

KD CHRONICLES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER FOR KING DAVID HIGH SCHOOL

We Need You!

By Ma'ayan Werner

Welcome to the 8th edition of the KD Chronicles. As we get closer and closer to the new year 2021, I'm looking for new people to join the editorial team. If you have an interest in writing articles, being part of a team or you just want to get involved in the school, please email me: ma'ayan.werner@kdhigh.co.uk

As always the team and I hope you enjoy this issue and feel inspired to send in any articles, book recommendations, or anything else that might interest you and your friends.



In this issue:

- 'Lou's Views – By Louie Leventhall
- 'Rambling thoughts – By Mr Taylor-Forbes'
- 'Hell and God's Love – By Sam Stonefield'
- 'What's on the Bookshelf?'
- 'What About a New Subject – How to Adult' – By Sasha Goldfine
- 'Why are People Racist?' – by Erin Cohen
- 'Mr Vincent's Monthly Maths Problems'

IN THIS ISSUE

**BOOK
RECOMMENDATIONS**

**TEACHER
INTERVIEWS**

**MATHS PROBLEMS
AND MORE!**

LOU'S VIEWS: THE 2020 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

By Louie Leventhall

The previous 3 months concerning the Presidential Election have been turbulent. From protests against systematic racism and oppression, a dead Supreme Court Justice, claims of vote fraud, leaked tax returns, an outbreak of COVID at the White House, a chaotic first debate and a cancelled second debate, it seems this race for the Presidency is getting dirtier every day.

The polls do suggest the Democratic Nominee, former VP Joe Biden, is likely to win. But it is important to remember we have seen this before. Remember in 2016 the polls said Hillary Clinton would win in a landslide and look what happened! Even with Biden's lead greater than that of Clinton, it is still a possibility that President Trump could get re-elected without even winning the popular vote due to America's confusing electoral system.

Let's say Biden wins both the Popular and Electoral Vote, an issue arises in that Trump claims that voter fraud is rampant due to vast amounts of undocumented ballots. Setting aside the fact that over the past 14 years only 31 cases of voter impersonation were recorded, surely the polling stations have already prepared for voter fraud and have safeguards against it.

Trump has set up a situation in which if he wins, he wins but if he loses, he still wins! Such ideas are incredibly dangerous for the health of American Democracy. A sitting President who is refuses to leave his office will result in all sorts of civil disorder and constitutional crises. Such a crisis will likely end up in the Supreme Court where a Conservative Majority already exists. Whether these Conservative Justices would be loyal to Trump or remain neutral is unknown.

Even worse for Trump is that even if he wins the election, he will likely have to deal with a new Democratic Congress leading to delay and gridlock for the next 4 years. There exists 2 months between the election and the inauguration of the next President. 2 months to see what will happen in the wake of the most controversial and contested election in American History.

RAMBLING THOUGHTS FROM A MAN WHO JUST WANTS HIS STUDENTS TO REALISE WHAT WILL HELP THEM GET WHAT THEY WANT

By Mr Taylor-Forbes

Imagine you're riding a bicycle.

You're cycling the right way up a narrow one-way street.

Suddenly, coming the other way is a massive truck.

The truck is coming straight towards you.

But it's going the wrong way down the one-way street.

You, on your bicycle, are going the right way.

You have two choices.

You can turn around and cycle away as fast as you can.

Although it's the wrong way, you'll at least be cycling away from the truck.

Or you can insist on being right.

The truck is in wrong, it's going the wrong way.

You're in the right, you're going the right way.

So you can carry on cycling the right way.

Straight into the truck, which runs over you and squashes you.

You're dead.

You're right, but you're dead.

You're DEAD RIGHT.

Which is how most of us choose to live our lives.

We think with our emotional minds not with our rational minds.

Our rational mind says, "Don't be silly, you can't fight a truck, it doesn't matter who's right at this point, just get out of the way, stay alive".

That's what our rational mind says.

But our emotional mind says "I'm in the right and he's in the wrong. He should turn around and drive the other way. I'm damned if I'll give way when he's in the wrong".

And we lose because we let our emotional mind do our thinking.

Which is exactly how we run our lives. Our emotional mind is in control over our rational mind.

Whether it's an argument with your teacher about homework, calling out in class or over a particular sanction.

We rarely get what we actually want – the de-escalation of trouble. But we get to be right as we see it.

And, after things have escalated and we have engineered the situation, so we are in more trouble, we get to be DEAD RIGHT.

Because we let emotion take over from reason.

The correct question in these situations isn't "Who is right?"

The correct question is "What's most likely to get me what I want?"

I doubt if scoring points or trying to win a pointless fight with your teachers will get you what you want.

It will probably allow you to be right. But it will probably also cost you what you really wanted. So you will get to be DEAD RIGHT.

Isn't it smart to realise this and try thinking differently?

Turn around and cycle away from the truck, let it go. At least you'll still be alive. Start the conversation by thinking, not what is right or wrong, but what is most likely going to get me what I want.

In the process of your life there will be many trucks coming the wrong way down one-way streets.

If you fight with every truck you're going to get run over a lot. And you won't get very far up the street.

All you'll get is being DEAD RIGHT.

See, the purpose of life isn't to wage a one-man justice crusade to make sure the world always treats you fairly

That will never happen. The purpose is to be smart.

Accept the fact that there will be trucks, but don't let them distract you from where you're going.

As Buddha said "**Act, don't react**".

HELL AND GOD'S LOVE

By Sam Stonefield

Now we all know that God is all-powerful, all-knowing, all-seeing, and all-loving etc, etc. These traits are espoused by many religions but in Judaism there is a little something extra. We believe that just as God is infinitely loving he is also infinitely vulnerable. What! God vulnerable!?! But since when did we start seeing vulnerability as weakness?

If a husband says to his wife “I love you very much, more than anything but if you’re not interested then fine. Your loss, I’ll find someone else.” It’s clear that he doesn’t love her but only manipulates her. He loves her but doesn’t need her, sort of like a pet. A human being can’t be a pet. There cannot be love without vulnerability. Another way of saying this is that you can’t love me if you don’t need me.

We hate the feeling dependent on someone. The same is true of God, he is all-powerful, he decides our fate and so on and so forth and so it would be natural to feel resentment to such a controlling force, but the truth is quite the opposite. He needs you. You are a necessary part of His plan. As it says in Pirkei Avot, “The day that you were born was the day God decided his creation couldn’t exist without you.”

So why do some religions resort to if you’re bad you’re going to hell? Is that what God is all about? If God isn’t vulnerable and it doesn’t hurt him when I don’t keep his commandments, why would he send a person to hell? To be nasty? He creates me, he creates problems, he tests me, tempts me and if I fail, he’ll punish me. I don’t want to hear anything about this God. This isn’t the Jewish God because our God is vulnerable, and he really needs me and every one of us. Every action we take affects him. This is momentous. An individual Jew, a small fraction of the human race, parked in a not so distinct part of the milky way in a cluster of galaxies far from anything interesting in the universe has the power to make the creator of all things happy or angry. Proud or disappointed. We can affect him like this because he is vulnerable. If he weren’t, we couldn’t have a relationship with him beyond “do this or else”.

He is infinitely vulnerable, so he is infinitely loveable.

Let’s dive into this a bit more. I don’t need love when I get married. Because if I need love, I’m not ready to get married. If you really need love you should go home to your mother.

You don’t need love from your spouse, you need your spouse’s love. Any parent who needs love from their child is disturbed but all parents need their child’s love.

We have this twisted, perverse concept of love from films and media. The concept of love is the one of the great idols of our age. Love is not important. If you don’t feel whole without someone else, then you need to take a good long look at yourself because that’s a very unhealthy view of yourself and other people. It can’t be “I want love from you” it has to be “I want your love”. Every hair on the head of someone you love is precious not because you like hair but because it’s their hair. We shouldn’t say to people “I love you” it should be “You, I love” because of who you are, not because love is important.

Same thing with God. I want God’s love not because I want to be loved but because I want him. I keep kosher or Shabbat not necessarily because I want to but because I understand it makes him happy and that makes me happy. So, love your fellow Jews. The brother you hate is more important than the dog you love. Love doesn’t make importance; love is the feeling we have for those things that are important.

WHAT'S ON THE BOOKSHELF?

Mr Pitt suggests reading *'Enigma'* by Robert Harris – “I really love all Harris's stuff - it's historical fiction but pretty historically accurate. I've just finished his latest, 'V-2'. 'Enigma' is a spy thriller/mystery set at Bletchley Park as they try and break the Enigma codes so they can stop U Boats sinking submarines bringing supplies to Britain during World War II. It's really gripping, with something for the mathematicians and computing fans too. There's a film of it starring Kate Winslett, but I haven't seen it. The films are never as good as the books anyway!”

Mr Leventhall suggests reading the *'The S.S. Officer's Armchair'* by Daniel Lee – “It is an enthralling detective story and a reconsideration of daily life in the Third Reich through documents and hidden history of an ‘ordinary Nazi’, Dr Robert Greisinger. It provides a window into the life of Hitler’s millions of nameless followers and into the mechanisms through which ordinary people enacted history’s most extraordinary atrocity. This is not a dry and boring historical account, but rather one that leaves the reader curious to know further details about this man and others like him.”

Evie Bell suggests reading *'Vox'* by Christina Dalcher – “It is a dystopian novel, and I would highly recommend it.”

Mr Christo suggest reading *'Agency'* by William Gibson – “Great science fiction novel. Contemporary ideas woven into a rich tapestry of observations into how we live both now and in the future. If you liked the TV series Black Mirror, then this the same kind of genre.”

Rabbi Rickman suggests reading *'Rebel Ideas: The Power of Diverse Thinking'* by Matthew Syed

Maya Orme suggests reading *'Out of Your Mind; Tricksters, Interdependence, and the Cosmic Game of Hide and Seek'* by Alan Watts – “Watts looks into both eastern and western philosophy exploring a wide range of topics looking at the illusion of the ego to being the myth of ourselves based on the separation from others. I enjoyed this book because it taught me that the self is just an illusion and a perception we have created. We can create any sense of self suitable for that moment and learn to better exist with our ego.”

Anonymous - Yr. 11 suggests reading *'My Name is Why'* by Lemn Sissay – “It’s styled like a biography of a man who entered the adoption system at a few days old and his journey to finding his answers to why.”

Sarah Raisman suggests reading *'Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind'* by Yuval Noah Harari – “This book takes a look at human history and how we evolved from primitive hunter gatherers into what we are today. Harari looked to identify the reason Sapiens came to dominate the world, proposing ideas that our ability to cooperate is what makes us unique. He considers religion, science, empires, and economies and how these have shaped modern society. I found this book very eye-opening, having to take breaks while reading in order to fully comprehend the concepts Harari proposes. If you're interested in history, sociology, anthropology, archaeology or just curious in nature, I highly recommend this book as it covers concepts you'll never find through GCSE or A-level courses and is great to get a head start for university. I originally picked up this book to write about for my personal statement but ended up reading it for fun and my own curiosity. The use of simple examples and descriptions of large-scale theories helps everyone to understand the theories he presents in the book and makes it enjoyable to anyone, regardless of their academic level.”

WHAT ABOUT A NEW SUBJECT?

HOW TO ADULT

By Sasha Goldfine

How many of you wonder about the skills you may need after school that aren't to do with science, maths, history etc? Whilst these subjects are vital in propelling students towards future careers and opportunities, what about the important things we don't learn about that are essential for adulthood. I know it will take a lot of convincing for this to occur and my aim is not to change the school system, but imagine how useful it would be to have lessons learning skills that will shape our future outside of careers.

Our education is extremely important and there is no doubting that but there are extra things we need to learn to make the transition into adulthood a whole lot easier. To begin with, although some students are more academically inclined than others, household finance can be difficult if you are starting from a fresh. It is a way for us to grow independence and flourish as grown up's, to be more autonomous and have a hold on our life. Mortgages, credit, debts, taxes, bills, and loans are things our parents and guardians deal with, so we don't really know much about them.

However, it is inevitable that one day they will become our problem. For a student who doesn't go on to pursue a career in maths, the school content is forgotten but bills and tax will always be around. Students need to learn about finance because it is not easy, and many adults still struggle with it.

Why not learn about it from a younger age? I am a student who will hopefully be entering a new stage in my life which is university and even though it is exciting to think of the incredible opportunities, it is the start of vast debts and student loans which I have no clue about. How many of you knew that you could invest into companies from a young age if you know what you are doing? Many of the richest people became that way by educating themselves on finance and clever investing.

However, it is not just finance that can be a struggle what about the daily chores and cleaning around the house that many people don't know how to do. I know it may seem simple and easy, but most students don't know how to change bed sheets or use a washing machine. Let's just say I took a tally of the amount of people who know how to iron clothes or wash dishes, I reckon the amount that do will be low. This is not due to laziness, although it may in some cases, it's because people just don't know how to.

In addition, although within science menstruation is taught about, the emotional and symptomatic side is left out. I believe both genders should be taught about the way periods affect women's lives and how we should care for one another. Another thing to be learnt within this everchanging contemporary society is about gender specification and how to deal with people outside of school and in future careers.

There is a plethora of things that we should learn that will aid us through life such as job interviews, insurance, interfaith, relationships, sex education, politics, problems in the world and more. All these things will benefit us outside of school, but they are vital in helping us grow up. We should learn the things our parents wish they learnt. Growing up into adulthood is a subject in itself and we should learn more about it.

Whilst this as a subject in school is unlikely to occur, I believe it would be extremely useful in guiding students to the next stages of their lives. Helping us to understand and live more efficiently throughout adulthood. There are many people I have watched and read about to help me learn about finance and I still struggle. Even things like mental health and confidence in an ever more technological and social media-based society would be beneficial. Although it may not happen, we should aim to learn about these things and take an interest on it. So that we can grow up more independent and have things easier as an adult. Who wouldn't want that?

WHY ARE PEOPLE RACIST?

By Erin Cohen

Yes. Racism is still a problem. In the modern world. But to tackle the age-old problem of racism, we must first understand- why are people racist?

A start would be to say social media. Whether it be subtle yet offensive challenges, culturally appropriating food and clothes for trends, social media always has been and always will be a harmful place. But it isn't entirely to blame.

Racism can also be taught. Little implications and remarks by peers, or family members. What people are exposed to at a young age plays a major part in what they will be like when they are older, and it's no surprise that the opinions of those you love can influence yours.

Finally, the major cause of racism is ignorance. If people do not recognise the hatred lingering in the world around them, the harm their words can cause, and many other aspects we can never overcome issues such as this. To tackle a problem like this, people must first look at themselves. What about you? What are your opinions? After all, educating yourself is the first step to educating others and making the world a better place.

MR VINCENT'S MONTHLY MATHS PROBLEMS

B	R	A	V	E
	E	B	R	
		V		B
	B	R		
		E	B	

Only for the brave, this one!

This square has eleven letters missing, which you have to replace.

Every row, column AND the main diagonals contain all the letters in the word "BRAVE".

Find a 10-digit number where the first digit is how many zeros in the number, the second digit is how many 1s in the number etc. until the tenth digit which is how many 9s in the number.

Solution: 6210001000. There may be others!
(No solution provided - you'll know if you've got it correct)