

KD CHRONICLES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER FOR KING DAVID HIGH SCHOOL

Welcome!

By Ma'ayan Werner

Hi everyone!

Welcome to this year's first edition of the KD Chronicles. This is the second year of the paper. Use it to share your interests and ideas.

This year we have opted for a more ecological and cheaper way of delivering the newspaper to you all by emailing it.

I would like to thank everyone that has contributed to this first edition with their articles.

For those that want to contribute to the next paper, feel free to email an article to me.

Read on if you wish to find out more about the fires that have devastated Australia and its wildlife and, more importantly, how you can help the situation.

In our politics section, there is an informative breakdown of the conflict between the USA and Iran.

Our Agony Aunt column is a regular feature for answering your concerns about school and the curriculum.

Another exciting regular feature of our magazine is the teacher interview which I am sure you can't wait to read. We find out about the innermost secrets of one of the school's favourite teachers.



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THE EARTH**

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THE AUSTRALIA WILDFIRE; HOW YOU CONTRIBUTED AND HOW WE CAN HELP

Charlotte Myer

At least 28 humans were killed in the wildfire in Australia and over one billion animals have also been wiped out along with 17.9 million acres of land destroyed. Australian wildfires are common each year in the summer months as the hot and dry climate makes it practically effortless for the fires to occur and spread.

This is usually due to natural causes like lightning striking in drought affected areas, but, the NSW police have also taken legal action against 183 people for fire related incidents since November. This however is not the only way humans have inflamed the deadly fires in Australia; in-fact each of us individually have contributed to the 'worst bushfire season on record'. The climate crisis has prolonged the effects of the summer season in Australia, due to rising temperatures, which have also caused a drier climate making the land more susceptible to the spreading of fire. Evidently, the worse the climate crisis gets the worse the fires will get.

It is now proven that almost ¼ of greenhouse gas emissions stem from our use and exploitation of land and more than half of this is from animal products. By 2050 the population on earth is expected to reach 9.15 billion which will largely increase the demand for produce and furthermore increase the amount of pollution the farming industry contributes. Additionally, billions of litres of fresh water are given to animals on farms enabling them to be more profitable. Not only does the farming industry contribute an unfathomable amount of pollution, but it also uses an immense amount of water, which one day, if the climate crisis continues unabated, we will need for ourselves. The University of Oxford produced a study in 2018 which analysed the relationship between farming and the environment; 40,000 farms were looked at in 119 countries worldwide. The conclusion: a vegan diet is most likely the single greatest way to reduce our impact on the planet.

By facilitating the industries which produce meat, dairy and egg products we are not only endorsing the abuse of animals and land (which is becoming increasingly unsustainable) but we are encouraging it and furthermore encouraging natural disaster to occur on a more destructive scale.



(Above are images taken from the recent wildfires in Australia)

Too many animals have faced excruciating pain with burns and scolds due to the fire. The sympathy and help towards the animals has been overwhelming with

people flying to Australia to aid the animal welfare organisations such as WWF. However, millions of animals are abused and killed every day just to satisfy our palettes. Although not under the same circumstances, animals are abused and murdered too just so we can have an insignificant amount of sensory pleasure at meal times. Is the pain and suffering worth it? A healthy vegan diet exists which means it is no longer a necessity to eat the meat and milk products which contribute so significantly to global warming.

Global warming, if it continues at the current rate will surpass the 1.5-degree mark which is considered the maximum for long-term safety. Within 100 years this could again increase by another two degrees. Although the numbers appear minimal this would not only increase the danger of natural disasters, but they will occur more frequently- once again destroying nature, homes and countless lives. If the natural disasters did not scare you enough even food and water will become scarcer in the coming years.

Although veganism is not the only way to reduce your impact on the climate crisis it is an easy and extremely effective way of doing so. There are of-course other ways too which can have an impact, for example: taking public transport instead of driving and not buying single use plastic and much more. Evidently, there are plenty of ways to help reduce your impact on the climate but, again, as the Oxford study concluded veganism is possibly the single best way to reduce your impact on the climate. With veganism becoming more and more popular in the recent years it has become so much easier to adapt to the lifestyle. In all the leading supermarkets like Tesco and Sainsburys the vegan choices are impressively large and are also ever-growing- there is a substitute for practically everything. Additionally, in restaurants it is rare that you will not find something vegan on the menu and in-fact some restaurant chains, like Pizza Express and Wagamama's, have whole vegan sections if not a separate menu! The accessibility for vegans today is tremendous. There is no room for excuses anymore. Veganism is manageable and effective so what is stopping you?

If you care about the environment, helpless animals and or our future, what are you waiting for? Help put an end to the pain and suffering and protect our future. It is down to us so please take action for your own sake if no one else's.

If you are interested in going vegan here are some websites to look at and shows to watch.

Websites: Vegan.com Vegansociety.com Earthlinged.org

On Netflix:

Game Changers, Cowspiracy, What the Health

LOU'S VIEWS - IRAN

LOUIE LEVENTHALL

Unless you've been living under a rock, you may have heard the news of the US Iranian tensions brewing in the Middle East.

In short, America assassinated a high ranking General in the Iranian Revolutionary Guard, Qasem Soleimani. Naturally 95% of the world population had never heard of the guy but we are told he is on par with Hitler, Stalin and Mao in the evil factor.

Whilst in recent days the threat of war seems to be dying down and a conciliatory path seems to be showing, the Orange War Criminal Trump and his cohorts seek to extend their influence over the region. Other world leaders seem to follow, Justin Trudeau and Boris Johnson have begun the classic 'de-escalation phase' of feigning a voice of concern but really preparing for another war in the Middle East.

This is madness, imagine if the Iranian Revolutionary Guard killed Vice President Mike Pence, endorsed crippling economic sanctions to America and installed, military bases around the USA. Iran is in this situation and wants an instant reprisal.

But naturally the Iranian people do not want war. What use is it for some guy working on a farm or in a factory to go off to war and risk his life.

It is the leaders of a nation that want war. Wouldn't war be better if it was fistfight between the leaders? A definite winner, no civilian casualties and above all no taxpayer money would go to fund it. Trump is intervening in Iran to get re-elected and to secure 10% of the world's oil reserves. If war occurs, Iran will naturally call on its allies China and Russia. And we all know what will happen if China and Russia get involved...



AGONY AUNT

I have so much work to do but I'm finding it hard to do it all. What should I do?

Although it can be hard to manage your workload and find the motivation to do homework, it is not impossible. Firstly, it could be a good idea to make a calendar of your week planning out everything you would do. Allocate time for school, meals, extra curriculars, and free time with friends. That way you can ensure that there is time left over to be split between all your subjects without having that night be stressful or losing your social life. When planning out and dividing up your workload try to avoid doing over an hour without a break as your brain will tire and you may become bored or restless. Give yourself a small goal to achieve. For example, finishing an essay and once you achieve that goal, take a break and give yourself a small reward such as watching a quick TV show. Don't prioritise subjects you like as once you have completed them you will become even more reluctant to do your least favourite subjects. The most important thing however is not to overwork yourself; if you really are struggling try speaking to your teachers about the workload.

I feel like I have no confidence in myself anymore and it's making me hate myself. What should I do?

Firstly, it is important to remember that everyone has moments of self-doubt and it is a completely normal experience, especially in high school. Although there is no way to dissipate these feelings completely there are ways to minimise them. To combat any negative thoughts try thinking of three things you like about yourself every day and use them whenever a negative thought arises. I know at first it will feel cringey but it's a method which is proven to have worked. Secondly think about what exactly it is about yourself that you dislike. Even though you shouldn't change yourself for anyone else, if you're genuinely unhappy about an aspect of yourself it is perfectly acceptable to take a step back and re-evaluate. If you are unable, however, to pinpoint the issue it does not invalidate your feelings. It may be a good idea in this circumstance to involve yourself in some sort of activity: sports, charity work, a part time job, anything that will make you feel good about yourself. Overall the most important thing is to remember that you are not alone in feeling this way.

I don't feel like I am learning in class as much as I should be. What do I do?

You should remember that your teacher's priority is in helping you- the student- to learn so your first port of call should be finding a respectful way to discuss with the teacher outside of lessons exactly why you feel this way and hopefully the two of you can work together to find some sort of solution to the issue to help you learn as best as you can. If this fails, think about whether the issue lies within yourself: are you struggling to focus, are you trying as best as you can, do you need to move seats away from your friends? If so, there are many useful methods online to aid a lack of focus so try doing some of your own research to solve your problem. Or do you feel that the issue is something the teacher can solve: is the work too hard, does their style of teaching not appeal to you? If this is the case and you have not been able to discuss a solution maybe speak to your form tutor as they may be able to collaborate with your teacher in finding a more appropriate way for you to learn. Always remember, however, that whether you believe it or not, your teacher wants what is best for you so in situations like these avoid directing blame as they are only trying to do their job.

TEACHER TALKS

WITH SAM STONEFIELD

This week's guest is the charismatic, dog loving physicist (who sometimes masquerades as a mathematician), Mr Christo (doulides).

Mr Christo, you have been at KD for many years now but tend only to teach the older years, what would you say you do as teacher?

I ask myself that every day when I get up in the morning and it should really be different every day because there is a danger that you end up in ground-hog mode, **(good film, worth a google)** and nobody likes that so I try and make it different and in a way it is because different classrooms and environments different classes and ages, topics etc...

I thought you were going to just say Maths and Physics... Moving on, what is your favourite shade of green?

Ooh British Racing Green, I like a good bit of British Racing Green, it's nice on a car, especially the old-fashioned cars...

Like original Mini?

Yeah, dark green, dark shiny green.

Do you have a nick name?

Zed

Cool, any hobbies we wouldn't know about Sir?

Yes, many, many hobbies. I'm a karate instructor, 7th Dan. I used to play Spanish guitar, but I gave that up because it was too much to practice. I love cartoons and I try and to incorporate that into my lessons, I do love a cartoon. I'm vegan, so I'm a big foodie so I love going to food fairs and trying nice food from vendors and evaluating that. Err... well maths and physics are my hobbies so that's a big hobby of mine.

Is there any reason you teach at KD?

Luck, pure luck. I left teaching ages ago in... 1992. I went back to university, did a masters, didn't know what I wanted to do. Found an ad for Lego, worked at Lego for a few years and then worked in the city for a good 15 years then moved up north to become a company director then the company went into a spectacular meltdown and I found myself without a job, wrote speculative letters to every school in Manchester and KD was the only one that replied.

What would be your dream job?

Still don't know. I know what I don't want, a desk job where I have to sit down or any job with data...

Nothing mechanical then?

No, nothing mechanical, teaching or sales or working in a supermarket.

Very understandable. Are you an optimist or a pessimist?

Always half full.

What would you say your favourite film is?

Blue Velvet.

I've never heard of it.

Ooh it's a brilliant film (by David Lynch).

Are there any TV shows you're watching right now?

I've been watching "Seven Worlds, One Planet" and that is really good, I've discovered Netflix rather late in life. "The Crown" is spectacular. I've been watching "The Sinner" and "Mind Hunter", they're about psychopaths. That was really good.

A look into the psyche of Mr Christo. Who in history would you like to meet the most?

Who would I like to meet? I would love to meet Richard Feynman. I've seen him lecture, in real life, with Steven Hawking! He was amazing!

Fan boy moment, though I laugh I'm genuinely deeply jealous. So, if you couldn't teach maths or physics what would you teach?

Geography.

Any particular reason?

I like geography.

Fair enough. Do you have and pets Sir?

I've got a gorgeous Cocker Spaniel called Teddy, who's ten years old and takes up a lot of my time as he's very doting.

If you could give one piece of advice to a student what would it be?

Follow your dreams. No that sounds cliché, I would say live your life and don't worry too much about the future because anything can happen.

Just for the Christo students out there, what is the origin of "Ooh Susan!!!"?

Susan is from Monsters Vs Aliens. You know "Ooh Susan I'm scared!".

Brilliant thanks very much Sir, I'm afraid that's all we have time for today. Tune in next issue for another edition of Teacher Talks!

