

Inspirations

The King David School's Magazine
September 2016 Elul 5776



THE KING DAVID SCHOOL



Contents

School Council President	2
Message from the Principal	3
Science Fair	4
Coding	5
Kabbalat Tanach	6
Yom Yisrael	7
Grandparents' Shabbat	8-9
Hairspray	10
Winter Concert	11
Volunteering in our Community	12
Reflections - Year 10 Camp	13
KDSPA Update	14
The King David School Foundation	15
Alumni	16

Inspirations

'Inspirations' is published by The King David School Community Relations Office (03) 9527 0103 or admin@kds.vic.edu.au All material is Copyright © to The King David School and may not be reproduced without permission. Front Cover: Jonah Epstein, Year 8



As we head into the Jewish New Year, it is an appropriate time to reflect on the evolution of our School.

In the 1970's a group of visionaries dreamed of opening a progressive Jewish school in Melbourne and in 1978 that dream became a reality when 45 students attended the first year of the King David School.

In August this year, one of those visionaries, Rabbi John Levi, retired from School Council after 39 years of continuous service. When School Council held its August meeting, it was the first time since the School's opening that Rabbi Levi did not hold an official or honorary position.

And so it is worth reflecting how the decisions, actions and determination of a few can have such a profound impact on literally thousands of children, across many generations.

I have had the privilege of working alongside John for the best part of a decade and together with my fellow Council members have been the beneficiary of his passion, his wisdom and his vision.

This year the students performed the annual Winter Concert in honour of Rabbi Levi and his wife Robyn as a small token of respect and appreciation for all they have contributed to our community.

It was utterly moving to see the packed audience give them a standing ovation as they were presented with a small gift from School Captain Rafael Ungar and Jewish Life Captain Jaimie Engel.

On behalf of the entire School community, I would like to thank Rabbi Levi for his years of service to our School and we look forward to welcoming him and Robyn back for our various simchas and formalities over coming years.

Wishing all our families a happy and safe holiday and a Shana Tova.

Mark Harrison
School Council



Dear Community,

I attended a performance of Matilda the Musical recently. Aside from being a brilliant adaptation of Roald Dahl's novel and a spectacular visual and aural feast, it struck me just how effectively the musical provides persuasive commentary on the need for the shift towards contemporary educational approaches.

Matilda portrays two sharply contrasting models of education – an industrialised factory model and an individualised differentiated one. While the representations are comical, it is clear that in opposing Miss Trunchbull's approach with Miss Honey's the audience is exposed to their stark difference in educational styles.

Miss Trunchbull, the evil and dictatorial principal, rules a world where children should be governed with an iron fist, they should not be heard unless called upon to speak, should be seated in rows which always face the front and should learn exactly the same thing at the same time. In contrast the lovable teacher, Miss Honey's idea of education is based upon establishing a warm relationship with her students, operating as their 'champion' and designing individual learning opportunities tailored to their unique stage of development.

I also recently read a report produced in the Stanford Social Innovation Review on the state of the American high school system. The writer, Patrick Cook-Deegan wrote that "US high schools are unengaging and based on a hundred-year-old model designed for a different era. US high schools are depressingly archaic, reminiscent of giant factories or prisons, with block scheduling and teachers still lecturing to students in time-chunks that have no correlation to teenagers' brain and body chemistry."

He continued to state that this "antiquated model, coupled with the "college arms race" and the standardized testing craze, is wreaking havoc on students' mental and physical health."

Cook-Deegan nominated six ways in which schools need to adapt to address this problem. He suggested that schools should incorporate modern neuroscience, include project-based learning and differentiated instruction, help students feel like they matter, train teachers to play the role of mentor, build better physical spaces and teach more than academic skills.

As a society we have begun to recognise that our models of instruction, assessment and support need to far more effectively respond to the characteristics of each individual student.

As you can see through the pages of this magazine, our School provides many avenues for individual self-expression. Whether it be performing music, drama or sharing their learning among their peers, students have many opportunities to gain confidence and self-esteem.

I feel very fortunate to work alongside so many Miss Honeys and know that through a focus on the emotional and social wellbeing of our students and a rigorous, differentiated and innovative approach to both academic advancement and broader skill and character development we will continue to provide a wonderful environment where our students can safely strive to achieve their best.

Marc Light
Principal

The King David Parents' Association

2016

KING'S CARNIVAL

Sunday NOVEMBER 20
117 KOOYONG RD
Armadale
10am - 4pm

MARKET BAZAAR
RIDES
ARTS & CRAFTS
PRIZES

SO LONG SOUTHWICK!

www.kingscarnival.com

PLEASE HELP MAKE OUR FINAL FETE AT SOUTHWICK THE BEST ONE EVER!

YOU CAN GET INVOLVED BY:

- dropping off good quality and clean pre-loved women's and children's clothing, toys and books from 2 November
- doing some baking for the Sweet Tooth stall
- if you have a business, donating goods or vouchers to be sold at the silent auction

OR

- volunteering for a 2 hour shift on a stall of your choice on the day itself

Please email kdspa@kds.vic.edu.au for more information. We look forward to seeing you at the King's Carnival on Sunday 20 November from 10am - 4pm.

Honouring Rabbi John Levi & Robyn Levi

At this year's Winter Concert, Mark Harrison, School Council President, honoured Rabbi John Levi who has recently retired from School Council after 39 years as a Council member. He has therefore been on Council and providing guidance and vision since the School's inception. The Winter Concert was dedicated in his honour. School Leaders Rafael Ungar and Jaimie Engel presented Rabbi Levi and Robyn Levi with gifts to show our appreciation for their infinite generosity and commitment to the School.



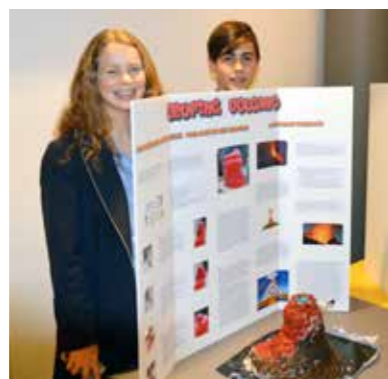
L-R Marc Light, Rabbi John Levi, Robyn Levi, Katherine Levi and Amy Sylvan, Year 7



L-R Jaimie Engel, Rafael Ungar, Mark Harrison Rabbi John Levi and Robyn Levi



It's where I...
develop my curiosity



Science Fair

Years 8 and 9 students showcased their Science projects at our Science Fair. Students let their curiosity and creativity guide them and visitors were treated to a plethora of scientific explorations and models. Projects included exploring which brand of popcorn pops best, modern uses for drones, electric hand warmers and the metamorphosis of caterpillars into butterflies, to name a few.

Interactive science activities and demonstrations included the manual expansion of the lungs of a sheep's pluck which was a crowd favourite. The science of bath bombs and polymer slime were also popular activities.

Associate Professor Caroline Marshall from Monash Hospital presented on the importance of STEM careers in today's increasingly digital society as well as the under-representation of women in these careers.

Prizes were awarded to students who were the best in their category and to those who showed great promise.

Students should be commended for their outstanding projects and contagious enthusiasm to share their findings and experiences. From project conception through to completion, students learnt the importance of planning, experimental design, resilience in the face of set-backs and seeing a project through to the end.

Kol hakavod to all the students and staff involved in this highly engaging evening.

Claire Stanner
Science Learning Area Leader Years 6 -12



It's where I...
learn skills for my future



Coding - The Language of Our Future

Coding is the new language of our world and it is not bound by borders. Teaching students programming and coding skills has become fundamentally important for the next generation in our workforce. Coding is not primarily about equipping the next generation to work as software engineers, it is about promoting computational thinking. These essential problem solving skills will be critical for our students in a world where facts and knowledge are no longer enough. Coding classes combine mathematics, logic and algorithms and teach a new way to think about the world. Students have the opportunity to create programs, to solve problems and develop interactive games, apps and experiences.

This year at The King David School we have begun to implement coding through various year levels.

In the Junior School, the Years 1 and 2 students have been learning game based programming, as well as visual programming. They are now using the



skills of coding to create their own programs relevant to what they are studying in Units of Inquiry. Year 7 has seen the implementation of a year-long coding subject, with students learning HTML, CSS5, Javascript, and Game Design. Years 7 and 8 also have a new elective based on the Australian Curriculum, Design and Technology. Students explore the components of digital technologies, including computers and mobile technologies, investigate how data is transmitted in wired, wireless and mobile networks, and develop an understanding of Binary and Algorithms. Students also explore design thinking, design cycle and design development. Students are also introduced to 3D modelling and microcomputing.

Our increasingly popular after-school Lego Robotics Club gives students in Years 3-8 the opportunity to build with programmable

Lego and work together in groups to solve problems. Students can pursue this interest and enter the FIRST Lego League Robotics Competition held annually.

Our Secondary students can participate in the Macquarie University led FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition.

Next year, we will continue to be introducing coding to all primary year levels, and continue exposing our students to the power of learning through programming.

Michelle Lazarow
Director of Learning Technologies & Innovation

Best-In-Category Awards

Models 1st place

Abe Graeve (Year 9)

"Fuel Cell"

Models 2nd place:

Jay Boymal & Adam Freedman (Year 9)

"Liquid Batteries"

Scientific Wallchart 1st place

Sandra Pecherskaya (Year 9)

"Cosmetic Testing on Animals"

Experimental Research 1st place

Jordan Engel (Year 8)

"Organic Batteries"

Encouragement Awards

"Cortisol – The Stress Hormone"

Alexandra Cowen (Year 6)

"Dreams"

Charley Cowen (Year 6)

"The Fermi Paradox"

Joel Pastor (Year 6)

"Why Do Girls Wear Make-Up?"

Chantall Kirzner (Year 8)

"What Burns more Calories – Running, Punching or Dabbing?"

Jordy Rogelberg (Year 8)



It's where I...

explore my Jewish identity



Kabbalat Tanach

Kabbalat Tanach celebrates the newest milestone in Jewish Education for our Year 4 students. Kabbalat Tanach acknowledges the transition from learning about the original Jewish stories, to reading them from the Tanach.

Each parent customised a Tanach for their child, containing a personal family story and message about why it is important for them to have their child to be a link in the chain of our Jewish heritage. The students wrote a statement about why being Jewish matters to them. Both the parent and the child's writings were pasted into the front and back covers of the Tanach, reminding them that they are part of the same family tree connected to the first Jewish families. The ceremony consisted of the students participating in a Mincha (afternoon) service of song, private sharing time between parent and child and of course, a small feast to celebrate. Mazal tov Year 4.



Yom Yisrael

Each year King David is fortunate to welcome an outstanding group of Israeli young adults who spend five weeks at the School inspiring, challenging and engaging our students from Prep to Year 12.

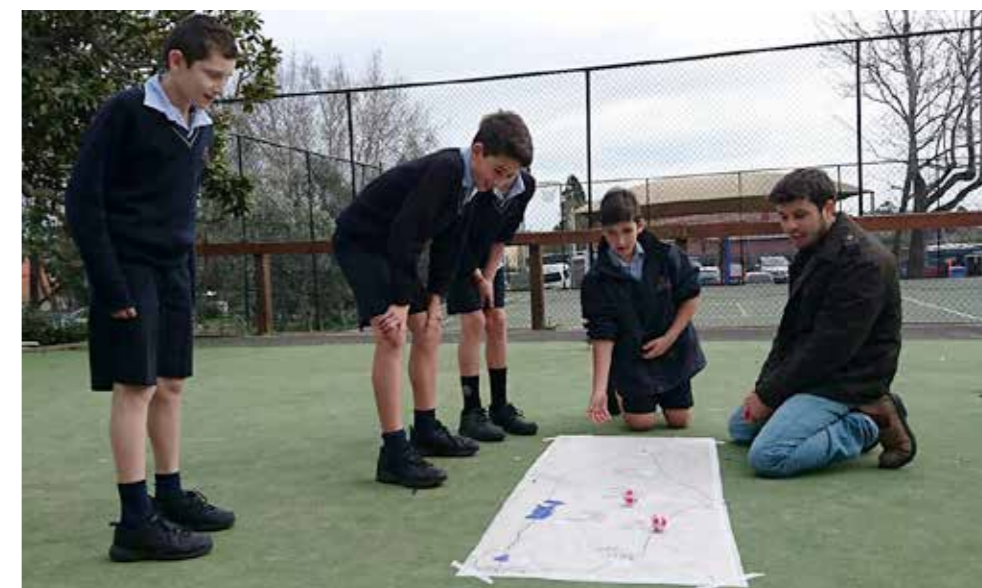
This select team of Israeli youth leaders come with the goal of humanising the face of Israel for our students and to engage them in a process whereby they can clarify, expand, change or reinforce their personal relationship to and understanding of Israel.

Year 6 students recently spent a full day seminar with the madrichim where they focused on comparisons between childhood in Israel and in Australia. They played games that Israeli kids love, such as Taki and Dag Maluach. They created their own "typical Israeli kid" and participated in Israeli dancing. The Year 7 students focused on Jewish identity clarifications. They participated in a hall size version of The Game of Life, created a "Values Pyramid", played "Values Rugby" and participated in Israeli dancing.

Older year levels participated in activities that connected their personal interests to Israel and the world in which they live. This included grassroots social justice projects in Israel and investigating issues related to social inclusion.

The Madrichim also ran lunch time activities with interactive games inviting students of all ages to attend.

What is Zionist Education at KDS? Zionism refers to the belief that the Jewish people, like other people, have a right to national sovereignty over their own land. Within this belief is a wide spectrum of understandings of what form that sovereignty should take.



At KDS, we do not hold one particular perspective to be sacred, but purposefully expose our students to the issues and their responses, and leave them to position themselves as they choose. Like everything at KDS, we expose our students to the conversations, and leave them to find their own voice within it.

Dr Bryan Conyer
Director of Jewish Life

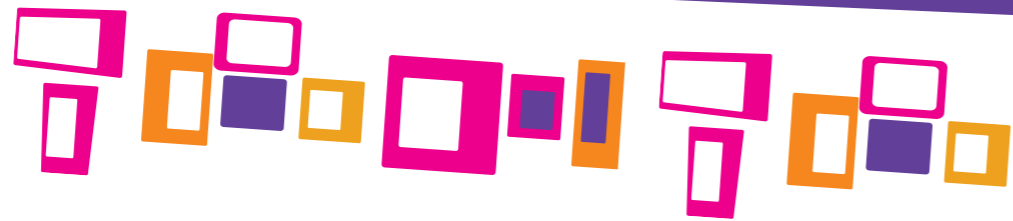


Grandparents and Special Friends' Shabbat

Our Pre-School, Kindergarten and Prep-Year 3 students showcased their Jewish learning to grandparents and special friends this term. In Senior Kinder, Mihal Epstein led the beautiful Shabbat service with Shannyn Gelbart on guitar. The children beamed with delight as they recited the brachot and sang the Shabbat songs. At the end of each ceremony, the children gave their guests handmade Magen David picture frames as a memento of this special morning.

As Marc Light remarked, it is events like these, shared with beloved family that remain as very special memories, well into adulthood.





Our Years 9 -12 Musical, Hairspray was performed to sold out audiences with rave reviews.

Inspired by the 1988 film, Hairspray the Musical is a social commentary of the injustices taking place in parts of American society in the 1960s, and portrays the change that occurred as a social consciousness arose amongst the people.

On the streets of Baltimore, we met our heroine, Tracy Turnblad; a girl that would not accept the world as it was.

Her plight for integration of the population drove this tale that was told not only through humour, as the heightened characterisations demanded, but through so many poignant moments that gave this musical a three-dimensional and enduring quality that made it both heart-warming and original.

Hairspray epitomises the strong sense of social justice that is so much a part of the fabric of The King David School. The world needs many Tracy Turnblads as we

continue to break down barriers created by stereotypes and prejudice of all kinds.

We are also so grateful to the many members of our school community that have given so much time to ensure the success of Hairspray. Special thanks to the extraordinary contributions of our alumnus and Assistant Director, John Reed (Class of 2012). Special mention to our costume designer, Dani Harrison, who volunteered her time to realise a vision for our performance that so thoughtfully and respectfully distinguished two races on stage.

Our students have once again led the way in this production. From choreography, design, promotion and performance, they have made this production their own. The Music students led by our Musical Director, Adam Yee provided wonderful live music for the show. Year 11 students, Hannah Cohen and Jamie Fink have once again showcased the dancing talents of our cast through their choreography and mentorship.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this wonderful production.

Laura Rickhuss
Head of Theatre & Productions



It's where I...

love to perform



Winter Concert

This year's Winter Concert was an emotionally charged experience. The evening opened with a brief address from University of Melbourne academic Susan de Weger, who talked about the great benefits musical engagement bestows on students throughout their educational journey.

This event has been staged over the last eight years and it has become the highlight of the musical year. The concert featured all of our Years 4-VCE ensembles as well as a compelling solo from VCE Music Performance student Mia Moses.

The evening concluded with all performers and audience united in song for our anthems. A huge thank you to all the staff and students involved and also to the ongoing support of parents which makes such events a possibility.

Adam Yee
Head of Music





It's where I... *expand my horizons*

Jewish Life Staff Awarded International Scholarships

In a recent "Insights" column, Marc Light referred to the importance of teacher training and development in achieving excellent learning outcomes.

Feygi Phillips, Jewish Studies teacher, was the recipient of a scholarship to attend a Great Jewish Books Teachers Workshop in Massachusetts, USA where she learnt about important modern Jewish literature and art. Feygi reflected that at the workshop, they "discussed important questions about the meaning of the idea of 'Jewish art' and went on to add that "educators guided us in conversations about the challenges of using these to teach students about their own place in the Jewish world". Feygi then joined Dr



Bryan Conyer, Director of Jewish Life, who was also awarded a scholarship and they attended a workshop called "Engaging Texts" in Cleveland, USA. Bryan explained that their training was "designed to respect the diverse backgrounds and beliefs of our student body, by giving them the tools to access our most sacred of texts in a way that enables them to clarify personal beliefs and values, in conversation with events that are important to their life experience, which in turn connect back to Jewish wisdom and insight."

Shannyn Gelbart, Jewish Experiential Educator, was awarded a scholarship to attend Brandeis Collegiate Institute (BCI) in California, USA. The workshop focused on teaching Jewish Life utilising a strong focus on the arts – music, movement, visual art, spoken word, narrative puppetry and film. Shannyn remarked that she had "many moments that were hugely impactful" where she "was pushed outside her comfort zone". She also "loved learning about Jewish eco-theology, Jewish feminism and the Jewish take on process theology."



Ethan Englander, Abigail Goldstein, Jason Silverstein, Lara Valansi & Eli Paykel-Samuel

Volunteering in our Community

The Posh Opp Shoppe relies solely on the generosity of volunteers to run on a daily basis. Over the last two decades, Rosalie Silverstein OAM and her team have raised significant funds through the Melbourne Jewish Children's Aid Society for integration aides who assist students with learning difficulties. This enables them to remain as students at Jewish schools in Melbourne.

Our Year 9 New Horizons program included regular weekly volunteering at the Posh Opp Shoppe. Our students had the opportunity to appreciate the invaluable contribution volunteers in our community make.

We encourage our community to support this vital service in our community by visiting the Posh Opp Shoppe's treasure trove of clothes, furniture, books and much much more.

It's where I... *challenge myself*



Reflections Year 10 Camp

Year 10 recently embarked on a camp to Mt Buller to peruse, practise and perfect the art of downhill skiing.

It was evident that everyone was excited on the bus ride up, particularly those who had never been to the snow before.

On the morning of Monday - the first day, the beginners got a feel for their new equipment and began to experience the thrill of snowsports for the first time. However, we were treated with fairly challenging weather that day: severe snowstorms and torrential rain; fair to say that it wasn't the best impression for first-time skiers and snowboarders. To make matters even harder, most of our gear was still extremely wet the next morning. However, we battled through the challenging conditions and still managed to have an enjoyable day.

Luckily, Buller made up for the shocking first day with a superb covering of snow and beautiful sunshine on the Tuesday. Everyone had a great time either learning or honing their skills.

On our third day, after a morning of lessons and attempts of challenging slopes, our whole year level was given some friendly free time to go down one run together. This was one of the highlights of the camp,



as we got to see the extent of our friends' progress and we had the opportunity to savor some social skiing with each other. We had a group photo taken at the top of Burnt Hut Spur, as well as an epic snowball exchange, which saw many teachers get pelted by the students.

As a cohort, at first we struggled to learn the ways of the mountain, but managed to improve exponentially, being able to go on the more difficult slopes by the time the camp came to a close. Incredibly, every single student managed to complete the run 'Bourke Street' by the time our time on the mountain was over. However, many students went above and beyond, successfully completing unimaginably impressive runs for first-timers.

We returned on Thursday night, fatigued yet exultant from the success that we all achieved on this camp. Our stay at Mt Buller was an unforgettable experience!

Hugo Burstin, Joel Fink & Daniel Freidgeim, Year 10





It's where I...
feel welcome

It's where I... support my community



KDSPA - Connecting our Community

Once again it has been a busy Term for the KDSPA and a hugely successful one with the Annual KDSPA Breakfast seeing a record attendance of nearly 300 guests and raising a record \$21,000. Our guest speaker was Professor Jayashri Kulkarni, an internationally renowned expert in women's mental health. Her topic was "When hormones go crazy and mess with the mind" and she provided valuable insights and lessons for all our guests, even our male guests! Most importantly, she gave advice on how to maintain good mental health and increase our overall feeling of positive wellbeing. Our community's support for this event is truly incredible.

Our two Musical Cafés for both Hairspray and Little Mermaid productions were a huge hit with over \$4000 raised in total. Our regular fundraisers; Entertainment Books and Art by Kids raised several thousands of dollars too and all thanks to both Stephanie Boymal and Danielle Opat. Next Term, we will be rolling out our Tea Towel fundraiser from Kindergarten to Year 5. The designs are in and they look fabulous. They will make the perfect Yom Tov gift for family and friends. A big thanks to Jacki Buchbinder and Tara Schyer for organising this.

In late July, we screened the documentary Chasing Asylum with a wonderful question and answer session from Academy & Emmy Award winning film-maker, Eva Orner and prominent refugee law advocate, David Manne. Money raised from this event went to both the Asylum Seekers Resource Centre and the KDSPA.

Now we are all focused on our upcoming "So Long to Southwick" King's Carnival on Sunday 20 November 2016. This is certainly an event not to be missed and we need all the help we can get in making this year's King's Carnival our most memorable ever!

On behalf of the KDSPA I'd like to wish everyone a Chag Sameach and a wonderful term break.

Rochelle Rothfield
KDSPA President
kdspa@kds.vic.edu.au



Lawrence Family Theatre Opening

The extraordinary talent of a group of KDS alumni brought to life the newly opened Lawrence Family Theatre within the Rebecca Magid Centre recently. Dani Carey, Tammy Cohen, Itai and Matan Franco and John and Sara Reed performed contemporary and classical performances as a fitting tribute to the Lawrence family. Former School Council President and long standing Chair of Foundation, Michael Lawrence, said:

"We are honoured and humbled to continue our connection with The King David School at this exciting time in its history".

For pictures of our alumni performers please see page 16.



The more tzedakah, the more shalom
Pirkei Avot 2:8

On behalf of Michael Lawrence, Chair of Foundation, and Rochelle Rothfield,

President KDSPA, we would like to extend a sincere thank you to every family who has supported the '\$360 Community Appeal'. These much needed funds will go towards the cost of refurbishing the mansions at both the Junior and Senior School campuses. Any families still wishing to contribute and ensure your family or children's names are recorded on honour boards in this once in a generation building program are encouraged to visit www.kds.vic.edu.au/donate or contact me directly.

As our building works progress, we encourage you to make contact to arrange a tour of the newly opened Orloff Family Centre Senior School on Orrong Road and the purpose-built Kindergarten at Dandenong Road.

Naomi Pizzo
Foundation Manager
The King David School Foundation
Telephone: 03 9527 0122
naomi.pizzo@kds.vic.edu.au

THE KING DAVID SCHOOL
FOUNDATION



Volunteer of the Year



At our Back to School service this year, **Ian Samuel OAM** was an honoured chuppah holder as a member of our School and wider community who holds up The King David School community commitment to Tzedek (Justice) - one of the core values of our School. An award recipient, past family and current grandparent to Miriam, Leah and Isaac, Ian is a devoted volunteer and supporter of the KDS Foundation to whom we extend a hearty 'Todah Rabah'.

BIRTHS

Jennifer Brown (1999) <i>Noah Jacob, April 2016</i>	Aaron Hubbard
Jesse Gelfand (2000) <i>Romi Lia, August 2016</i>	Eleanor Eshel
Tamar Jaquiere (Macbeth) (2006) <i>Hallel, July 2016</i>	Adrian Zafir
Gabriel Kotlyar (2002) <i>Zoe Sienna, April 2016</i>	Amy Kotlyar
Richard Morris (2001) <i>Jesse Aaron, July 2016</i>	Georgia Morris (Ezra)



Where are they now?

Tal Slome, Class of 2005 joined King David in Year 5 in August 1998, having moved to Melbourne with her family from Israel. After graduating VCE, she participated in Shnat Hachshara with Hashy and then took on the role of Head of Hashy in 2008.

With a passion for education, Tal pursued a Bachelor of Primary Education (Honours) at the University of Melbourne, graduating in 2011. She was fortunate to experience a semester exchange in Sweden in 2010.

Tal gained experience as a teacher working with disadvantaged students in the public school system in Werribee from 2012-2014.

In February 2015, Tal married her husband, Nic Lucey and they settled in Johannesburg. They met through their grandmothers who had been strong friends for over fifty years. She was employed by Apple South Africa to train teachers and students in using technology to enhance learning. She then founded Kontent Solutions, a personalised e-books and digital course service for educators.

Having returned to Melbourne this year, Tal is currently undertaking a Masters of Educational Policy (International) at Melbourne University with the aim to commence a PhD sometime in the near future.

Alumni Performers

Thank you to our Performing Arts Alumni who returned to School to perform at the recent opening of the Lawrence Family Theatrette.



Top:

Dani Carey *Class of 2013*, Matan Franco *Class of 2010* & Itai Franco *Class of 2014*

Bottom:

Sara Reed *Class of 2015*, John Reed *Class of 2012* & Tammy Cohen *Class of 2008*

Please continue to keep us informed by sending your news or changes to your contact details to: jackie.ellis@kds.vic.edu.au

For information about The King David School contact the Admissions Department on: (03) 9527 0102 or admissions@kds.vic.edu.au