

# Inspirations

The King David School's Magazine  
December 2017 Kislev 5778



THE KING DAVID SCHOOL



להבין ולהשכין  
TO KNOW AND UNDERSTAND

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## Inspirations

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2017 saw the realisation of a vision that was born in 2012. At the start of the 2017 school year, we saw the opening of our brand new Kindergarten facilities and refurbished Junior School for students in Prep – Year 5. The opening was not without its nervous moments as during the final days of the summer holidays, the builders put finishing touches to their work, and our diligent and committed staff went beyond the call to ensure all was ready for day one. This component of the project was carefully undertaken to ensure that we retained the most important elements of The King David School community school feel whilst bringing our facilities in line with expectations of a modern day learning environment. We are immensely proud of the way our staff have embraced the challenge of creating new exciting and engaging learning spaces for our children.

The final stage of the project is near completion with the refurbishment of the Orrong Road mansion, now known as Southwick House, in its final stages. It is named in recognition of one of our founding supporting families, Mark and Joyce Southwick who helped to fund the purchase of the original school campus in Kooyong Road. Mark Southwick also served as School Council President in the early years of the School's history.

Southwick House will provide a warm and nurturing environment for students in Years 6-8 and assist in the important transition from Junior School into Senior School.

In 2017, School Council committed additional resources to allow our Year 8 cohort to visit the Northern Territory for our Indigenous Experience at Jabiru and also to significantly reduce the cost of our Year 10 Israel Yesh program ensuring a vast majority of the year level would attend. Both of these programs add enormously to the co-curricular program at KDS and the overall KDS experience.

As we near the end of 2017, I would like to congratulate Marc Light and his team on the leadership, guidance and inspiration they provide our students on a daily basis. I would also like to acknowledge the team in Community Relations and Foundation who are the arms and legs of School Council. They diligently and successfully implement so many events and initiatives that can so easily be taken for granted.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Council members for all of their efforts in 2017. They all give generously of their time.

I look forward to joining with our community to celebrate the School's 40th Anniversary in 2018.

Mark Harrison  
School Council President



The School motto "To Know and Understand" emphasises the value that our community places on deep thought and the contribution this makes to the development of character.

Across the School, students are engaged in many innovative programs that encourage curiosity and critical thinking.

We actively incorporate opportunities for creativity and innovation in both the core curriculum and in special programs and activities. In the Senior School, Project Based Learning and Passion for Thinking are just some of the opportunities which have been tailored to nurture these skills. Passion for Thinking is a seven week project especially designed for Year 8 students that encourages them to pursue a vision or goal by investigating a passion through the lens of the community, environment or a future career interest, while exploring the question, "How can I use my creativity to be a contributing member to society?"

Our Year 7 Project Based Learning involves students developing their problem solving skills and working in teams to provide innovative solutions to challenges. The students are mentored throughout the process

In Term 4, our Prep to Year 5 students celebrated World Philosophy Day and every staff member and student donned a toga to get into the spirit of the day. This initiative successfully extended our students' thinking and inspired a love of philosophical thought.

The explicit teaching of Philosophy has always been a feature of a King David education. The Philosophy for Children Program is embedded in weekly philosophical thinking lessons across Prep to Year 8. However, we also train our teachers from Kindergarten up in the incorporation of this approach to thinking so that it forms part of their pedagogical toolkit and is incorporated whatever the topic or activity.

Philosophy for Children involves creating a Community of Inquiry, where the students and the teacher form a circle to communicate effectively and ensure that everyone has

an opportunity to hear one another. The Community will respond to a stimulus and formulate questions. Students are encouraged to explore the reasons for their responses and then to critically evaluate their own and others' thinking.

Students benefit from developing the cognition strategies to evaluate the complexities of the world and to apply this approach to day to day issues. Perhaps most importantly, the process is designed to promote the voices of all and to respect the diversity of thought present. In this way our students gain an appreciation of the way others view the world and are able to develop the empathy that comes from exploring another's thinking.

You will see from the pages of this magazine, that each school day provides rich learning experiences for our students.

I wish all our students and their families a great summer break and look forward to a wonderful learning experience in 2018.

Marc Light  
Principal

## Mazal Tov to our 2018 School Leaders

Our student leaders are role models for our student body. In accepting their positions, they have made a commitment to responsibly and respectfully represent the School and the students.

In recent years, the new School Leaders are elected in the month of Elul which is when the Jewish New Year occurs. It is a significant time of renewal and regeneration and so very appropriate that our new leaders take up their positions at this time.



Daniel Freidgeim & Maya Schwalb  
SCHOOL CAPTAINS



Gabrielle Arnheim & Joel Fink  
JEWISH LIFE CAPTAINS



Elijah Maher,  
KEHILAH (Community) CAPTAIN



Brandon Efron  
RUACH CAPTAIN



Amanda Morris  
TARBUT (Culture) CAPTAIN



Hannah Ungar,  
TIKKUN OLAM  
(Social Action) CAPTAIN



Oliver Levi-Weizman  
ARAVA HOUSE CAPTAIN



Ben Felstead  
GALIL HOUSE CAPTAIN



Noah Webb  
KINNERET HOUSE CAPTAIN



David Makagon  
NEGEV HOUSE CAPTAIN



## Kabbalat Siddur Connecting to Something Bigger

Kabbalat Siddur was a personal celebration of our Year 2s growing older and achieving new Jewish heights.

Each major Jewish milestone at KDS is marked by a Kabbalah ceremony. The theme of Kabbalat Siddur is "Connecting to Something Bigger". Each week, the Prep to Year 2 students are immersed in the music and words of Jewish prayer. As they move towards Year 3, they receive their first professionally published Siddur. This Siddur connects them to other KDS students, to Jews in every continent and throughout time. The students will now learn to navigate through the Siddur, explore its themes and hopefully use it to clarify personal values, aspirations, beliefs and spirituality, and hence connecting to something bigger.



The morning began with a beautiful Tefilla lead by Max and Mihal. The Years 3-5 students then left and created the space for the Year 2s and their families. Each child and their parent was then invited to come up to the "bimah", so that the parent could hand their child their first Siddur. While walking towards the bimah, each student shared a personal blessing for the world. The children then sang the she'hechyanu - the prayer marking special times, followed by the parents offering the traditional blessing of children found in the Torah. Each parent then quietly read a private blessing to their child, that they wrote and then pasted into the front cover of their Siddur. The traditional words of Jewish prayer form a dialogue that continues between parents and children. With a beautiful slideshow that shared the students personal blessings, and a sing and dance to the sounds of Siman Tov, the day ended with celebration and pride in who our children and students are becoming.

In the hall was also a sculpture. Each Year 2 student created a clay version of themselves, which was then placed in a one of a few concentric circles, connected to another. The students had been learning how this Siddur is a tool for being part of a wider community, and this sculpture was a way they expressed their valuing of their individuality, and how their coming together allow them to become so much more.

Mazal tov to our Year 2 students and their families. Thank you to Ravit and Mihal and for their wonderful leadership, and to Max, Beck, Jake and Bianca of the Jewish Life team for bringing Judaism to life for our students.

**Dr Bryan Conyer**  
Director of Jewish Life



## Kabbalat Dorot Celebrating Family Heritage



Throughout this amazing experience, I have learnt about my family from generations ago and that is what Dorot means. At first when they explained this project they told us there were different sections to it. Each section would have to do with someone in your family. There was a part about yourself, a biography of someone in your family and three diary entries on a relative's migration. My dad's family originated from Ireland and my mum's family originated from Hungary and Austria which many people migrated from.

The teachers organised an excursion to the Jewish Museum where we could get information on our family who lived generations ago. Some people also had the privilege to find out that someone in their family has written a book/diary. This inspired my grandfather to write a book of his life from when he was born to now. We also learnt how to interview our family so we can get the right information and to make sure they feel comfortable.

I am so grateful we did this project and got to learn so much that some of us would have never found out. I would also like to thank all the teachers who helped organise excursions and time to help us with our work.

**Sienna Epstein (Year 6)**

Through the Dorot project, I really got to connect to my grandmother, Halina. It was a really amazing experience hearing her story: her life in Poland and her immigration to Australia. Likewise, my great aunt Judith, who I've only ever met once in person. I developed a connection that I never really got to have with her before, due to the fact that she lives in London.

The biggest thing that I've learnt through Kabbalat Dorot is that now that it's finished, when I'm older I will come to appreciate even more, what I've done and worked on the past two terms and I will be thankful. It's something that I can picture myself sitting down together with my children, assuming I have any. Being able to show them and read to them all these stories and memories. It's a wonderful opportunity that I've been able to have and I am grateful for this beautiful portfolio I've been able to create.

**Maya Saxon Kron (Year 6)**



## Expressing Jewish Identity at Kabbalat Torah

For a period of three months, each Year 7 student worked as part of a group to create a project that expressed the collective Jewish identity of their cohort. Students elected to work in one modality of personal interest: drama, dance, photography, public speaking, cooking, sport, music, technology, art, tzeddakah and more. Meeting every two weeks, with the guidance of a member of staff, they were challenged to create an expression of how their modality and Jewish identity connect.

The main event was a traditional evening Maariv Service - which the students led, choosing tunes to sing to and with musical accompaniment. In between major sections of the service were creative student presentations.

Art displays were another feature of the evening. Each student completed an original art work, under the leadership of Nikki Green, a professional artist from Western Australia, that expressed their Hebrew name. Each student had a CSI on display, expressing three key aspects of their individual Jewish identity using a Symbol, Colour and Image.

The evening ended with each parent gifting their child a mezuzah, which instead of a page of a kosher parchment, they had written a private message to their child about why being on the receiving end of Torah and Jewish tradition, is something they value. Food, schmooze and hugs filled the rest of the evening.

Mazal tov to the Year 7s for taking all of us through a wonderful journey of how you think, work together, overcome challenges and ultimately paint a picture of the Jewish world you are building for your generation.

**Dr Bryan Conyer**  
Director of Jewish Life



# SHREK

The Musical JR

Our large and talented cast of Years 6-8 students transported our audiences to a magical forest in which they were reunited with many familiar fairytale characters in the Musical Shrek Jr. Based on the Oscar-winning DreamWorks Animation film, this musical is part romance and part twisted fairy-tale and features the green ogre Shrek who finds his swamp invaded by banished fairy-tale misfits and sets off on a mission with his wise-cracking donkey to rescue Princess Fiona and in turn regain his swamp.

The musical accompaniment led by Adam Yee and his team of talented musicians enhanced the magic of the theatre experience. Kol Hakavod to all!



# A CHORUS LINE

## Music Theatre Guild of Victoria Nominations

Our Years 9-12 production of A Chorus Line has been acknowledged with nominations from the Music Theatre Guild of Victoria Junior Sector 2017!

We would like to congratulate both students and staff who have been nominated in five categories - Best Direction, Best Musical Direction, Junior Male in a Leading Role (Danny Trakman, Year 12), Junior Female in a Leading Role (Hannah Cohen, Year 12) and Junior Female in a Supporting Role (Maddie Meltzer, Year 10).

The King David School is extremely proud of everyone involved. This is an extraordinary affirmation of their dedication, passion and talent. Mazal Tov!



Director  
Laura Rickhuss



Hannah Cohen  
(Cassie Ferguson)



Musical Director  
Adam Yee



Maddie Meltzer  
(Diana Morales)



Danny Trakman  
(Paul San Marco)



It's where I...  
*can shine creatively*

## KDS Triumphs at B'nai B'rith Jewish Youth Music Eisteddfod

King David School once again had a major presence in the 2017 B'nai B'rith Jewish Youth Music Eisteddfod Finals Concert.

The concert featured solos from first prize winners Freya Boltman and Daniel Freidgeim, and ensemble performances from both Senior Strings and the 8-12 Senior Choir. The Senior Orchestra also received first place in their section, having played original works by our Year 11 VCE Style and Composition students Noa Abrahams and Daniel Freidgeim. All up, KDS sent 14 ensembles into the competition, which set a new record for the event. In recognition of our outstanding music program, KDS received a special trophy and prize money.

Other KDS winners were Samantha Katz (honourable mention, contemporary voice), Oscar Gorog and Teige Cordiner (2nd place in the Years 4-6 Ensemble category), a third place for KDS Junior Strings and an honourable mention for the Senior Guitar Ensemble.

Huge congratulations to everyone who participated, and heartfelt thanks to the supportive parents who went out of their way to support the students at rehearsals, heats and the finals concert.

Adam Yee  
Head of Music



Photos: Peter Haskin



## World Philosophy Day

This term, the Junior School celebrated their first ever 'World Philosophy Day' (WPD).

This special day commenced in the Kobritz Auditorium with an assembly and the introduction of our special Philosophers, Marc Light, Russell Kaplan and David Opat.

We were thrilled to have hosted Philosopher Emmanuel Skoutas who facilitated a variety of Philosophical 'Community Of Inquiries' during the day.

Our young Philosophers enjoyed a wonderful day full of thinking, investigating, questioning, learning and most importantly, fun! We all dressed for the occasion and sported 'togas'.

The King David School has the Philosophy for Children program as a weekly timetabled class for Prep - Year 8 students. We are proud to be teaching our students critical thinking skills that can be translated into their future studies and into the workplace.

*"Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all"* Aristotle

Philosopher Adam Black & Philosopher Anita Bass



## Passion for Thinking (P4T)

Passion 4 Thinking allows Year 8 students to investigate and develop a project based on their own passions. The idea is to create high educational engagement by giving students the freedom to choose their own topic to study. This translated to a successful outcome and projects like this aim to foster a love of learning.

The students showed amazing diversity in their chosen topics and they presented with confidence and deep understanding of their passion projects.



## Hands On Scientific Research

The King David School played host to Monash University's BioEYES program in Term 4. In this program, Year 6 students work with live zebrafish (Danio) as they explore the use of these fish as model organisms in research and learn about their stages of development.

The fish have been bred in specially designed tanks and the Year 6 students were responsible for selecting the breeding pairs and then collecting the eggs. Across the week, students have monitored the eggs - removing dead ones and topping up the nutrient water.

Students were able to monitor the development of their eggs by using microscopes. Zebrafish eggs are transparent so that each day we could see how much the embryos had grown and changed. By the end of the week, some of our eggs had hatched and we were also able to view the fish larvae with the help of microscopes.

Students learnt several skills including developing a hypothesis, scientific drawings, observational skills and using a microscope. Our fish were returned to Monash University where they may one day grow up and play an integral part in ground-breaking scientific research.

Claire Stanner, Science Learning Area Leader Yrs 6-12





It's where I...  
*try my best*

It's where I...  
*build a bright future*



## Prep-Year 5 Athletics

The Junior School Inter-House Athletics Gala, held in Term 4, was an action packed day with great sportsmanship on display.

Well done to all students who supported their teams and cheered each other on as they tried hard to achieve their personal bests. Thank you to all the staff and parents and the KDSPA for hosting a delicious cafe. Final House scores: Negev 3198, Kinneret 2488, Galil 2465 and Arava 2300



## Sustainability and the Environment in the Early Years

The King David School Early Year Programs at both the Pre-School on Alma Road, St Kilda and the Kindergarten on Dandenong Road, Armadale have a focus on educating our youngest children about the environment and sustainability. We know that if this core value is established early, we will build a healthier society and planet.

The children learn through hands on education, observation and participation in the areas of biodiversity, energy, water, toxins, waste, recycling and general consumption. We integrate sustainability into our centres, so that it is inspiring and empowering children to initiate and achieve tangible sustainability.

We establish little and big garden areas and enjoy maintaining these throughout the different seasons. During the year, we celebrate and get involved in a range of 'green' activities such as the recent School Tree Planting Day and the Jewish festival of Tu B'Shevat - the festival of trees.

Our overall aim for our children is to learn how to provide a healthy environment for themselves and future generations.

Lorrelle Orman  
Director of Pre-School



### Keeping our Environment Clean

In Junior Kindergarten, the children have been learning how to keep our waterways clean. This interest was as a result of rescuing plastic toys from the drain in the Kindergarten. The children then went on an excursion to St Kilda Pier where they learnt about what happens to the animals in the ocean when rubbish and plastic finds its way down our drains. The children then brainstormed together how they could stop rubbish falling down the drains in the Kindergarten playground which resulted in the installation of new wire mesh over the drains.



Here are some student reflections after the excursion:

**Lucy:** *You're not allowed to put rubbish in the water because the fish will eat it and get sick and the turtles will die just from the plastic bags.*

**Jazzy:** *I learned about not scaring animals ...and I learned about picking up rubbish.*

Sorrell Robinson  
Early Childhood Teacher



It's where I...  
*embrace community*

It's where I... *give back*  
*to the community*



## Creativity on Display

A highlight for KDSPA this year was our inaugural ART KDS Festival held in September. The creative strength of our community was on show and celebrated. The Junior Art Show coordinated by the art teacher Danielle D'Amico included spectacular student art works from every student from Prep through to Year 5. The students' talent was also on display in the collaborative student pieces produced by each year level which were auctioned on the day. A huge thank you to the ART KDS organising committee and team of volunteers who made it a fabulous day at the Dandenong Road Campus filled with imaginative creative activities that are still being talked about, delicious food and entertainment.

We also held an Exhibition of artworks which were 100% donated by the artists and Niagara and Watters Galleries. The day was a huge success judging by the smiles, engagement and community buzz. The success of the event also allowed the KDSPA to make a substantial donation to the KDS Scholarship fund to help establish a new Scholarship for the School, support the Junior Art Show and to support the School by donating materials.

Lisa Klepfisz  
KDSPA President

THE KING DAVID SCHOOL  
PARENTS' ASSOCIATION



## 2017 Business Breakfast

Founder and Chairman of the Light Warrior Group, Radek Sali, inspired our guests at our Business Breakfast recently. He spoke about "living your passion" and placing value on a positive, happy workplace as integral to success.

Radek, as previous CEO of Swisse, the wellness brand, successfully led the company to the position of the fastest growing pharmaceutical brand globally. He credits building an extraordinary work culture as the foundation of his success. Radek is now Executive Chairman and Founder of Light Warrior Group, a principle driven investment group focused on the potential of business to have a positive impact on the world by creating value for all stakeholders; customers, employees, suppliers, investors, society and the environment.

Our Year 11 school captains represented the School proudly and assisted with registration for the almost 400 guests in attendance. Lahra Carey was a polished and entertaining MC. Mark Harrison presented on the significance of the Scholarship program at the School and Marc Light conducted an interview with Josh Teichman, graduate of the Class of 2008 and previous academic scholarship recipient.

Many thanks to our generous Gold Sponsor, Gary Peer and Silver Sponsors CBRE, Clarke Hopkins Clarke and Wingate and to all who supported this important fundraising event for our Scholarship program.

*If you would like more information about how you can contribute to The King David School Building or Scholarship Funds, please contact Naomi Pizzo, Foundation Manager on (03) 9527 0122 or email [foundation@kds.vic.edu.au](mailto:foundation@kds.vic.edu.au)*



## Langer Family Science & Technology Centre

As a School renowned for our innovative programs in the areas of Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education, The King David School recently opened our purpose-built facility home for these programs. We are extremely grateful for the wonderful generosity of the Langer Family in creating the dedicated Langer Family Science & Technology Centre in our new Senior School at the Magid Campus.

In addition to state-of-the-art Science Laboratories, this Centre provides a much needed home for our world class Robotics Program.

The extended family gathered recently to affix a special 'Apollo' Mezuzah, hand crafted by Israeli artist Laura Cowan. Inspired by space travel, the windows on the Apollo spacecraft inspired the abstract "shin", a replica of which has been taken into space by American Astronaut Greg Chamitoff.

THE KING DAVID SCHOOL  
FOUNDATION



## ENGAGED

Ryan Brivik (2008) and Dassi Klepfisz  
November, 2017

Tasha Feldman (2007) and Zach Goodman  
November, 2017

## BIRTHS

Jeremy Snow (1994) and Gillian Snow  
Gabriel, August 2017

Nicola Dobos (1998) and Trevor Ausbruch  
Oliver, September 2017

Ricky Feigin (1999) and Judy Gold  
Hanna, October 2017

## Where are they now?



Isaac Moulton (Class of 2013)

After joining The King David School family in Year 7, Isaac graduated in 2013, moving straight on to continue his studies in Science at the University of Melbourne. Isaac always had a passion for all sciences, however it wasn't until University, Isaac found his true passion for pathology and human anatomy. He graduated with a Double Major in Pathology and Anatomy and continued to pursue a career in Cardiac Perfusion.

Throughout his studies, Isaac continued to teach and compete in dance on an international level. In 2014 he returned to the World Tap Dance title in Riesa Germany, to compete for Australia in Open Trio and Group. Out of 42 competitors, Isaac successfully got into the final and achieved 6th in the world in both categories.

In 2017, before commencing back to his second round of studies, Isaac went to Malaysia to volunteer as an intern in a private hospital in Bungsar Kumar Lumpur. He worked there for 2 months helping translate and care for English speaking patients as well as working side by side with Dr Beh, a leader in a new cancer therapy with 80% success of cure from stage 2 carcinoma.

When Isaac returned from Malaysia he continued to volunteer with St John Ambulance Corp and many other foundations, whilst working three jobs and studying as an Operating Theatre Technician. Isaac likes to "keep busy and push the boundaries of life" and is sure of where he wants to be in life "just not sure what

path" he will take to get there. He feels that "without the skills he learnt from his time at The King David School, he wouldn't be able to strive for the goals he wants to achieve".

Isaac wishes to continue his studies overseas in America later next year, starting a Masters of Cardiac Perfusion. Until then he will continue to teach tap dance, volunteer as well as head back to Malaysia to work on the next stage of the cancer clinical trial research with Dr Beh.

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