

Inspirations

The King David School's Magazine
April 2018 Nisan 5778



THE KING DAVID SCHOOL



It's where I...
belong

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Dear Community,

At the 2017 Presentation Evening, I announced my intention to step down as President of The King David School Council.

The past five years have been very busy and incredibly satisfying as the School transitioned from our longest serving Principal Michele Bernshaw to current Principal Marc Light. We implemented Project Chai Ve'Kayam - Council's bold vision which led to the consolidation of our campuses and a sizeable enhancement of the School's teaching and learning spaces. We had a strong focus on responsible fiscal management ensuring the School is in a stronger financial position and generating significant year on year operating surpluses.

It has been a very rewarding journey and with the completion of the building project, I felt it was the right time to step back and allow others an opportunity to lead the direction of the School's future.

I am delighted to announce that Lahra Carey will succeed me as President of School Council after the AGM in July. Lahra has served as a Council member for the past four years, and is a parent of three KDS students. She is passionate about the School and brings an expertise in marketing and communication that I know will be an asset to the position.

I will remain involved with the School for the foreseeable future retaining a position on Council and ensuring a smooth transition for Lahra and the rest of the Council team.

Regards,

Mark Harrison
School Council President



Lahra Carey as MC at last year's Business Breakfast



Dear Community,

40 years ago, in February 1978, a brave group of parents walked their children in to The King David School for the first time. The fledgling School had just 45 students. The pioneer families entrusted the School

to provide a progressive education in a warm and inclusive Jewish environment. The founding Principal, Norman Rothman, was selected for his outstanding reputation as a student-centred and caring educator.

On that rainy February day, few present would have had the temerity to predict the outstanding growth of our School to what stands before us in 2018.

In the stairwell of the new car park at our Dandenong Road Campus is a mural which contains the immortal words of the song by Paul Kelly and Kev Carmody, "From Little Things, Big Things Grow." As we launch into our 40th year it is an appropriate time to wonder at the truth of this statement and to celebrate all that has been achieved in this relatively short time.

It is a time to express gratitude for the extraordinary development of our educational spaces. At the end of this term we expect the final stages of Project Chai Ve'kayam to be complete and this will mark the fruition of School Council's bold promise to transform and renew our educational environment. Alongside improvement works at our Alma Road Pre-School we will have renewed every single classroom from Kindergarten through Year 12 and delivered a plethora of state of the art ancillary learning spaces.

Alongside our celebration of all that has changed we should also acknowledge how we have sought to preserve the culture and ethos of the School over the decades.



The King David School remains a warm environment where most teachers are known by their first names, where students are accepted for who they are and where positive relationships and holistic development are seen as vital to achieving academic outcomes. In short King David was, is and will be, a beautiful place to grow up in.

As we launch into our 40th birthday year there is so much to look forward to. We welcome the 115 new enrolments and the parents who have entrusted us with the privilege of educating their children. We ask that each member of our community, whether staff, parent or students, takes active steps to ensure that each of these new families feel at home in our wonderful community.

We know that 2018 will be a year filled with the highs of new learning opportunities and programs, with the celebration of our Jewish Life and community and with the opportunity to step forward to the next era in King David's evolution.

Wishing all families a meaningful Pesach,

Marc Light
Principal

Save the Date

THURSDAY
19 JULY

Alumni
Trivia
Night

SUNDAY
14 OCT

Community
Gala
Dinner





It's where I...
celebrate milestones



It's where I...
connect to Israel



The King David School Turns 40

The King David School kicked off its 40th Birthday celebrations with a birthday party at each of the campuses at the start of the school year. All students and staff joined together to reflect on how far the School has come in 40 years. On the first school day in February 1978, 45 students started at the brand new school. 40 years later, The King David School has grown to more than 750 students from 9 months of age through to VCE.

Throughout the year, there will be more opportunities for The King David School community, past and present, to celebrate including an Alumni Trivia Night and a Community Gala Dinner.



Understanding Eretz Yisrael

A record number of Year 10 students were privileged to have the opportunity to travel to Israel over the summer holidays on the Yesh program. This chance to experience a community beyond their own was a formative adventure for us all that will be remembered forever.

The trip allowed us to experience the geopolitical landscape of Israel, in a style irreplaceable by a classroom. Travelling from the north to the south, from east to west, we saw everything from the mountainous Jerusalem 'spine,' to the depths of the Dead Sea and the beaches of Tel Aviv. Across the journey, we met a range of people, varying in their opinions, but nonetheless all holding the same passion and zest. Hearing first hand accounts from Israeli-Palestinians, Druze, Orthodox Jews and other young people opened our eyes to a complex dynamic life on the other side of the world.

Living in close proximity for just under a month, brought us all closer together, in some cases, perhaps a little too close. This shared experience allowed us to understand each other beyond face value, and

connect with people we hadn't in the past. For many of us, this trip fostered independence and tested our limits, leaving us more confident and connected to each other and our world.

With a jam packed agenda, there was a new experience every day and little time to rest. Fast paced days, filled with new opportunities and bus naps, kept the energy high. Fun activities, good vibes and a little bit of chaos ensured that this great trip was incredible for all. On behalf of our year level, we would like to thank Geoff, Laura, Yoel and Yair, our guide, for caring for us on this memorable experience.

Ella Freeman and Aaron Greenwell (Year 11)





It's where I... begin my learning journey



Meet the Pre-School Team Leaders

Our Pre-School in Alma Road, St Kilda has recently undergone some refurbishment works and also welcomed some new faces on the Educational Team.

Gan Dubi

After 15 years of working at The King David School Pre-School, every year reminds me of how privileged I am to be welcoming our families into the School. Becoming Team Leader of our youngest room, Gan Dubi, this year has given me a new vision to include the mindfulness aspect into our day. We have a very happy Nursery with many varied activities to educate, stimulate and nurture the children. We have age-appropriate furniture and play equipment in our room both inside and outside that are perfect for both crawlers and young toddlers. We celebrate Jewish festivals, sing, dance and love eating challah on Fridays during our Shabbat celebrations!

Gail Friedman



Gan Osher

After working in early childhood for over 15 years, I joined The King David School Pre-School team at the start of this year as the Team Leader of Gan Osher. I am passionate about establishing strong connections with children and families and believe that children are capable and competent. I am also passionate about social justice and sustainability, initiating a number of projects in the past with children and their families focusing on fairness and assisting others in the community. By introducing these concepts at a young age I believe that children will develop a deeper understanding of the concept of community. I am really excited to bring some of these project ideas over to King David this year.

Kristin Falzon

Gan Keshet

* Our New Kindergarten Room *

It has been great to come back to the King David family as a Kindergarten teacher, having been a King David student in my secondary years. I recently completed my Master of Teaching in Early Years and Primary Education after working in the profession for the past six years.

My passion is working with children and seeing them grow from every experience, hearing them speak about their interests and forming new friendships. Our program in Gan Keshet provides all children with a range of activities which encourages scientific exploration, social interaction, Jewish Studies and Hebrew immersion. Children will be encouraged to use all their senses and practise sustainability. We are also guided by the SOWATT program which Russell Kaplan and Rosalyn Muir introduced. The program has assisted our Kindergarten students with settling into the room as smoothly as possible. We have also enjoyed excursions to our friends at the Dandenong Road Kindergarten with the Purim magic show being one of the recent highlights!

Meital Gofman

Limited vacancies are still available in the Pre-School for 2018 and 2019. To book a Discovery Tour, please contact our Admissions Team on (03) 9527 0102 or you can book online via our website: www.kds.vic.edu.au



SOWATT

It's got to do with learning

'a framework to intentionally develop critical executive function skills in students, supporting them to be successful in school and beyond'.

Recognising the importance of developing executive function skills for children ages 3-5 years, The King David School Pre-School and Kindergarten has recently implemented the SOWATT framework. Over the summer period, the Kindergarten teachers attended a three day workshop with Russell Kaplan, Vice Principal – Teaching and Learning and Rosalyn Muir – Junior School Teaching and Learning Coordinator, to learn about the role executive function skills play in children's learning and overall wellbeing.

The six executive functions that make up the SOWATT framework are: Self-regulation, Organisation, Working memory, Attention, Thinking flexibly and Thinking about thinking. We are using this as a lens to look at what we are currently doing and where we have the opportunity to explicitly develop these skills.

With the start of a new school year, it made sense to focus on Self-regulation and Organisation. Each class has established daily routines, which help children feel secure and reduce any anxiety from either starting Kinder for the first time, or being in a different class from the previous year. Getting organised is vital in developing independence and taking responsibility for our belongings and ourselves. The experiences the children have at this age can greatly impact their growing brains.

A Parent Education Workshop was also held in March to educate parents in the Neuroscience behind the SOWATT framework. This reinforces our core belief that the School must work together in partnership with our families, recognising that families are children's first and most influential teachers.



It's where I...

celebrate my Jewish identity



A Meaningful Chag

Purim was celebrated with a myriad of meaningful learning activities aimed at engaging and entertaining students.

The Pre-School and Kinder children participated in a range of activities leading up to Purim, including baking hamantaschen.

At the Junior School, the day started with a Purim Parade. Students showed off their creative costumes before splitting into groups for the day's activities. Circus skills, jumping castles and magicians provided ample fun throughout the day. They also prepared for the Megillah reading with Raashanim workshops and baking Hamantaschen. As a central theme of Purim, students also prepared Mishloach Manot and learnt about the importance of giving to others.

Senior School students and staff showed off their magnificent and creative costumes while participating in a "Bachelor" themed Purim spiel. The Megillah was also read, thus fulfilling one of the mitzvot (commandments) of Purim.

Years 6-8 students were then rotated through a series of activities including baking hamantaschen, writing encouraging and beautiful words to the School community (fulfilling the mitzvah of mishloach manot, giving gifts to other Jews), re-telling the Purim story using modelling clay and a quiz. Years 9-12 students listened to presentations by a range of Jewish and non Jewish community organisations as part of the new initiative "pop up giving circles". This provided a meaningful opportunity for students to fulfil another mitzvah of Purim called Matanot L'evyonim (giving to the poor). The organisations who participated were Oaktree, StandUp, BABE, Flying Fox, Australian Youth Climate Coalition, UN Youth and Sea Shepherd. Once presentations were heard by all organisations, students had to prioritise in their groups, the organisations and funds raised, to be distributed.



It's where I... embrace
new challenges



Launch Week Takes Off

"We have been thrilled to see students embrace the challenges presented to them in this first week of school"

Launch Week, a new program for Years 6 - 8 students was a huge success. The students embraced all the challenges and made the most of the opportunities presented to them.

This initiative has been an exciting new approach to begin the 2018 school year. Students from Years 6 - 8 took part in alternate programming over the first 7 days of school, aimed at fostering a connection to core King David values and to inspire our students to be their best both academically and socially as the school year commences.

Programming for Year 6 was focussed on creating a sense of belonging and a smooth transition to our Senior School campus by giving opportunities to connect to their homeroom, specialist teachers and to the School campus in general.

Year 7 focussed on fostering new friendship connections as more than 20 new students were welcomed to the School. Activities required students to work in a range of different groups, giving opportunities for getting to know one another and facilitating discussion on making the year level one that is warm and inviting for all.

The Year 8 schedule built on connections from last year, as well as opening the conversation about student leadership in the Middle Years as a way to positively engage with the broader school community. The days also focussed on preparing for the more demanding academic requirements of the year ahead.

Some of the highlights from the week included the ribbon mural team challenge, the billy cart grand prix, guest speakers from Project Rock-it and Elevate education as well as the Year 7 rock climbing excursion.

We were thrilled to see students embrace the challenges presented to them in this first week of school and know that they have been given the opportunity to build skills and focus for a great year ahead.



New Peer Support Program

After completing a customised hadracha (leadership) course, Year 11 students have opted-in to become madatzim (young leaders) for the new Peer Support Program. The madatzim are formed into leadership groups and are allocated a chavurah (small group) of Year 7 students whom they will mentor for the year. The peer-support sessions will run fortnightly throughout the year.

In a recent session, the Year 11s led discussions on friendship, school culture and expectations from the Peer Support sessions. Students were all asked to think about their own responses to certain questions and add their ideas to a collaborative poster. These ideas were then discussed with the group.

When they asked Year 7 students what they thought they could get out of this new program, some of the responses were:

"I hope to get to know different people from across the School in different year levels."

"It will be good to have someone to talk to about school who is closer to my age."

The Peer Support Program will cover topics such as:

- School culture and expectations
- Social media
- Anti-bullying
- Resilience
- Inclusion
- Empathy

"I hope to get to know different people from across the School in different year levels."

Mindfully Navigating VCE

A new initiative in the Senior School this year is Mindfulness sessions that offer students the opportunity to de-stress and regain focus during the school week.

Facilitated by mindfulness coach, Gayle Factor, students are instructed on skills and techniques to manage stress and so acquire lifelong skills in health and wellbeing.

Gayle believes that by "nourishing students' physical, emotional and mental health" they can more skilfully cope with the intense demands of study and other external pressures.

VCE students are offered a six week program which they can attend during their study periods. Some of the techniques students will learn in this program are:

- various meditation techniques such as breathing, listening, body awareness and scanning, mantras
- Yoga and mindful movement
- mindful creativity
- creative visualisation
- fostering gratitude
- regulating emotions
- mindful moments

All students and staff in the Senior School are invited to attend on a Tuesday when Gayle is available to run mindfulness sessions.





It's where I... am part of a community



It's where I... love being in a team



"a highlight was the magnificent Torah reading by Year 8 student Jesse Ermer"

An Inspiring Start to the New School Year

Our annual Back to School Service was held at Temple Beth Israel early in Term 1. All Years 6-12 students and staff gathered to celebrate the start of a new school year and through prayer and reflection, prepare for a wonderful year of learning ahead. Our Year 12 students were also inducted at this service and received their badges as well as a beautiful blessing, given by Cantor Michel Laloum.

Led by our Jewish Life Captains Gabrielle Arnheim and Joel Fink and with musical accompaniment by Max Jared Einsohn, the Service also included reflections by Year 12 students Adam Kaplan and Kylie Campbell. Marc Light's highly insightful and inspiring message highlighted the importance of a person's integrity rather than their external characteristics.

Finally, a highlight was the magnificent Torah reading by Year 8 student Jesse Ermer whose strong voice and flawless reading was beautiful to witness.

Many thanks especially to the Jewish Experiential Team at the Senior School, Yoel Benn and Alissa Breiman for co-ordinating this special event.



Balaclava District Swimming Carnival

Students from Years 4-6 competed in Term 1 at the Balaclava District Swimming Carnival. After weeks of training it was time for our boys and girls to compete against the best swimmers from 8 schools in our district.

Our students were fantastic competitors and a number won ribbons. Two of our girls' relay teams provided great excitement by placing 4th (10 year old division) and 3rd (11 year old division).

The biggest highlight came in the 11 year old freestyle individual where Year 6 student Livia Lazarow finished equal 2nd in her race and ultimately proved worthy of a place at the next Beachside Division Carnival.

After all the scores were tallied, KDS finished in 6th position. A big thank you to the parents who came to support, the coaches for preparing our students and our staff who managed the team on the day.

Drew Solewicz
Sports Manager



Team Spirit at the Swimming Gala

There was much colour, fun and great sportsmanship at this year's Inter-House Swimming Gala. Well done to all of our swimmers who put in personal best efforts and competed in their races with confidence and good spirits. The cheer squads for each House kept everyone entertained with their fabulous chants and dance routines providing the event with a great atmosphere.

Once again, the highlights were the Sibling Showdown and the Staff vs Students 4 x 50m Freestyle relay. Mazal Tov to the final winning House, Kinneret.

KDS Student in Commonwealth Games

Alexandra Kiroi (Year 11), a highly accomplished gymnast has qualified for a spot on the Australian Commonwealth Games Gymnastics Team!

She is one of the youngest members of the Australian Commonwealth Games Team and will stand alongside the Australian 2016 Rio Olympic gymnast who is 25 years old.

Good luck Alexandra! We will all be cheering for you.





It's where I...
cherish community



KDSPA Update

"Our annual Year 7 parent get together was a fantastic opportunity for families to meet in a casual environment"

The start of the new school year is always a busy one for students, staff and parents. It was so exciting to attend all campuses on the first day of school and see so many new students, Prep students bursting with excitement in their new school uniforms as well as hundreds of students happy to be reunited with their friends.

KDSPA was represented at all the orientation evenings and presented on the valuable contribution the volunteer parent body makes to many areas of the School. Thank you to all the parents who put themselves forward as class representatives. It is an important role and an opportunity for us to liaise more directly with each year level.



THE KING DAVID SCHOOL PARENTS' ASSOCIATION



Our annual Year 7 parent get together was a fantastic opportunity for families to meet in a casual environment and KDSPA are very grateful to Pia Abrahams and Michael Boltman for hosting this year's event.

This term for the Parents' Association has predominantly focussed on King's Carnival and the Fete Committee of dedicated volunteers led by Candi Apel have worked tirelessly to plan a Carnival that will no doubt exceed all expectations. At the time of going to press for this magazine, the Carnival was a few weeks away and so I will report on this event with photos in the next issue of Inspirations magazine.

Our next big event is the Annual Breakfast, to be held on Friday 22 June. A very exciting speaker has been secured so stay tuned for more updates!

Finally I would like to thank the many extraordinary volunteers that selflessly meet, plan, organise and facilitate so many fundraising events and activities on behalf of the KDSPA that benefit our School Community. It's a wonderful opportunity for our students to witness this community involvement. If you would like to become involved in the Parents' Association, in any capacity, please feel free to email kdspa@kds.vic.edu.au. Wishing you all a meaningful Pesach with loved ones and great Term break.

Lisa Klepfisz
President - KDSPA

BACK TO THE 60'S

The King David School Friends' Association hosted a Back to the 60s party at the Armadale Bowls Club. 120 Friends including Grandparents and Past Parents came together and dressed for the occasion with some fantastic outfits setting the scene for a fun-filled evening. Musical entertainment was provided by live band, The Bounstein Ultimatum who had everyone up on the dance floor. Performing Arts students Freya Boltman, Maddie Meltzer and Rachel Silber showcased a beautiful acapella song from a recent school musical, A Chorus Line. Thanks to the organising committee for coordinating such an entertaining evening and to the raffle prize sponsors for their kind donations.

We look forward to this new group hosting many more events for our community. For more information on future events or to join the Friends Association list, please email: friends@kds.vic.edu.au. All are welcome.

THE KING DAVID SCHOOL FRIENDS' ASSOCIATION



Did you know...

The King David School Foundation supports 1 in 4 children to attend the school who would not otherwise be able to afford a Jewish education.

Every year, the KDS Foundation relies on the community to donate funds for this program.

Over the last 40 years, the KDS Foundation has been able to support more than 300 means tested families with some level of fee assistance.

Thank you to our wonderful community for continuing this tradition with annual donations to our tax deductible Scholarship Fund.

For a confidential discussion on how you can support this important program and give more students the opportunity of a King David education, please contact:

Naomi Pizzo, Foundation Manager
(03) 9527 0120 or email foundation@kds.vic.edu.au

THE KING DAVID SCHOOL FOUNDATION



Engaged

Romy Wyner (2008) and Simon Grunstein
December, 2017

James Zaidenberg (2008) and Olivia Serah
December, 2017

Married

Alex Bock (2003) and Cameron Shackleton
March 2018

Jamie First (2009) and Jason Hymans
December, 2017

Carina Lawrence (2008) and Kim Glajchen
March, 2018

Births

Elliot Schulberg (2005) and Karra Schulberg
Sienna, November 2017



Victoria may have been bracing for its worst weather in 100 years, but Jamie First (Class of 2009) and Jason Hymans didn't let that stop them from saying "I do".

Save
the
Date

**SUNDAY
27 MAY**

Class of 2008
(10 Year Reunion)

Class of 2013
(5 Year Reunion)

**Where
are they
now?**



Tomer Opat, graduate of the Class of 2017 is currently undertaking a gap year, hoping to make a difference to the lives of underprivileged children in Africa.

He is a volunteer with International Volunteer HQ and working at Save Africa, an orphanage and primary school in the rural outskirts of Arusha, Tanzania. 54 children are housed in the orphanage and others attend the Centre for the day. This orphanage provides a refuge and place where children can gain life skills, an education and have the opportunity to have a more fulfilling life.

In the short time he has been there, Tomer has initiated a Gofundme campaign to raise \$10,000 that will go towards providing new classrooms for the children to learn. You can read about his funding campaign here (<https://www.gofundme.com/57crufc>).

Tomer attended The King David School from Junior Kinder and has been an active member of the School community. Last year, he was Keshet (Communication) Captain and was also awarded the Isador Magid Kehilla Award at Presentation Evening last year.

This is a prestigious graduate award that recognises qualities of generosity, kindness, support of and care for community.

From all accounts, Tomer continues to care for others.

Prior to joining the volunteering program, he climbed Mt Kilimanjaro with 3 fellow classmates. Once the volunteer program concludes, Tomer will continue travelling and study archaeology and the Arab Israeli conflict at Hebrew University in Israel. He will return to Melbourne in 2019 and intends to study film and television production.

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

We invite all alumni to register with our new online platform: KDS Connect. www.kdsconnect.com.au

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

THE KING DAVID SCHOOL

www.kds.vic.edu.au

Modern | Thinking | Judaism

