

Inspirations

The King David School's Magazine | April 2016 Nissan 5776

It's where I...

*Build the
future*



THE KING DAVID SCHOOL



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Inspirations

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Front Cover: Jemma Kausman & Daniel Cohen, Year 7



At our recent Community Celebration of Past, Present and Future, I was humbled to see so many proud members of our King David family, particularly the many past parents who came to reconnect with a place that played such an important part in their and their children's lives.

The night was a celebration of our history and also a forward look to the future of our great School – a School that is determined to maintain the same core values and ethos in our new facilities and with an expanded range of program offerings.

At the Celebration, I also launched the Community Appeal which you can read more about in the Foundation page of this magazine. Whilst the sale of the Kooyong Road campus has largely funded our extensive building program, we are still calling on the community to assist us to finish off the refurbishments of the mansions at both our Junior and Senior School campuses. These historic mansions are an integral part of what makes our School feel like a 'home' to so many students. Please consider how your family can help in this once in a generation building refurbishment project.

I would also like to take this opportunity to endorse a wonderful new support group called "Friends of KDS". This group is being spearheaded by Council member Erica Frydenberg with the aim of connecting grandparents, past parents and special friends of our School in order to harness their experience, expertise and energy to assist the School in various initiatives I encourage people who are interested in this group to register your interest by sending an email to friends@kds.vic.edu.au

We continue to cherish the strong sense of community that is such an essential part of our School's fabric.

Mark Harrison
President
School Council President



Dear Community,

In enrolment interviews I am occasionally asked by prospective parents what a King David student is like. While this may sound a bit saccharine, the truth is

that there is no model or template for the perfect King David graduate. We are genuine in our desire for each of our students to be the best versions of themselves. Each should have their own passions and should be provided with a pathway to excel in their area of interest. Perhaps this is best reflected in the School's Mission Statement which commits us to "resolutely and consistently focus on the responsibility to nurture, develop and indeed cherish each unique and exceptional child which the School has been created to serve and which it has the privilege to serve."

In order to achieve this mission and to provide a distinctive and individual education we need to do a number of things.

Firstly, we are working with our teachers in order to enhance our capacities to differentiate learning for each student. Rather than a seeing learning as monolithic and linear, we recognize that our students learn at different rates, have differing strengths and weaknesses and may respond better to varying learning approaches. As such, we need to create environments and opportunities that allow us to stretch each individual student to their next stage of development.



Ricky Feigin officiating at the Lock-up Ceremony before the students' robots were freighted to Sydney for the National Robotics Competition

Another way in which we cater for the variety of interests and capacities is through our rich and holistic curricular and extra-curricular offerings. When I meet with our students a common message I offer is that there are so many opportunities that surround them at School and it is incumbent on them to push themselves to try new things that extend them. Our school days present a convenient and low-risk time to experiment with the vast array of opportunities that may ignite new passions and pathways. This may be through involvement in our incredible performing arts programs, our science, technology and robotics competitions, our various sports programs and activities, our Jewish Life opportunities, as well as a whole variety of other offerings from Art to chess to debating.



A Music Exchange with Emanuel School, Sydney was recently hosted by King David

King David is such a busy environment that it is indeed hard to keep up with the calendar of events. There are so many wonderful ways that we can provide for the growth of each of our students. In our unwavering commitment to delivering these peak experiences both within and outside the classroom, we are determined to provide the very best holistic education for our students.

Marc Light
Principal

Collecting Southwick Memories History of the Kooyong Road Campus



As we say farewell to the Kooyong Road Campus at the end of 2016, we are calling on the King David Community to contribute to our School History Project.

Please visit www.kds.vic.edu.au Follow the link to our "Collecting Southwick Memories" page where you can fill in our short questionnaire and upload any photos to add to your memories.

It's where I...

have fond memories

VCE Season of Excellence



Simone Chait (Class of 2015) was one of only 17 students in the State who had her VCE Visual Communication Design work chosen for the prestigious 2016 Top Designs exhibition. She exhibited two presentations in the form of eyewear range design concepts and brand identity as well as folio work on a hypothetical brief for 'Finch Eyewear'. The Exhibition at the Melbourne Museum runs until 10 July 2016.

Our congratulations to Simone on her outstanding achievement. Simone is currently undertaking a Bachelor of Architecture Design at RMIT University.



It's where I...
experience the great outdoors



Year 6 Camp

The Year 6 camp is an opportunity for our students to consolidate some of the learning they do within the classroom and apply it to the wider world. Our students learnt some of the history of the Sorrento area and applied this to how a community grows and improves. We learnt about the natural world, investigating the sea grasses of Port Phillip Bay and examined the ecology off Portsea Pier, snorkelling with sea dragons, sting rays and a variety of other fish.

Students undertook environmental sessions by cleaning up debris on Sorrento Back Beach and started to recognise how small pieces of plastics can affect birds and marine life.

Sea kayaking from Portsea to Sorrento gave the students a look at the beautiful cliffs in the area and they were mesmerised by the pod of dolphins that kept pace with them. This was definitely a bragging point.

Each night students were challenged by learning about different Jewish organisations, applying keywords to themselves, and a talent show that could almost have been televised.

Russell Newman
 Co-ordinator of Camps

I woke up and got out of bed with a spring in my step. Soon after I got all my food and clothes together I was begging my parents to get me to school on time so that I wouldn't miss the bus and to get away from my sister. Eventually my parents took me, I dumped my bag and ran to where everybody was. Soon after we were on the bus singing along to Netzer songs.

We finally arrived in Collins Settlement and went for a walk around the area to have a look at where the white people first settled. After a while we got back on the bus and went to the campsite: Bayplay.

When we got there a lady called Jackie talked to us about what we were going to do. We found our cabins and then had to change into bathers and go to the pool.

After we settled in we had to change into bathers and go to the pool. When we found where the pool was we had to try on wetsuits and beaver jackets. We finally got in the pool and started doing snorkeling. Then Jackie talked to us about what animals we would see in the water. We would see fish, sea dragons, (if we were lucky) stingrays and puffer fish, maybe even a sea urchin.

Coby Goldfeld, Year 6



Year 7 Orientation Camp

In Year 7 there is a major intake of new students. The Year 7 Orientation Camp, held at the beginning of the year, helps students to get to know each other in an informal environment. Fun activities such as surfing, body boarding and bike riding, give students the opportunity to spend time together and learn more about each other.

On camp we did lots of different activities. What I learnt was how to work as a team, about nature, how to do things we haven't done before, and our abilities to overcome challenges. It was really fun and I am looking forward to the rest of this year.

Mia Moshinsky, Year 7





It's where I...
learn great sportsmanship



Inter-House Swimming Gala

Earlier in Term 1, students from Years 6-12 competed in the Inter-House Swimming Gala. All students brought great enthusiasm and excitement as they competed in the water for House points and cheered and danced their way to victory.

The much anticipated staff/students relay race began the event with the staff taking home the win. The next two events had the best swimmers from all campuses compete in the medley relay followed by the top gun event. The top gun event features our premier swimmers from the School competing against one another. Jasmine Shatter and Hannah Ungar headlined that race with Jasmine winning by a fingernail.

Kinneret proved to be this year's champion after the results were tallied.

Drew Solewicz
Sports Manager



Inter-House Athletics Gala

Our Years 6-12 students participated recently in the annual Inter-House Athletics Carnival which took place at the newly refurbished Duncan Mckinnon Reserve.

It was a picture perfect autumn day and it was wonderful to see students giving their best efforts in many different events. Negev were the overall winning House which made it three wins a row for them.

The House Captains ensured there was plenty of spirit and support for the all athletes and at lunchtime organised Israeli dancing and chants which had everyone up on their feet.





Celebrating our Past, Present and Future

We celebrated the past, present and future of our wonderful School in a Community Celebration with close to 300 past and present families that included alumni and staff.

Those guests fortunate to attend a "First Look" Tour of the new Senior School building returned with great excitement about the opportunities the new classrooms and spaces will give our students. For those families unable to attend the "First Look" Tours, an alternative date is being offered.



Simon Starr, a past student and now KDS parent to Zohar (Year 5), Isaiah (Year 3) and Gavriel (Prep) performed toe tapping classics with his brother Adam (also past student) and accompanied by Adam Black (Year 12) on trumpet, Adam Kaplan (Year 10) on sax and Joel Schyer (Year 8) on drums as well as his three children as back up singers and musicians.



Walkley winning journalist and current School parent, Rafael Epstein was the MC for this event. Rafael Epstein was the emcee for this event and is also a parent of the School. Raf brought insight and humour to his presentations and kept the audience highly engaged and entertained.



Sarah Rood, School alumnus from the 1980's represented the past and spoke of her wonderful School memories. She is currently consulting to the School as an historian, working on an exciting historical display to be installed in the new Senior School.

Jason Gerrard, a student at KDS in 1979, is now parent to Anais (Year 2) and Sam (Senior Kinder) and was our second alumnus speaker. Jason is currently the Director of Shared Value at Save the Children and therefore committed to social justice in a profound way, echoing the School's core values of egalitarianism and justice for all humanity. An excerpt of his speech can be found on page 16.



Melissa Page and Anthony Nathan both attended the School from its inception. They posed outside the advertising board with an image of them during their school days.



It's where I...
engage in the wonders of science

Innovation in Education

Big Scientist Little Scientist

The new buzz word in education is "STEM" (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). These four subject areas are integral to critical and creative thinking which is essential for problem solving and independent learning.

An exciting new initiative was recently launched, aptly entitled – "Big Scientist, Little Scientist". It is a program which encourages our "Little Scientists" to wonder about the world of Science and the different areas involved in Science. The program also encourages Senior students ("Big Scientists") to volunteer their time and develop their communication skills with younger students.

Recently, some Year 10 and 11 students facilitated science activities with Year 3 students to provide practical examples that linked with the science that the students had been learning in class.

The Year 3 students have been exploring 'States of Matter' and were able to engage in science experiments of solids, liquids and gases. Many foundational skills were embedded including establishing hypotheses, investigation and analysing data.

As this session was held during "Crazy Hair Day" – a KDSPA fundraiser seeking donations for the King's Carnival later this year, our students were given the license to rebel against the normal school dress code!

Claire Stanner
Science Learning Area Leader Years 6 -12



Educational Neuroscience



Jared Cooney Horvath, a neuroscientist from the University of Melbourne is in the midst of a series of six workshops to KDS staff and families this year, aimed at enhancing our understanding of contemporary brain science and how to harness this in our teaching and learning practices.

In Marc Light's Insights column in a recent edition of our weekly eHarp newsletter, he talked about Jared's recent presentation to parents, which was focused on applying implications of brain research to principles of learning. Marc described Jared's presentation saying he "explained that the processes involved in learning are highly complex from a neurological perspective. He said that a fundamental learning from neuroscience that should be applied in the classroom is that we must create environments in which it is safe to try new things and sometimes fail and provide access to an immediate feedback loop so that we can try again."

The King David School incorporates a growth mindset perspective in the classroom. The School also embraces the Feuerstein Instrumental Enrichment Program which is another tool introduced into our teaching that builds on the principles of neuroscience.



It's where I... love learning Hebrew



Hebrew Learning in Kindergarten



If you walk through the Kindergarten rooms in the Junior School, you will see how our Educators are integrating Hebrew into the everyday lives of our students. From the moment you enter the rooms, you are greeted with photographs of each child with both their English and Hebrew names. Our students are surrounded by a Hebrew rich environment including Hebrew books on the bookshelves and posters and signs with both English and Hebrew descriptions.

In Junior Kindergarten, Zohar Abraham, our newest Hebrew speaking Kindergarten Assistant, spends time singing songs and introducing the children to joyful Hebrew speaking experiences. Most recently they have been learning colours and talking about objects with their Hebrew name and colour.



In Senior Kindergarten, the children are introduced to more structured Hebrew classes with one of our Junior School Hebrew Teachers, Ravit Epstein. This helps the children to transition into Prep Hebrew classes. These lessons occur four days a week as a circle time on the mat and are taught at an age appropriate level. The program from Israel is called "Chalav u D'vash" (Milk and Honey) and works on building children's confidence to "have a go" at speaking in Hebrew. Throughout the year, the children are introduced to a wider vocabulary and learn how to identify common phrases and words and work out the correct gender. Benzi the turtle puppet is a favourite character who talks to the children only in Hebrew.



It's where I... have meaningful Jewish experiences



Celebrating Purim

A wonderfully creative and fun Purim experience was enjoyed across the School as we celebrated this important Jewish festival.

The mitzvah of giving gifts of food to friends was upheld with our traditional Mishloach Manot given to every student.

Matanot L'Evyonim is the mitzvah of supporting the needy. Organisations supporting the disadvantaged in our community were carefully selected and students at each campus contributed to this donation. This included C-Care, who distribute food packs to individuals unable to purchase cooking ingredients due to disability, depression or isolation.

The Junior School students brought in a gold coin to support Hadassah Hospital's Medical Clown program, providing relief and support for chronically sick children.



Back to School Service



Our Jewish Life Captains, Jaimee Engel and Georgia Lehrer led the annual Back to School Service for Years 6 to 12 students.

The Service honoured members of our School and wider community who have made a valuable contribution to Tzedek (Justice) - one of the core values of our School. As our student leaders and Year 12 cohort were inducted, four chuppah holders were present on the Bimah, each having been chosen for their significant commitment to Tzedek. They were Maddie Meltzer on behalf of the School community, Ian Samuel OAM on behalf of the broader

Jewish community, Gary Samowitz on behalf of the broader Australian community and Gayle Factor on behalf of the broader global community. Other community members recognised were Kathy Kaplan OAM who advocates for victims of domestic violence, Liat Swieca who advocates for youth movements and has a passionate involvement in Jewish life and Nevo Zisin who advocates for the broader inclusion and tolerance of the spectrum of gender identities.



It's where I... connect with Israel

Reflections from Yesh 2015

Our Yesh program is a 4 week Israel experience for Year 10 students that brings together a deep understanding of the history of Eretz Yisrael, combined with an experience of the social, legal and ecological issues facing the modern State. Students are immersed in Israeli culture by living with families in the Arava who have students similar ages to themselves and visiting a Bedouin community.

Below are some reflections from Year 10 students who participated in the program at the end of last year.



"After explaining to us the historical significance of the land where we were standing, he told us of the direct correlation between the famous Hanukkah story and the caves we were about to enter. After excavating two caves nicknamed "Archie" and "Django" we proceeded to sift through the soil which we had unearthed. Finding many small fragments of pottery we began to uncover history."



"As we began to understand ourselves, we began to understand our religion. With the culmination of the ambiguous nature of Tzfat and its Kabbalistic roots we were exposed to, one of many, pure forms of Judaism."

"This whole experience, from the small 'shtetle' like community to the donkey ride in traditional garments and along paths trodden on for centuries, was a demonstration of how far we have really come and yet how much of the old tradition Jews have managed to maintain."



"Today we embraced our inner farmer as we stood in sheep stool, ate fresh capsicum, made pita and shukshuka on an open fire."

It's where I... build the future



2016 Community Appeal



**An Interview with Rochelle Rothfield
President
The King David School Parents' Association**



How would you describe parents' anticipation for the completion of the building project?

RR: They are very excited! We are all thrilled and waiting in anticipation for our children to experience brand new and refurbished facilities. We are looking forward to seeing the buildings in their entirety, all decked out and students walking through the doors.

Why have you chosen to direct community support toward the mansion refurbishments?

RR: One of the aspects I have always loved about The King David School is that each campus is centred on a beautiful historic mansion. These buildings provide a warm home-like atmosphere for our children to learn in.

These buildings, whilst beautiful and haimish (homely), require significant upkeep and refurbishment to complete the School vision and building project.

The mansion refurbishment will impact all of our kids, regardless of whether they are in Junior or Senior School. We chose the mansion refurbishments as we want to ensure we transform our facilities into the 21st learning spaces that our children deserve.

How will KDSPA help to retain the School's values in the new structure and facilities?

RR: We will retain the School's haimish feel exactly as it currently is and continue all our KDSPA activities and presence at both campuses. We want to ensure that we retain all those things that make up the warm community feel that are considered uniquely King David.

It's like a coming of age for KDS isn't it?

RR: Yes, exactly! This is the most important project in our 38 year history. It is such an exciting part of our future and we will all be part of it, which makes it even more meaningful - it's the next stage of life for The King David School and we are all thrilled to support this important initiative.

Please consider how your family can contribute to this fundamental building project and join other members of the community on our Honour Boards at either the Junior or Senior Campus.



Ways to Give

-  **Online** www.kds.vic.edu.au/donate
-  **Phone** Naomi Pizzo 03 9527 0122
-  **Email** foundation@kds.vic.edu.au
-  **Mail** 520 Orrong Road
Armadale Vic 3143



Look for your Appeal Brochure with this edition of Inspirations

ENGAGED

Jennifer Gerrard (2000) Sagi Mitlin
February 2016

Jessica Rogers (2008) Boris Megrelichvili (2009)
February 2016

Renee Schulberg (2004) Ed Paxton
December 2015

MARRIED

Melissa Popper (2006) Daniel Markov
March 2016

Joseph Rogers (1995) Kira Rickards
December 2015

Marriages cont'd

Gideon Tuckman (2006) Ella Benjamin (2007)
January 2016

Feygi Zylberman (2004) Zac Phillips
December 2015

BIRTHS

Tahnee Kraemer (Sacks) (2005) Aryeh Kraemer
Solly, February 2016.

Jonathan Mahemoff (2000) Fairlie Mahemoff (Wayne) (2001)
Daisy Annabelle, January 2016

Simon Phillips (2005) Bianca Genziuk
Talia Adele, December 2015

Leor Samuel (1997) Natalie Goldstat
Eamon Sashal, December 2015

Save
the
Date

Sunday
29 May 2016
6:30pm - 8:30pm

CLASS of 2011
(5 Year Reunion)

CLASS of 2006
(10 Year Reunion)



Feygi Zylberman (2004) married Zac Phillips on 27.12.15

King David Reflections



An excerpt of the speech given by Jason Gerrard at our recent Community Celebration event.

"When I started in Prep at KDS at the age of five I was four years older than the School was. KDS had only begun the year before, in 1978.

Sending me to King David was a bold move by my parents. The School had no academic track record, few policies and minimal infrastructure. Their decision was driven by the School's friendly and non-hierarchical ethos - unusually, students were on a first name basis with teachers - and also by Principal Norman Rothman's reputation as a warm and caring educator who always had time for his students. In fact students used to flock to him when he entered the playground at lunch times. In truth, my father's desire for me to stop wearing tzitzit was also a big factor.

Though, of course, I didn't know of, or care about any of that. While the School only went from Kinder to grade 4, it was a whole new world to me. The grounds felt gigantic - so much so that our Principal lived on site, the teachers seemed old and the days seemed long.

My memories are a mix of events, feelings and sensory experiences.

Rosemary Starr's axolotl walking across my desk

The pride in getting selected by Aaron Kerri for his team in the lunchtime soccer match

The enticing aromas of tuckshop hotdogs

The wet-dog smell of our rain-soaked jumpers

The choking yellow skivvies

And while I experienced the usual highs and lows that kids inflict upon each other as they test boundaries and feel their way through childhood, I always felt safe and supported.

All this doesn't seem like very long ago. Yet here I stand as a parent with two children at the School!

Norman's old house is now my son's Kinder classroom and my daughter uses technology that I couldn't have dreamed of at her age. The School has grown and matured, but it still has the same warm, inclusive and open-minded approach that made it so appealing to my parents.

Jason Gerrard is currently the Director of Shared Value at Save the Children.

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