

# Inspirations

The King David School's Magazine | December 2015 Tevet 5776



THE KING DAVID SCHOOL



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# Inspirations

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Front Cover: Year 1 students at the Southwick Twilight Concert



As we reach the end of yet another year, we should be very proud of the achievements of The King David School and the countless community members that make such significant contributions.

At Council level, the last quarter has been particularly productive with progress of the building program continuing at great pace. The new Senior School building on Orrong Road has reached the roof stage and we are hoping to be at "lock up" before the end of year break.

Works have also commenced on the Science and Technology Centre, the Cafeteria and the Gymnasium. All of these areas are on track to be delivered by the start of Term 2, 2016.

At Dandenong Rd, building contracts have now been signed to commence construction of the new Kindergartens and the redevelopment of the main campus into our new Junior School which will also incorporate an underground carpark and drop off facilities and importantly, a significant open play space at the front of the property.

At this incredibly exciting time for the School there are a number of people who are working tirelessly on this building project behind the scenes. They are featured in an article on page 14 of this magazine and I encourage you to read about their work and I thank them for their contribution to our School.

To coincide with the great progress outlined above the Chai Ve'kayam Capital Appeal was launched at a fantastic event hosted at the home of Graeme Samuel and Jill Davies. Thank you to our hosts and particularly to those families who have already pledged support to our Appeal. I encourage you all to consider how your family can help support this important building project.

As this is the final issue for 2015 I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Council members and also Marc Light and his senior leadership team for their dedication and support this year. The School's status within the Jewish Community continues to grow, and ultimately it is the outstanding, committed work of Marc and all of his talented educators that drives these outcomes.

In closing, congratulations to our Class of 2015 VCE graduates and please stay in touch. I wish everyone a wonderful summer break and look forward to seeing you in 2016 as we continue our journey together.

**Mark Harrison**  
President  
School Council President



Dear Community,

In the pages of this magazine you will find many highlights that exemplify the holistic approach that King David applies to our

students' education. We recognise here that our mission is to extend our students across all aspects of both their in-class and out-of-class education. You will see a snapshot of the wonderful variety of programs that have been on offer at our School in the last part of 2015. With a diverse range of Performing Arts opportunities, Junior Athletics Day which encourages our students trying to strive for their personal sporting best, the joyous celebrations of Jewish Life from our youngest students at

Grandparents' Shabbat through to our B'nei Mitzvah age students experiencing Kabbalat Dorot and Kabbalat Torah. There have been many proud moments celebrating growth and development that we have shared as a community with our children.

This term we have asked our students to engage with the "It's where I... belong" tagline that we began at Rosh Hashanah. We asked our students what it is that they love about our School and to complete their own "It's where I..." statements. I spoke to students and told them to use this as an opportunity to let me know what are the core elements about our School that they want us to retain as we go forward. It has given me such nachat (joy) to read through these. The common theme of inclusion and opportunities provided by the School

reinforces our commitment to these values. Many students reported "It's where I... can be myself". To me, this is such a powerful affirmation that our students feel respected and able to feel comfortable in their School environment. We must all work together to ensure that King David is where our families feel that they do indeed belong – not just to a School – but to a supportive community.

I wish you all a wonderful summer break and I look forward to another exciting year in 2016.

Many thanks,

**Marc Light**  
Principal



Rafael Ungar Eliza Wingreen  
**SCHOOL CAPTAINS**



Jaimie Engel Georgia Lehrer  
**JEWISH LIFE CAPTAINS**



Tia Blum Danielle Fuerst  
**ARAVA HOUSE CAPTAINS**



Aaron Vaserman Daniel Vorontsov  
**GALIL HOUSE CAPTAINS**



Romi Lazarus Ryan Michelson  
**KINNERET HOUSE CAPTAINS**



Shoshana-Kogan Lazarus Lucy Zilberman  
**NEGEV HOUSE CAPTAINS**

## 2016 Senior School Leaders

Mazal Tov to our new Senior School Leaders who were announced at a special assembly at the end of Term 3 in the presence of the Hon Philip Dalidakis, Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade.

The selection process begins earlier in Term 3 where Year 11 students wishing to nominate for a leadership position receive a Student Leadership Nomination Pack. This pack outlines in detail a description of the positions and the expectations of holding such a position. A reference letter is required, supporting the student's candidacy as well as a second.

Five minute speeches are prepared and presented to the Year 11 cohort and staff for those running for School Captain and Jewish Life positions. House Captain candidates present similarly to their respective Houses a few days later. Elections follow with ballot papers and all candidates listed. All Staff from the Junior, Middle and Senior Schools and Year 11 students vote for the School and Jewish Life Captains. All students vote for candidates in their respective Houses.

**Geoff Garber**  
Senior School Teacher  
Coordinator of Student Leadership



It's where I... *Succeed*

# King David Scholarships 2017

The King David School is offering a number of scholarships for students entering Years 5, 6, 7, 9 and 10 in 2017.

Apply online at: [www.kds.vic.edu.au](http://www.kds.vic.edu.au)  
Applications close: **Friday 26 February 2016**



It's where I...  
*support my community*

## KDSPA Hosts Pink Morning Tea

As the year comes to a close, I would like to acknowledge all the amazing volunteer parents including KDSPA committee, the various sub-committees, the Class Reps, Tuckshop volunteers, Café volunteers and those parents that come to support our events. It is your support that contributes to the nurturing and welcoming community The King David School is known for.

I was incredibly proud of a group of amazing mums who devoted hours of their time to stage our very first Pink Ribbon Morning Tea in September. Over \$4000 was raised and donated to the Breast Cancer Network Association and National Breast Cancer Foundation. Guest speaker, Sally Capp was highly entertaining.

Many thanks again to the entire School community for your continued support.

**Rochelle Rothfield**  
President  
The King David School Parents' Association  
kdspa@kds.vic.edu.au



It's where I... *gain confidence*



## Celebrating a Year of Learning

Our Kinder students celebrated a very busy year of discovery and learning by hosting an end of year concert for their adoring families.

There were clowns and acrobats, as well as magic chairs in Senior Kindergarten. In the Junior Kindergarten children celebrated their learning of different cultures and countries through song which included "it's a small world after all" in English and Hebrew.



## Outstanding Volunteers in our Community



Tom Gorog

Two of our much loved School community members, Michael Lawrence and Tom Gorog were recognised for their valuable contribution to the Jewish community at the recent Jewish Community Council of Victoria (JCCV) 2015 Community Recognition Awards.

Tom Gorog received his award for his ongoing contribution as Chair of Emmy Monash's Building Program. Tom is also featured in this publication for his honorary consultancy as a member of the School's Building Committee. He is also an Ambassador to The King David School Foundation.

Michael Lawrence who is current Chair of The King David School Foundation was recognised with a JCCV award for his tireless dedication to The King David School through his role as School Council President and more recently as Chair of the School Foundation.

We are indebted to both Michael and Tom and honour their contribution. It is a wonderful example of selfless community spirit.



Michael Lawrence





It's where I...  
*share Jewish experiences with family*

## Prep - Year 2 Grandparents & Special Friends' Shabbat

Bubbas, Zaidas, Nanas, Papas, Omas, Opas, Grandmas and Grandpas.

Everyone was there for the Junior School Grandparents and Special Friends' Shabbat. The students had an absolute ball celebrating Kabbalat Shabbat with our grandparents and special friends. We made all the blessings, we sang all our Shabbat songs, we learnt from a story and then we handed over our gifts. We all made doves for our grandparents because the Parsha that week was Noah. But the best part was at the end when we all got hugged by our enthusiastic grandparents.

**David Opat**  
Head of Junior School



It's where I... *strive for personal best*



## Prep - Year 5 Inter-House Athletics Gala



Prep to Year 5 Inter-House Athletics Carnival was held recently. This year Negev took home the much coveted trophy. Students ran, jumped and threw themselves into all the events while equally excited parents looked on eagerly. Olympic events such as the 100m sprint and long jump were on show as well as the gruelling 800m. One of the highlights of the day was the potato sack race which provided plenty of laughs and cheering from all. Congratulations to all students for your great sportsmanship!

**Drew Solewicz**  
Sports Manager





It's where I...  
*love to perform*

It's where I... *find joy in music*



## Years 3 to 8 Musical - Peter Pan Junior

Our School community were treated to four fantastic performances of Peter Pan Jr., our Middle School Musical (Years 3-8). The Green and Yellow casts each had two performances and therefore had the opportunity to showcase their wonderful talents.

The audience were taken on a journey, back to their own childhood, to a place where "you never have to grow up". Under the skillful direction of Laura Rickhuss and musical direction by Adam Yee, the staging, costumes, music and of course performances created a magical feast for the senses.

Laura Rickhuss credited all the performers as having "committed themselves to conveying this magical story through their thoughtful characterisations, skilled vocalisation and enthusiasm". We are extremely grateful to the many members of our School community who volunteered so much of their time to assist with this production.



## Alive with the Sound of Music

Our annual Winter Concert became a Spring Concert this year, featuring our talented students in vocal and instrumental ensembles. The audience were treated to a broad and impressive repertoire that included percussion, guitar, woodwind and brass and string ensemble pieces as well as some hauntingly beautiful solo performances by Year 12 students Noa Opat and Sara Reed. The Years 3 to 8 vocal ensemble performed Five Eyes by Armstrong Gibbs.

It was a wonderful way to spend a spring afternoon.

The following day, it was our Prep to Year 2 students who took the spotlight. It doesn't come much cuter than watching these young students perform musical pieces they have learned during music classes

while trying very hard to stay focussed and not waving to their beaming parents and family members in the audience! Michelle Moran from the Music Department expertly choreographed all the musical items performed by the Junior School students and the result was a feast for the senses!





It's where I...  
*explore my Jewish identity*

## Kabbalat Dorot

Year 6 students explored their heritage through the Kabbalat Dorot program and came together in Term 4 to share their projects with their families.

A wonderful part of the ceremony involved a series of speeches from members of three generations. Mrs Naomi Tippett AM representing the grandparents' generation, Michael Boltman, representing the parents' generation and Mitch Cowen representing the students. Below is an excerpt from Mitch's presentation.



"Here are a few of the things that I learned through this project: My grandfather risked his life to taste coke whilst in the same decade, my great grandmother adopted a fake name, and dyed her hair to save her family. This project has taught me about what it means to be a Jew, to appreciate the sacrifices my family made to let me be a Jew and to never take being Jewish for granted.

My family is what makes me who I am, and when the whole family comes to our house for Shabbat, we can all follow the Jewish rituals, and follow the dream, my great-grandmother risked her life to achieve. I bet she is smiling down from heaven. As fascinating as my family's stories are, everyone else in the room also has a one of a kind story, that has brought emotion and wonder to this project.

The sacrifices my great grandmother made to keep her family Jewish were heroic. She mourned her father who was killed in Hungary because he was circumcised. Every day for the rest of her life, she would look at the faces of people walking down the street to see if her father survived. She took my grandmother across Hungary - hiking by night, risking everything to reach the relative safety of Austria.

This project has let me look back and reflect about how I can go to shul, keep Shabbat a be a Jew freely, how I can go to a Jewish school, and go to tefillah every week. I will always be grateful for what my ancestors did for me, and hearing their incredible acts of bravery to keep my family's Jewish heritage alive, makes the dorot an extremely meaningful, and important event to me."

**Mitch Cowen (Year 6)**

## Kabbalat Torah

The Kabbalat Torah process marks a very important right of passage for our Year 7 students. Following on from their B'nei Mitzvah years they are becoming recognized as members of the Jewish community in their own right. As adult members they accept a range of rights and responsibilities that shift their relationship with their Jewish identity from one that was accepted second hand through the choices of their parents to an identity that is negotiated at an individual level. The process of presentation in the Kabbalat Torah ceremony and the learning that has led to it has been developed around offering choices to help foster a meaningful and individualized expression of Jewish identity.



It's where I... *become an active learner*

## Passion for Thinking

The Passion For Thinking (P4T) process involves our Year 8 students choosing an area of passion to explore in depth. After extensively engaging with their area of interest over a period of research they present their learning in a community celebration. The subject areas are broad and encompass wide areas including the creative arts, social sciences, sport, philanthropy and social justice.

A few incredible ideas that were presented at this year's P4T included a robotic scanner capable of reading aloud key product information to blind people, a creative children's story embedded with contextual musical notation to encourage instrument rehearsal and a peer-to-peer skills sharing website that offers to connect volunteer instructors with disadvantaged teenagers keen to acquire lessons in a skill area.

The P4T program is one of many at KDS which acknowledges that our contemporary classrooms are not a "one size fits all" factory. Rather, learning experiences should be tailored to meet the individual needs of each student. This should cater for individual strengths and interests and should recognize that students have different styles which are most effective in entrenching their learning.

Perhaps the most effective component of the P4T process is in its acknowledgement that through providing agency, choice and responsibility to the students, they become far more active learners. Albert Einstein described the power of developing passion and applying this to inquiry when he stated, "I have no special talents. I am only passionately curious.

**Marc Light  
Principal**





It's where I...  
*learn life skills*



## Outdoor Education

### Year 3 Camp

Year 3 students embarked on their first ever King David School camp. Students used teamwork to conquer the challenging low ropes course. Many students overcame their initial trepidation and persevered with the flying fox. The final day was spent at Healesville Sanctuary to learn about Australia's unique wildlife



### Year 4 Camp

Year 4 students visited Wombat Corner, Emerald on a camp designed to introduce students to a variety of bush craft activities within a camp setting. Students had the opportunity to challenge themselves within a safe environment and developed greater respect for their natural environment. This included a 3 to 5 km bushwalk to their campsite.



### Year 5 Camp

The taste and smell of mud was revolting yet I knew I couldn't stop crawling through and risk letting my team down. So, I kept moving through the mud as fast as I could. My hands felt wet leaves and twigs. It felt squishy and thankfully, wasn't as deep as it looked. The threatening cage above me was low and made me keep my head lowered, close to the stench.

**David Eikelis (Year 5)**

The Gauntlet

Jordy, Ari, Arielle and I believed we were a fierce team, with Randy as our coach. We were so excited, that we volunteered to go first into the mud course. We quickly ran to battle our first obstacle, a net we had to climb over. The race was great as our whole team was working together and supporting each other. We finished in record time, all smelled of mud and were feeling the cold!

**Ben Rosham (Year 5)**



### Year 8 Camp

Year 8 camp at the gold mining town of Walhalla was a fantastic experience with the 'Hall Outdoor Education' staff members, School staff and Year 8 students. We did many activities over the five days such as, mountain bike riding, hiking, and even white water rafting. Group three, which I was part of, had many highs and lows over the camp, but I feel the challenges we faced made all the different people in our group stronger, and more connected with each other. Friendships grew, and past rivalries were mended. Throughout this camp we, as a group, developed many important life skills, and qualities. These included learning how to cook our own meal, organisational skills, and how to work as a team to accomplish a shared goal. Even though this Year 8 camp was tiring and very strenuous, I feel as though it was an extremely worthwhile and beneficial experience that I will never forget.

**Jacob Moulton (Year 8)**





It's where I...  
*build the future*

## Our Building Committee



Project Chai Ve'kayam (meaning life everlasting) is the name of the building project that is currently underway, transforming our School learning areas into modern learning spaces. Mark Harrison, School Council President, Marc Light, Principal and Mike Zammit, the School's Director of Business are part of an essential Building Committee that manage the progress of the project. Three other members of our School community have generously volunteered their time since the launch of our Project Chai Ve'kayam to lend their expertise to this Building Committee. The Committee has been meeting on a fortnightly basis with architects, builders and consultants to make critical decisions regarding the realisation of this project.

As the project involves three sites, there have been logistical challenges to overcome. The co-operation and support of staff and parents has greatly assisted the execution of the Project. Minimising disruption to students' learning during the building process has been a priority.



**Sandy Abrahams** has an architectural background and is assisting the Building Committee to achieve the highest quality in design with consideration to the site constraints.

### What is an interesting fact about the Project?

The Science and Technology precinct including the Gymnasium and Cafeteria will be a great resource for students. Previously unused space has been converted into a dynamic and functional area. This will be a central educational hub with direct access to an outdoor courtyard to create an extension of the classroom.

### What are you most excited about with this Project?

The fully integrated indoor and outdoor experience that is being incorporated into the Kindergarten design. The landscaping offers great scope for innovative design elements.

*Sandy is mother to Gabi Abrahams (Year 12) and Noa Abrahams (Year 9)*



**Dean Priester** is the Honorary Project Manager for the Building Committee. Dean owns his own Project Management business, DPPS Projects.

### What is an interesting fact about the Project?

There are effectively five different building projects involved; the new Senior School, the Science and Technology Centre and refurbishment of Orrong Road facilities, the new Kindergartens, the play space with underground parking at Dandenong Road and the refurbishment of the Mansion at Dandenong Road which will house Prep to Year 5. All these projects were separately tendered in order to achieve the best possible price for the School.

### What are you most excited about with this Project?

The completion of the new Senior School building in Term 2, 2016 will be an exciting milestone. Having been involved with Project Chai Ve'kayam since its launch in October 2012, the realisation of years of planning is very satisfying.

*Dean is father to Amy and Lauren Priester (Year 9)*



**Tom Gorog** with experience as a Consulting Engineer, assists the Building Committee with expertise as a technical consultant, overseeing the services area.

This includes electrical, fire, thermal, lifts, mechanical and hydraulics.

### What is an interesting fact about the Project?

There is provision in the buildings for water collection which will assist with planting in the Kibbutz gardens and other landscaped areas. Also provision has been made for solar panels to be installed which supports the School's commitment to environmentally sustainable practices.

### What are you most excited about with this Project?

Having been involved since the School's inception, it is exciting to watch the School's physical learning spaces transform into 21st century educational facilities. It will be very rewarding to see the classrooms fitted with state of the art technology that will allow for the changing needs of the modern student.

*Tom is father to Michelle Lazarow and Danny Gorog, both alumni of King David and his six grandchildren are all students at The King David School.*

It's where I...  
*invest in future generations*



Camilla Burrows, Sidra Nissen, Marc Light

## Project Chai Ve'kayam Capital Appeal Launch

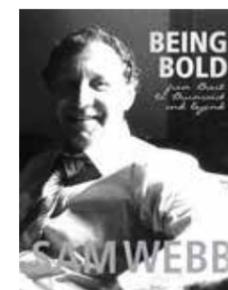
Graeme Samuel AC, Capital Appeal Chair together with Mark Harrison, School Council President and Michael Lawrence, Foundation Chair were delighted to host a cocktail supper to launch the Capital Appeal for The King David School's Building Project Chai Ve'kayam - 'Life Everlasting'.

Supporters and friends listened to tales of the early years as well as the vision for the School's future.

*To join our community in support of future generations, please contact Naomi Pizzo, Foundation Manager, on 9527 0122 or naomi.pizzo@kds.vic.edu.au.*



- A. Graeme Samuel AC, Susan Hearst
- B. George Altman, Karen Snow, Charles & Karyn Akkerman
- C. Aviva & Rodney Taft, Robyn & Rabbi John Levi
- D. Vera Finkel, Michael Lawrence
- E. Graeme Samuel AC
- F. Dan Langer, Graham Burrows, Richard Moshinsky, Simon Langer, Mark Harrison
- G. Dana Burrows, Romy Moshinsky, Claire Morton, Dani Harrison



## Being Bold



Sam Webb & Romy Moshinsky

It was such an honour recently for The King David School to host the launch of an important book - **Being Bold** by Sam Webb.

Sam's memoirs highlight his innovation and ability to adapt which were very much products of a childhood encountering, and ultimately fleeing, the profound anti-Semitism that characterised life in Poland. His experience of migration and establishing a new life in Australia clearly had an enormous impact on the development of key skills of flexibility, creativity and the innate sense of when and how to develop the next opportunity.

*"When I read 'Being Bold' I was struck, time and again, by the many examples that demonstrated that the key to Sam's great successes, in both his professional and personal life, can be linked back to what we would now characterise as the goals of a contemporary education. When I think of the lessons that I would like each King David student to internalise, a study of Sam's history would provide this so effectively. I am so proud of the connection the School has with the Webb family and can attest firsthand that this wonderful Australian's legacy will be carried forward in the next generations,"* said Marc Light in his address at the launch.

Sam has very generously donated all proceeds from the book launch to The King David School Foundation - a wonderful way to share this simcha.

*Being Bold* was co-written by Romy Moshinsky, designed by Lisa Lipshut and published by Real Film and Publishing.



Noa & Sam Webb

## ENGAGED

Shayndel Grinblat (2007)      Nick Loewy  
*November 2015*

Joshua Marlow (2011)      Sharon Barnett  
*August 2015*

## MARRIED

Zak Eichenbaum (2004)      Amy Spark  
*June 2015*

Naomi Green (2005)      Jared Rozen  
*November 2015*

## BIRTHS

Richard Feigin (1995)      Judy Gold  
*Lia, June 2015*

Avi Goodman (1991)      Fleur Dwyer  
*Matilda Leah Dawn, March 2015*

## Births Continued

Adam Grosman (2003)      Shana Grosman (Lazar)  
*Jae Robert, September 2015*

Leila Greenfield (1985)      Rachel Haber  
*Lola Helen, July 2015*

Richard Michaels (1989)      Melissa Michaels (Levin)  
*Toby Charles, February 2015*

Luke Peters (1991)      Courtney Peters (Winter)  
*Evie, October 2015*

Bonnie Rembach (Greenberg) (2002)  
*Ezra Alan, November 2015*

Adam Rogers (1990)      Samantha Rogers (Duzenman)  
*Finn Aiden, June 2015*

Rebecca Rozencwajg (Eckhaus) (1991)      Adam Rozencwajg  
*Nina Bela, September 2015*

## Where are they now?



### Reyzl Zylberman

Those who remember me from my time at The King David School (Class 2007) will not remember me as any kind of athlete - my

lack of coordination ensured that. Despite my passion for the Melbourne Football Club, my classmates and teachers would probably most remember my enthusiasm for Jewish Studies and Jewish life.

Following my time at The King David School, I completed a Bachelor of Arts/Education and an Arts/Honours degree at Monash University. My studies have taken me around the world, from New York City to Strasbourg. These studies led me to my current job, teaching at Sholem Aleichem College.

However, my love for football and Jewish life collided in 2013. After commenting on a Facebook post by the AFL Multicultural Program, I was asked to apply for the position of an AFL Multicultural Community Ambassador. I was successful and, in 2014, I became the first Jewish AFL Multicultural Community Ambassador.

I am able to create many opportunities for the Jewish community to engage with the AFL. An example of this is the first AFL Jewish Schools Cup, which took place on 25 November, where The King David School also participated in this event.

Amongst other things, the AFL Multicultural Program has assisted me in collecting much-needed football supplies for schools in need in the Northern Territory and in engaging Jewish schools in our AFL Multicultural Schools Program.

It was a great honour to be named the AFL Multicultural Community Ambassador of the Year for the South East Region this year.

Working with staff, players and community members from a variety of backgrounds is a rewarding experience. Together, we break stereotypes about our individual communities and build bridges through the world of football. As a student of The King David School, I felt appreciative of the fact that students were encouraged to value differences as well as similarities. This is a notion that has supported me in my work with the AFL.



### Lauren Mandel

Lauren (Class 2008) was awarded the JCCV Young Leader Award for her commitment and drive in working on

the Maccabi All Abilities Project and her dedication to social inclusion for Jews of all abilities. Mazal Tov!

**Please continue to keep us informed by sending your news to:**  
[jackie.ellis@kds.vic.edu.au](mailto:jackie.ellis@kds.vic.edu.au)

**Please also advise of changes to your contact details, especially email.**

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