceedings, with accompaniment by **Daniel Kouari '23**, **Harry Mandel '23**, and **Tanyah Richulsky '23**.

All attendees were welcomed to a dessert reception following the graduation ceremony, as students received gifts from the school and the AHSPA, including their graduation certificates, an Israel Bond and a copy of our new Ya'ad book from AHS, and a beautiful Kiddush cup from the AHSPA.

Our Graduation accomplishments and pride don't end there, however - AHS is also thrilled to celebrate **Kyle Goldenberg '19**, who was chosen as the TanenbaumCHAT Valedictorian for his high school graduating class in June 2023. Kyle represented his peers on Wednesday, June 14, 2023, inspiring his fellow graduates and making AHS proud. We know that Kyle, and his fellow AHS alumni completing high school, will continue to make us proud as they continue their educational journeys in university and beyond.





Second row, left to right: 2022-23 AHS Grades 7/8 participants Joshua B, Jessica S, Maya V | Front row, left to right: 2022-23 AHS Grades 5/6 participants Isaac S, Shira E, Mara G, Yair S, Efrayim R, Noah S, Molly B, Michael G, Misha S, Ilan K, and Coach Becky F '07

For the Love of Torah

Each year on Shavuot, and again on Simchat Torah, we renew our commitment as a people to the acceptance, love, and study of Torah. At AHS, we take this commitment very seriously: we offer a rigorous and enriching Tanach program, which includes learning about the Parsha as early as Bet Hayered and introduces text-based Torah learning from Grade 2 and up, and we incorporate the lessons and values of Torah into everything we do as a school. In addition, we offer our students the opportunity to set aside additional time for studying Torah for its own sake, through the Chidon HaTanach, the National Bible Contest.

This special endeavour is offered to students in Grades 5-8. They are so excited to be given this opportunity - in fact, many years, even after the contest has concluded in May, the students ask to continue meeting after school each week, to enhance their Torah learning.

In the Grade 5/6 and Grade 7/8 divisions, respectively, the students study the assigned chapters together after school each week - the Grade 7 and 8 students as one class (studying with **Rabbi Saar Rozen**), and the Grade 5 and 6 students from Kamin, Posluns, and Danilack all coming together as the other. Their months of reviewing, practicing, sharing insights on the material and writing up lists and notes stand them in good stead at the Regional Contest in early March, a multiple-choice test that will determine who goes on to the Nationals in May.

On May 7, 2023, thirteen AHS students made their way to Montreal for the National Bible Contest - some drove, some flew, some boarded the official Chidon bus in the morning, all with a great sense of excitement. Upon arrival in Montreal, we were greeted by our Montreal counterparts and students from across Canada who share our love of Torah. After a warm welcome from the contest organizers, students wrote the first part of the contest before retiring to a pizza dinner and their respective lodgings.

A big day was in store for them the next morning: throughout Monday, May 8, students wrote the Round 1, Semi-Finals, and Finals tests, interspersed with activities ranging from Bingo, art, and sports to a Tanach-themed interactive skit and trivia game.

AHS students **Maya Vidal '23**, **Joshua Burton** and **Jessica Silverman** (Grades 7/8 Division), and **Mara Green**, **Yair Sharon**, and **Misha Vishneuer** (Grades 5/6 Division) ranked in the Semi-Finals (top 10), and **Jessica Silverman** placed in the Finals (top 5).

But AHS's love of Torah doesn't end at Graduation; many AHS alumni continue to participate in the Chidon HaTanach in high school - including, most recently, **Eliyahu Oziel '19**, who represented Canada last Spring at the International Bible Contest in Israel, ranking in the top 6 of the Diaspora Contest, and **Aviv Sharon '21**, who placed second in Canada ("Sgan HaTanach") at the Nationals last May, and will be representing Canada in the Internationals in Israel on Yom Ha'atzmaut, 2024.

We are also thrilled to continue seeing familiar faces at the Nationals, as AHS alumni who have won the Chidon in the past frequently return as coaches and judges

This year, that meant seeing **Ryan Ripsman '13** as another school's coach, and our Director of Operations **Becky Friedman '07** continuing to coach AHS's Grade 5/6 team. In past years, we have been proud to see other AHS alumni Chidon winners as coaches, judges and proctors, including **Elisheva Brauner '04**, **Sofia Freudenstein '12**, **Ori Epstein '17**, and **Yoav Gudes '18** - and, of course, we are deeply grateful to the tireless efforts of AHS Alumna **Tanya Werger '06**, Project Manager at the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, who continues to serve as one of the lead organizers of the Canadian Chidon HaTanach.

This year, our Chidon HaTanach students are beginning to study the book of Shemot (Exodus) in Grades 5 and 6, along with the books of Shoftim (Judges) and Melachim Aleph (Kings I) in Grades 7 and 8, in preparation for the Regionals in March and the Nationals in May. **Team AHS has a bright year of Torah study and accomplishment ahead of them!**



AHS PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Working Together to Celebrate Our Students

Join us in celebration of our students by partnering with us on a school activity or event. Your partnership will be acknowledged in our event invitations, programmes, and branch newsletters. Opportunities are listed below; multiple donors are welcome to partner with us for each opportunity.

Please contact our Development Office at 416-494-7666 x 261 or development@ahschools.com for further details.

GRADE-SPECIFIC CELEBRATIONS & MILESTONES AT POSLUNS AND KAMIN

- Nursery Purim celebration \$720
- JK Model Seder \$720
- SK End of Year Play \$720
- Grade 1 Tekes Aliyah \$1,800
- Grade 1 Siddur Ceremony \$1,800
- Grade 2 Chagigat Shabbat \$720
- Grade 3 Havdalah Ceremony \$720
- Grade 4 Pesach Play \$720
- Grade 5 Tekes Siyum & Reception \$1,800

GRADE-SPECIFIC CELEBRATIONS & MILESTONES AT DANILACK

- Grade 6 My Family Story Project \$720
- Grade 6 Sushi Under the Stars \$1,800
- Grade 6/7 Bar/Bat Mitvah Learning Session \$720
- Grade 6/7 Grade Chagigat Kesher (B'nai Mitzvah Program) \$1,800
- Grade 7 Shabbaton \$10,000
- Grade 8 Grad Trip \$10,000
- Grade 8 Grad Gift: State of Israel Bonds \$10,000
- Women's Megillah Reading \$720

SCHOOL-WIDE PARTNERSHIPS

Curriculum Enhancement

The *Devash* Parsha magazine enriches the Torah learning of our students in Grades 3-5. A donation of \$15,000 will enable us to continue offering *Devash* for three years.

Sponsoring Students

Support students whose families receive tuition assistance. Each \$720 donation will provide funding for hot lunches, field trips, books, Chromebooks, and/or sports team uniforms for one student in need annually.

All donations are viewed as charitable gifts and are tax deductible. All of the opportunities included in this document have minimal recognition and are not considered advertising. Consequently, even donations by businesses are receiptable according to CRA.

The Empathy Effect

“Stepping into someone else’s shoes can move a person to action.”

Kim Smiley

As a business leader, non-profit founder, and proud AHS parent, **Kim Smiley** leads by example in making the world a kinder place. Kim is a Harvard graduate with training in religion and philosophy. She is also a talented artist who uses her creations to support philanthropic endeavours. Kim has worked in the non-profit sector for 13 years, including Habitat for Humanity, the UJA Federation, and Montreal’s Holocaust Museum. We sat down with Kim to learn more about an initiative of hers that is taking the world by storm: The Empathy Effect.

The Empathy Effect

The Empathy Effect started as a social experiment on Facebook. Kim challenged herself to post one black-and-white image to invoke empathy, every day for a year, with the exception of Shabbat. After only 5 days, it went viral.

The Empathy Pledge

On the last day of Kim’s Empathy Effect challenge, she launched the Empathy Pledge, a promise that individuals could make to practice one act of empathy each day. “It’s the difference between ‘slacktivism’ and ‘activism,’” Kim explained. “You’ve engaged online. Now you’re engaging in person.” Individuals can purchase an Empathy Pin, to symbolize their commitment to the Empathy Pledge. The Jewish values of tzedakah and tikun olam are embedded in every business decision that Kim makes: proceeds from the pin go to a non-profit charity that Kim founded, supporting impoverished families in Toronto’s Jewish community, as well as new Canadian refugees.



The Empathy Game

Kim's next step was to expand her reach. "My goal is to educate one million people in empathy over the next year." She created The Empathy Game, for players of all ages to cultivate deep listening and strengthen their empathy.

Kim took a huge risk - beta-testing The Empathy Game in a room full of 400 children. With a group ranging in age from four-year-olds to Grade 8, the energy was palpable. "The child pretending to be a koala bear became the koala bear," Kim says, describing how child after child stepped into the shoes of a character in a story. "I knew, in that moment, that I had something really incredible."

The Empathy Empire

Kim believes passionately that lack of funds should not be a barrier to access. For every copy of the game that she sells, she donates one to local educational institutions, and to educational organizations in India and Africa. "I'm trying to create connection, because I feel like the disconnect is higher than ever. There's a warmth that has evaporated from society. We need retraining. Now, more than ever, it's extremely salient."

What's next for the Empathy Empire? Kim is looking to expand her team to reach even more people.

"I'll be connecting with doctors, lawyers, the police department. People in the prison system. I want this to be global. I want it everywhere."

Raising Makers and Mentsches

This year, one of our strategic focuses is promoting empathy. **Dr. Lee-Ron Kaye**, Head of School, reached out to Kim about running a professional development session for our teachers in August, as part of our ongoing efforts to promote empathy, strengthen our community, and instill positive middot in our students. Kim spoke about self-compassion as a prerequisite for compassion towards others. "Empathy begins with oneself. You cannot truly practice empathy towards others if you do not practice empathy with yourself." Staff members reflected and brainstormed ideas for bringing empathy into their classrooms, and left the Kim's interactive program feeling inspired and invigorated for the year ahead.

The appreciation was mutual. "Speaking at the PD day in September was a gift for me," Kim shared. "Being in a room with people who care so much about children was wonderful." Kim is looking forward to her continued partnership with Associated. AHS will be purchasing a copy of The Empathy Game and incorporating it into our repertoire of classroom resources. Along with skills in digital literacy, collaboration, problem-solving, and creativity, empathy is another tool we are equipping our students with in their 21st-Century toolkit.

Proud to be an AHS Parent

Growing up in Montreal, Kim attended a Jewish supplementary school. After moving to Toronto and making the decision to send her children to a Jewish day school, Kim checked out many different schools to find the right fit for their family. Before she had even completed her tour of the Posluns campus, her decision had been made. "This is the place. This is the vibe. This is the energy."

"The heimische environment is exactly what I wanted for my kids," Kim expressed. "You feel it in every classroom." Kim is the proud parent of two AHS students, **Sam** and **Maya**. They are thriving in their Grade 2 and SK classes, and Kim attributes this to their sense of belonging. "We made the choice to send our kids to Associated because it felt right in my neshama when I came in the door and when we came on our tour. It felt like this was where we belonged. And that feeling has only been reinforced since my kids have been here."

Empathy is Kim's raison d'être. "I believe every person has a reason that they're here. For me, this was my reason." At Associated, empathy aligns deeply with our core values of inclusion and building community. We are proud to be associated with this powerful endeavour.

Continuing to Learn with Our Alumni: Rabbi Dr. Martin Lockshin '64

AHS was privileged to host **Rabbi Dr. Marty Lockshin '64**, for a Lunch & Learn for our Danilack Judaic Studies staff on Tuesday, October 31.

While he now lives in Israel with his wife, we are proud that Rabbi Lockshin is not only an AHS alumnus, but is also the son of **Louis Lockshin ז"ל**, a life member of AHS's Board of Directors, who played an integral role in building the Finch branch (now the Hurwich Education Centre) of Associated. Before the Lunch & Learn, we were thrilled to have the opportunity to sit down with Rabbi Lockshin for a brief Q&A.



AHS: What are some of your earliest memories at AHS?

ML: I remember when this building (the Hurwich Education Centre) was being built. My father liked to work with his hands, so we went walking through the construction site together. He told me that this was going to be such a good thing for Jewish education. He really believed in this school, and so do I. It's a very nice feeling, coming back to the school where I learned so much and where many people whom I taught are now working.

I transferred to AHS from another Jewish Day School for Grade 3, and one of my earliest memories is that I didn't understand what was going on in class, because my previous school had not taught us Ivrit b'Ivrit. We learned a tonne at AHS - we were able to speak Hebrew, and read Biblical texts in the original, and the secular studies were good, too.

I had a lifelong relationship with my 5th-grade Hebrew teacher, **Rabbi Yehuda Weiss**. He was a brilliant educator and a Talmid Chacham. When my wife and I married, he sponsored one of the Sheva Brachot in our honour at AHS! When I was at AHS, the Hebrew Principal was **Dr. Levi Jacober**. He was a great Zionist, and a great scholar of Judaism, though he had never been to Israel. Years later, when I was studying in Yeshiva, I saw him on his first trip to Israel - his face was shining, and his eyes were bright with his love of Israel.

There weren't very many Jewish Day Schools in Toronto at that point, and a relatively small percentage of young Jewish people in Toronto were getting a day school education - there is a much higher percentage now - but there was a sense that AHS was training the best and the brightest. It was exciting for me, learning together with a lot of very bright young people my age.



AHS: What led to you making Aliyah?

ML: The education that I received here at AHS taught me that Israel is where Jewish culture and Jewish life can thrive. These things were important to me.

AHS: Where do you live now? What makes the area special for you?

ML: I live in Jerusalem, in Katamon. My wife and I have lived in many different parts of Jerusalem, and we have been happy in every one.

Our neighbourhood is an interesting place to live because it includes people from different socio-economic groups. On Simchat Torah this year, we went to an early minyan, and shul was almost over by the time the sirens started. We took the longer route home, to stay near buildings in case of another siren. There was a siren as we walked, so we entered an apartment building which happened to be not very well-off. One of the residents saw us sheltering in the stairwell and invited us in, offering us water. Even with all the terrible things going on, this is just a small example of the beautiful spirit of helping one another, being one people, that we have seen over the last few weeks.

AHS: We are so proud to have alumni like you who are so anchored in Jewish values. What would be your message to our AHS grads?

ML: When I graduated high school, I had this feeling, which I abandoned very quickly, that I had studied religious matters enough; I wanted to study Tanach, but not in a religious framework. About halfway through the year, studying Tanach at the Hebrew University, I realized that I felt disappointed, for the first time, in my studies, because of the distance from the text compared to how at AHS we would grapple with the text as Jews - I was missing the Jewish values that were present here.

AHS: We want our graduates to be anchored in both the Jewish and the general world, and you truly exemplify that. What words of advice do you have for those who pursue a path like yours?

ML: In elementary school, we are in Judaic Studies for half the day, and General Studies for half the day - one thing that we learn from this is that both of these things are important, and when we leave, we want to try to keep both of them up. My graduating class from Associated got into some of the best universities, and some went on to higher Jewish education. I think it's a very positive development that more people have realized that Judaism isn't just what we can learn in elementary school or high school.

Remembering Mira Koschitzky ז"ל

The AHS community extends our heartfelt condolences to the entire Koschitzky family on the passing of **Mira Koschitzky ז"ל**, a cherished member of the AHS Board of Governors.

Mira, a resilient soul, was the mother of AHS alumni **David '73, Joel '74, and Tamar '79**. Her life's journey began with an extraordinary survival story, as she miraculously navigated the harrowing days of the Holocaust in hiding with her sister in Czechoslovakia. In 1947, Mira embarked on a new chapter, immigrating to Canada with her family.

Mira and her devoted husband **Saul** embraced a mission of fortifying Jewish life in Toronto, solidifying their roles as esteemed members of the AHS Board of Directors. Mira, a beacon of leadership, served as President of the AHS Parents Association from 1973 to 1975. Together, Mira and Saul emerged as pillars of the Jewish community, with Mira passionately engaging in various Jewish educational initiatives and tirelessly advocating for freedom, human rights, and tolerance.

Mira's impact transcended borders, as she dedicated herself to fostering a love for Israel and Jewish learning within her family. Her legacy resonates in the unwavering commitment of her loved ones to making the world a better place.

In celebrating Mira Koschitzky's life, we honour not only her remarkable personal journey but also her enduring contributions to AHS and to the Jewish community and beyond. May her memory be a source of inspiration and comfort to all who had the privilege of knowing her.



Remembering Arthur Kruger ז"ל

Dr. Arthur Kruger ז"ל, beloved husband of **Betty Kruger**, son-in-law of AHS founder **Dr. Levi Jacober ז"ל**, and father of **Sarah Sherman '75, Nina Bernstein '78, Yacov Kruger '81 and Naomi Arram '83**, was a Life Member of AHS and a member of the AHS Board of Governors, having been a Past Vice-President of the Board of Directors and Chair of the standing committee of Scholarship & Endowment. His passion for the school was driven by his appreciation for the unique Ivrit B'Ivrit curriculum provided by AHS for our diverse community of students. He would always say that without the immersive Ivrit curriculum provided by AHS, one cannot fully appreciate the nuance, depth and richness of the Torah, Talmud, Jewish traditions, and Biblical commentary that are intertwined with the Hebrew language. Arthur ז"ל was able to live the dream of settling in Yerushalayim. He valued AHS for integrating the beauty and vibrancy of modern Israeli society into the classroom.

Alumni Helping at Home and Abroad

Since childhood, Associated alumni **Devy and Aden Gilbert** have been using their passions and talents to make a difference in the lives of others. We sat down with this incredible sibling duo to hear about their volunteer initiatives, and how their time at Associated inspired them to get involved in community activism.

Programs at Associated inspired both Devy and Aden to find their own ways of helping the community - both at home and abroad. "A big inspiration for me was my Grade 4 Project Give-Back assignment," explains Aden. "The presentations given by my peers inspired me and exposed me to countless volunteer causes that I was unaware of." Aden chose to present about the Devy Herlin Memorial Fund at the Montreal Jewish General Hospital - a foundation for cardiac care in honour of his grandfather. Devy, who is named after her brother's project's namesake, also found a way to honour her late grandfather's memory with her Project Give-Back assignment at Associated, through a project on the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

What began as an elementary school project turned into a life-long passion for Devy. Now in her third year at Queens University, she volunteers at the Heart and Stroke Foundation as a co-chair, liaising between the foundation and her university to coordinate fundraising initiatives. Devy is the vice-president of Delta Pi, a Jewish sorority that has a strong involvement in raising money for charitable causes. She is also planning her third trip to Tanzania, where she practices midwifery at a birthing centre, supports individuals living with HIV, works with women and children in a halfway house, and helps out at a local school. "The people I have connected to are the kindest, most generous people I have ever met," Devy says.

"It's great that we as Canadians are learning and gaining awareness for other countries' needs. But actually immersing oneself into their society is an eye-opener. For women in Tanzania, life can be very challenging."

Aden is in his second year, also at Queens, studying Engineering. He shares that the dual curriculum at Associated helped prepare him for the volume of work in university. "I learned to balance the workload volume of both an English and Hebrew curriculum. This most definitely helped prepare me for my university studies."



Siblings, AHS Alumni, and volunteers extraordinaires
Devy and Aden Gilbert

Last summer, Aden volunteered at a coral reef conservation in Indonesia. He helped build and install artificial coral reefs as part of a worldwide initiative to conserve and rejuvenate our environment. This combined his engineering knowledge with his passion for SCUBA diving. "I enjoyed the experience of traveling, making countless connections and friends, learning new skills, having fun, and helping others," Aden tells. "Throughout my time in Indonesia, I was able to travel and experience an entirely foreign culture while making new friends and connections from around the world."

Aden and Devy have fond memories of the many volunteer opportunities available throughout their time at Associated, which they took full advantage of. They participated in the Chanukah Food Bank initiative and the Passover Food Drive, and they even performed songs in seniors' residences as part of the AHS Choir. They also volunteered at camps in the summer, and on the weekends with their mother, AHS Art teacher **Miriam Herlin**. "Anything they could do, they did. They LOVED volunteering," Miriam shares. "They learned a lot of great values at Associated." Miriam is a Visual Arts Specialist who has been teaching art at Associated for 12 years. She also leads an art program at the Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue for adults with special needs. An important childhood memory for Aden is when Miriam would bring him, his sister, and their grandmother to her special needs adult art programs on Sunday mornings. Aden would work with individual participants to help them complete the projects, while Devy would walk around the room offering support to anyone who needed it. "Volunteering has been a big part of my life for as long as I can remember," Aden says.

In 2020, Aden provided free online math tutoring to elementary school students, while Devy joined a peer mentoring program. They are both already planning their next volunteering-abroad experience. In a full-circle moment, Miriam is planning on going to Tanzania this summer with her daughter. "Once you do it, it gets in your blood," Miriam explains. "It's so important for us to get involved as a family."

Whether you want to volunteer close to home or on the other side of the world, Devy and Aden's advice is to "Find something that interests you. You'll learn new things and have fun" - while making a meaningful difference.

S'machot V'Chadashot

שמחות וחדשות



Dr. Evan '06 and Dr. Leanne (Zive) '06 Michaelou on the birth of

Dylan



Tamar Zagdanski '03 and Max Weisbrod on the birth of

Brielle Liu



Simmi Toby '06 and Adam Blankenstein on the birth of

Frida Rose

Mazal Tou to...

מזל טוב!



Robbie '02 and Jessica Handelman on birth of

Lyla



Leo Katz '06 and Rebecca Chad on the birth of

Daniella Miriam



David Hartman '98 and Rachel Albert on the birth of

Ruben



Aaron Vale '98 and Danielle Lenchner on the birth of

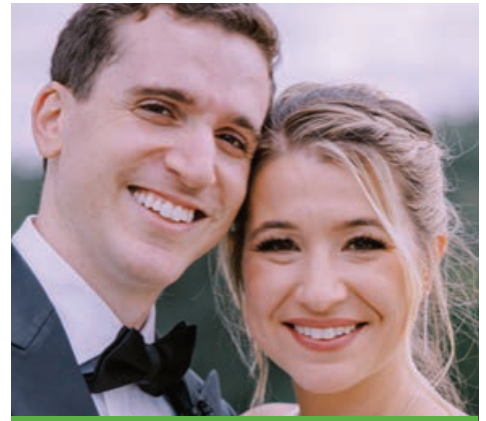
Elle Loren



Weddings
Jordana Moses '10 to
Jordan Mudryk



Weddings
Josh Gottesman '06 to
Orah Myers



Weddings
Howie Freeman '06 to
Judi Yuhjtman



Engagements
Brooke Stockhamer '14
to Joshua Zwiebel '14



Engagements
Talya Shulman '10
to Josh Morris



Engagements
Noah Osher '06 to
Taylor Himel



Engagements
Stefanie Stockhamer '12
to Matthew Howard



Engagements
Esther Oziel '10
to Bryant Spiuak



Achievements
Melanie Kazman Kohn '92 was
named President and CEO of Michael
Garron Hospital on June 12.

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WITH THE **STRENGTH OF**
TRADITION *AND THE*
POWER OF INNOVATION
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של מציאות משתנה



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