

Inspirations

The King David School's Magazine
September 2015 Elul 5775

THE KING DAVID SCHOOL



It's where I.....

belong



Contents

School Council President	2
Message from the Principal	3
Preparing for the High Holy Days	4
Dynamic Role Models	4
Grandparents and Special Friends' Shabbat	5
Random Act of Kindness	6
Communal Lamentation	6
Stories from my Suitcase	7
New Kindergarten for Young Inquisitive Minds	8-9
Living History	10
Students Challenged on the Slopes	11
Epic Theatre at Senior School	12
Creativity on Display	13
Building the Future	14
2015 Business Breakfast	15
Alumni News	16

Inspirations

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

Front Cover: Year 6 students Ellie Roth, Mia Moshinsky, Zac Graeve and Mitch Cowen.

Save the Dates

Community School Celebration
New Buildings, New Era
Thursday 17 March 2016

King's Carnival
Farewell to Southwick
Sunday 20 November 2016



As the walls now rise on our new Senior School building in Orrong Road, this is certainly an exciting and busy time for The King David School.

We are thrilled to be receiving so much interest in our new facilities as enrolments for 2017 and beyond continue to grow. The building project is largely funded by the sale of the Kooyong Road campus which we will continue to inhabit until the end of 2016 at which time our new Kindergarten and Junior School on the Dandenong Road campus will be complete.

We have now commenced our Capital Appeal to raise funds needed to assist with this transformational and once in a generation development.

Naming Rights for many spaces in the new buildings are available and I encourage you to consider how you can help our School reach its goal of sustained financial stability while delivering an outstanding and well-rounded education for our children.

More details can be found on the Foundation pages in this magazine and on the School website.

I would like to thank Graeme Samuel AC for agreeing to be our Capital Appeal Chair and I look forward to speaking with many of you about the opportunity to invest in future generations.

Mark Harrison
School Council President



Dear Community, Since I began my role as Principal, I have spent much time in dialogue with students, staff, families and other

key stakeholders in the wider School community. These discussions have been focused on gleaning a common sense of what is most valued about our School and why it is that people are so proud to be associated with King David.

This exercise made it patently clear to me that those connected with our School value the strong bond and relationships that exist between staff, students and families and the sense that everyone is considered to be a vital part of the community for the unique characteristics that they bring.

It has been with great excitement that we see the rapid progress on the massive renewal of our learning spaces through Project Chai Ve'kayam. This will undoubtedly make a tremendous difference to the opportunities and environment in which our students develop.

Of course, we know that the building program only provides the structures to house our School. The most important elements of creating an inclusive, egalitarian and haymische (homely) atmosphere continue to be our strengths. It is with these core values that we launch our new tagline "It's Where I Belong" to the community. Just like when I spoke with stakeholders throughout my first year, when conducting live interviews for our new School video, it was wonderful to see that there was a consistency amongst our students as to what makes King David special. It is the sense of community and belonging and freedom to be an individual within that community that makes our School most desirable to our families.

As you engage with the new tagline, I encourage you to complete the "It's where..." sentence with your own experiences or wishes for your own children or grandchildren. When asked to do so I came up with "It's where I grew up" in acknowledgment of the key formative years that I spent as a

KDS student. It is our hope that the individual "It's where I..." statements serve as a beacon for us in forging ahead in shaping the next stage of our School's development in a manner that is truly consistent with the values, ideals and culture that have served us so well up until now.

Many thanks,

Marc Light
Principal



Fred Kok, Marc Light, Jordana Rothman and Itai Avisar at the recent 5 Year Alumni Reunion

Daniel Kahan 2015 Australian Student Prize Winner



Daniel Kahan who achieved School Dux in last year's VCE cohort, was recently awarded an Australian Student Prize. This highly prestigious award, given by the Australian Government to 500 students nationally, recognises "national academic excellence and achievement in senior secondary years for 2014".

We are extremely proud of Daniel's success. He is currently on a gap year in Israel and will return towards the end of this year and commence a Commerce Law degree.



Preparing for the High Holy Days

Elul is the month of preparation that precedes the High Holy Days. Jewish tradition has the sound of the Shofar taking place each morning leading up to Rosh Hashanah. Year 2 students have been learning to become a 'Baal Tekiah', an official blower of the Shofar. They have then had the opportunity to visit the Kinder and other Junior School classrooms, to ensure that every student hears the sound of the Shofar each school day of Elul. At the Middle School, interested Year 5, 7 and 8 students were also instructed as Baalei Tekiah and performed the Mitzvah across the Middle School.



Dynamic Role Models

King David is fortunate to be hosting a talented group of creative, enthusiastic and outstanding Israeli leaders. These madrichim were carefully selected from a large group of applicants keen to visit the School and engage our students in activities that teach them about Israeli culture. A comprehensive program has been planned over the several weeks the madrichim are spending at our School and includes involvement in Hebrew and Jewish Studies classes, facilitating lunch time activities, leading Mifgash or T'fillah, running a Yom Yisrael for Years 7, 8, 9, and 11 and a Zionist Seminar for Year 10.

Students also had the opportunity to be involved in a Krav Maga class at the Senior School, a Hebrew festival, a lesson about Kibbutzim in Hebrew classes, a screening of Israeli films during lunch and the teaching



of new songs during T'fillah. Exuberant Israeli dances were taught at every Yom Yisrael and the Year 7 students played a life-sized version of The Game of Life, confronting Jewish decisions along the way.

Israel forms one of the centres of contemporary Jewish identity, and at King David, we invite our students to engage in all facets of Israeli society, especially those that move beyond politics. Our Jewish Life program at the School encourages each

student to explore their beliefs, to confirm or develop what they already know, and to feel comfortable in a space with other students who may feel differently. At the heart of this process is the building of a community that values Jewish heritage, celebrates difference and cherishes the views of each of its individuals.

Bryan Conyer
Director of Jewish Life

Grandparents & Special Friends' Shabbat

Senior Kinder children welcomed Grandparents and Special Friends to join them for Kabbalat Shabbat. The children proudly sang, set the table and said the brachot. They each had a chance to get a cuddle from their special visitors as they handed over a special hand made card sharing why they are a blessing.

The visitors were then invited to join Marc Light for morning tea in the Library.





Random Act of Kindness

Tu B'Av is an ancient Jewish holiday celebrating love. Years 3, 4 and 5 students visited Gary Smorgon House as a Random Act of Kindness to celebrate Tu B'Av. The learning experience was how does one express love in the context of Tu B'av, a festival synonymous with romance. Our students learnt the valuable lesson of giving to our community by spending time with the elderly in our community.

The students made gifts out of origami to give to the residents and also sang a Hebrew love song to entertain them.

Each year level shared a special time with the residents. Year 3's participated in an exercise program, Year 4's played bingo and Year 5's baked challah with residents.

Each year level enjoyed an interactive Kabbalat Shabbat with the residents.



Communal Lamentation

Tisha B'Av is known as the saddest day of the Jewish calendar, marking those moments where Jewish existence was nearly decimated.

The students in Years 3-12 participated in assemblies to commemorate these moments and to learn the lessons of resilience within troubled times.

Year 8 students shared their interpretations of their emotions relating to Eicha (Lamentations) and some included art works depicting their interpretation of loss. Below is some work created by Raquel Trapler and an associated emotional reflection.



What does it mean for a place to be special? Does it mean a place where we feel we belong, a place where we feel safe or perhaps a place that holds sentimental value to us? Is it a place that we know we can always turn to, or somewhere we feel connected to? That is up to you to decide. Whatever or where ever this special or important place in your life is, it is in your hands to decide why you have labelled it as such.

Personally, my special and important place in my life, is a place where I can let my guard down and be who I want to be without worrying about judgement. This place can put a smile on my face and allows me to distract myself from the crazy world we live in. This place represents me as a person and can allow another to understand who I am. This place is my room.

My room may not be a beautiful spot by the lake or a treehouse that gives a stunning view of the sunset. However, for me, it is seen as so much more than that. Just because those places may be seen as special to another person, it does

not mean I have to see it that way too. It is all about perspective and how the eye of the beholder perceives it.

People can tell you what your special place is and why, but it will always be up to you to decide what it really is. It should never matter what other people see it as because it is a place where you feel connected to, not the people around you. However, let me ask you a question. How would you feel if someday, this special and important place to you, is destroyed, gone. All that is left are the broken down walls that tell you it was once there. Would you still feel happy? Would you be okay? Because if you would, then I can tell you now that this place is not where you felt you belonged, a place you felt safe or a place that held sentimental value to you, because a special place in your life is like a special person in your life; without them you would feel pain and possibly feel as though you have lost a part of yourself.

I know that if I were to come home one day and see that my room was no longer the room it was when I last saw it, destroyed and gone, I would be overwhelmed with anger, frustration and devastation. My room holds a special place in my heart. It is a part of me. Therefore, if someone took that away from me by destroying it, I would lose a part of me and that special place in my heart would be empty. Have you ever poked your finger or thrown a stone in a puddle or some water? If you watch what happens when you do so, you will notice the water ripples, which in turn creates another ripple, which then creates another ripple. It has a rippling effect. That is how I would describe the effect such a situation would have on me because not only would I have lost the room itself, but I would have lost everything in it that meant something to me. My memories, my belongings, my work and my personal items.

So think of where or what your special place is and imagine what it would feel like if somebody destroyed it. Would you still be the same person you are now without it, and if so why?

By Raquel Trapler, Year 8

Stories from my Suitcase

The past inhabited the present recently as our Year 6 students presented their 'Stories from my Suitcase' speeches in an innovative way.

Over the past Term, students explored the Australian migration experience. They examined documents, websites and personal histories to create characters that had migrated to Australia from many countries and at different times. They recorded these stories, adding music and sound effects to enhance the experience.

This year our students showcased their learning by using QR codes. With the aid of headphones, parents were able to summon up the migrant stories and listen to detailed accounts of the migration experience. Ten countries were represented and all students gave great presentations.

**Ayal Nathan
Middle School Teacher**





It's where I... make lifelong friends

New Kindergarten for Young Inquisitive Minds

Early Childhood Educators at The King David School are excited at the opportunity of creating a stimulating educational environment in the purpose-built Kindergarten on Dandenong Road, Armadale. Opening at the start of 2017, plans are already underway to make these new Kindergarten spaces innovatively designed to maximise the children's learning experience. Our educational team will ensure that the new areas will incorporate the haymische (homely) atmosphere that King David Kindergartens have become known for over the last 38 years. Using natural materials where possible is an important element in creating warm and engaging activity zones within the rooms. Creative design elements are used to set up different play spaces to provide sensory-based play experiences such as light boxes and sorting objects.

The programs in the Kindergarten provide a combination of teaching styles including an Emergent Curriculum with a strong emphasis on following the children's interests. We look for ways to encourage our children's curiosity in the world around them and help them to understand their place in it. The play-based program simultaneously builds children's skills in independence, empathy, concentration and self-confidence. In Senior Kindergarten there is also a focus on School Readiness and Educators work with parents in partnership to build each child's skills and abilities.

The new facility will feature flexible spaces that can be opened up for group activities such as celebration of Jewish festivals, Book Week parades and special

incursions. The new kitchen will ensure that cooking programs continue to be a regular highlight for our Kindergarten children. The designs see plans for a window and a special step so that children can view teachers taking their freshly baked challot and birthday celebration cakes out of the oven.

Story time and spaces for quiet play have their own special nooks designed into each room and pinnable felt walls will provide teachers with a functional way to display the creations made by the Kindergarten children. A wonderful feature of the second storey area is the craft terrace and rooftop garden. This is a specially designed child-safe and shaded area where the children can play and move easily from indoor to outdoor play.

Planting and gardening will continue in the new Kindergartens as the program provides an introduction for students to the Junior School Kibbutz program. With an emphasis on working together and a proud sense of achievement when harvesting something that was planted together, the gardening program in Kindergarten allows children to get involved and make a positive impact on their environment.

With drive-in access from Dandenong Road, parents will walk their children into the new Kindergarten. Digital sign-in tablets will allow for easy drop off and pick up and provide electronic attendance records in line with new modern practices. Parents will also be provided with digital portfolios so that their child's work will be electronically archived for future reference.

With direct access to the Junior School which will house Prep - Year 5 from 2017, the King David Kindergarten is able to join with older students and use the adjoining facilities for special occasions, sporting incursions and chaggim (Jewish festival celebrations).

There is already high demand for Junior and Senior Kindergarten places for 2017. If you have not yet enrolled your child, please contact the Admissions Department for enrolment information for 2017 and beyond.

Please phone (03) 9527 0102 or email: admissions@kds.vic.edu.au





Living History

Year 5 students spent a day at Sovereign Hill participating in games, keenly watched demonstrations, panning for gold and even going down a mine. Using basic materials that would have been available during the 1850s (saws, wood and rope) groups of students created different models to solve some of the problems that the miners faced during the gold rush period. Proudly and enthusiastically, they explained their models to their classmates. In another activity, the "Gold Rush" game, students were able to appreciate what it may have been like for the miners during the gold rush period. The students sympathised with the miners over harsh licence fees and felt their frustrations; many spending time in "jail".

A trip to Sovereign Hill would not have been complete, of course, without a visit to the famous lolly-shop where everybody had the opportunity to stock up on their favourite sweets.

"Wow, it was amazing to hear how many people came to Australia to find gold. I felt that there was a mystery around the whole area. That's why I liked going into the mine most of all." - Aiden King

Rebecca Rudstein
Middle School Teacher



Students Challenged on the Slopes

Recently, 54 intrepid Year 10 students and 7 staff from King David took over Mt Buller for a glorious week as part of the Year 10 Snow Camp. With many students seeing the snow for the first time, the wonder and awe as snowflakes fell down was heard across the mountain.

Each day students had to put on the layers to keep them warm which created a battle within the drying room to find gear, check that for gloves, neck warmer, goggles, helmet, skis, poles, boots etc. The mental checklist for the students was involved,

even before they headed off to the daily lessons with instructors.

One night, we had a small group of students try out the skiing under lights on Bourke Street. The experience of being in a white environment at night time, with some snow falling, had the more experienced students skiing backwards and performing tricks to the delight of others.

The Snow Camp is far more than just learning how to ski or snowboard. Students had to persevere with really challenging weather conditions on 3 of the 5 days with

the wind and visibility making the terrain even more challenging. Being organised meant that students arrived at the lessons on time and usually with the correct gear, including lift passes, clothing and some food in the stomachs so that they could make the most out of each day.

Russell Newman
Coordinator of Camps



Epic Theatre at Senior School

The Threepenny Opera, our Senior School Musical ensured that the end of Term 2 ended on a high! Our highly talented performers worked tirelessly, under the direction of Laura Rickhuss, musical direction by Adam Yee and staff and parent volunteers to stage a most impressive and profound piece of classic "Epic Theatre". It would have made the brilliant political playwright, Bertolt Brecht proud! Marc Light described The Threepenny Opera as "a difficult musical in terms of its music, dialogue, choreography and themes" and "the team managed to bring this compelling story to life in a way that highlighted their individual and collective talents" Laura Rickhuss and Adam Yee "showed incredible vision in realising an inspiring interpretation of the play and in honouring our students' talent by entrusting them with such a steep artistic challenge".

Kol Ha'Kavod to all involved!



Creativity on Display

The B'nai B'rith 20th Annual Jewish Youth Art Competition award ceremony was held on Sunday 9 August at the Glen Eira Arts Complex. This event is a great forum for showcasing the creative talents of Jewish students in the 11 - 18 age group. The exhibition this year had a very large selection of artworks from all the Jewish schools.

Once again the talented and creative Visual Arts students at KDS were given recognition and praise for the high standard of their artwork. More importantly students had the opportunity of seeing their work displayed in a public gallery space.

This year the Middle School had 48 students participate. Students and their parents were excited to see the King David artworks hanging in this public exhibition and hear comments from the viewing audience in regard to the students' individual art pieces. There was a large turnout for the exhibition opening and several students received prizes for their work.

Layla Light (Year 7) won 1st prize for her sculpture of a tree rising out of a recycled book. Tom Scheuer (Year 6) won 2nd prize for his lace patterned painting depicting a bird's eye view of a suburban house. Emily Borenstein (Year 7) won 2nd prize for her painting of a seal emerging from the water. We also had Lara Valansi (Year 8) and Jessica Stein (Year 6) receive highly commended certificates.

Senior School students this year won awards in all the categories of the competition, which includes painting, drawing, mixed media, sculpture and digital art. This is a testament to the broad and varied art curriculum that is

offered to the students at The King David School and their ability to experience and gain proficiency in many forms of media and techniques.

All the King David award winners announced at the prize giving ceremony are noted below under the following categories:

11 - 13 Age Group

Layla Light *Sculpture 1st Prize*
Tom Scheuer *Mixed Media 2nd Prize*
Emily Borenstein *Painting 2nd Prize*
Lara Valanski *Painting Highly Commended*
Jessica Stein *Painting Highly Commended*

14 -15 Age Group

Lauren Priester *1st Prize*
Lauren Priester *2nd Prize*
Miriam Rubinstein *Sculpture 3rd Prize*

Age Group 16 - 18

Courtney Pollack *Digital 1st Prize*
Sabrina Lewis *Painting 2nd Prize*
Sophie Fink *Digital 2nd Prize*
Aviva Green *Mixed Media 2nd Prize*
Amy Priester won the Morrie Gold Memorial Prize of \$500 for the best artwork the Show. This was for a painting she did at the Rose Epstein Studio.

Maya Huxley
Visual Arts Learning Area Leader



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



It's where I.....

Build the future



When my children attended The King David School when it first began in the late 1970s and early 1980s, the founding families all became part of the school community. Together we created a place where children could learn Jewish values in a small and nurturing environment. As I have witnessed the school grow from strength to strength over the years, with my grandchildren now attending the school, I am now excited to be a part of the next chapter in the life of The King David School.

I encourage you to discover what makes The King David School such a special learning institution and help us with our Capital Appeal by donating to our tax deductible Building Fund. Your donation will enable King David to complete its building program and create state-of-the-art learning spaces for Jewish students now and into the future.

At this time, more than ever, the Jewish community must unite and invest in its continuity, and we invite you to join us in this pivotal project in our history.

**Graeme Samuel AC,
Capital Appeal Chair**

Graeme Samuel was the first President of The King David School Parents' Association and is grandparent to Jeremy (Year 1), Hugo (Senior Kindergarten) and Raphael (Pre-School).



The Dandenong Road Campus will house our new Kindergarten and Junior School (Prep-Year 5)



The Orrong Rd Campus will house our Senior School (Years 6 – 12)



כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל עֲרֵבִים זֶה לָזֶה
All of Israel is responsible for one another
Talmud (Shavuoat 39a)

It is an extraordinary opportunity to upgrade the learning environment at a school that both cherishes its traditions and history, whilst being very much focused on the future.

By investing in future generations, your family legacy will be a permanent reminder and ensure more students have the opportunity of a Modern Thinking Jewish education in top class facilities. We look forward to discussing the alternatives with you. Naming rights for the new buildings and facilities are also available. Donations to The King David School Building Fund are tax deductible. Please contact me for a confidential discussion on how you can invest in future generations.

Your generosity will be remembered for many generations to come.

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

2015 Business Breakfast

The Honourable Josh Frydenberg MP, Federal Member for Kooyong and Assistant Treasurer was the guest speaker at The King David School's Business Breakfast held at Crown Palladium earlier this week. A record attendance of over 400 guests, representing The King David School Community, key business and industry leaders were treated to an "insider's" view on the current economic climate in Australia and overseas, and the opportunities that exist with our trading partners.

Josh opened his presentation by acknowledging how fortunate we are in Australia to have bipartisan support for the Jewish community and intolerance for anti-Semitism. He compared the good fortune of Australian Jews to those Jews currently

living in France . Josh noted Australia's relatively low population compared to our Asian neighbours and the importance of free trade agreements that facilitate



economic growth and provide opportunities in employment. These agreements will enhance Australia's opportunities in agriculture, financial services and education.

Tax reform is high on the Government's agenda and Josh used the example of the exponential growth of online offshore trading and the repercussions on local business, given that the former do not attract GST. He referenced the global online retailer, Ali Baba, which does not have a physical shop front. He suggested that the Government must constantly keep pace with such disruptive innovation.

National security is also a key focus for the Government and Josh highlighted the importance of having tight control over travel by Australians to regions experiencing conflict. He said that the Government is aware of the threat to national security of people coming back into Australia having been exposed to radicalization.

The annual Business Breakfast supports The King David School Scholarship program which honours exceptional students with merit-based scholarships and also allows financially disadvantaged students to access a first class Jewish education.

Many thanks to our Silver sponsors, Charter Keck Cramer, Clarke Hopkins Clarke, Fridcorp, Urban Intelligence and Wingate for their wonderful support as well as to our Bronze sponsors, raffle donors and guests who attended. We are also very grateful to our School Council members who gave so much of their time assisting in preparation of this event, particularly Mark Harrison, Michael Lawrence and Lahra Carey (our MC).



Alumni Reunions

Class of 2005 & Class of 2010

On Sunday 2 August, 2015, old classmates and teaching staff reunited for the 5 and 10 Year Alumni Reunions held at the Rebecca Magid Centre.

Marc Light, who is also an alumnus of the School, offered a "Welcome Home" to all the past students. It was wonderful to hear what paths people had taken since graduating from School.



Where are they now?

Tahl Swieca's

wonderful imagination and creativity was already on show back in his days as a student at King



David where he was constantly moulding and creating his eclectic little figurines and leaving them in places around the School to be found and wondered upon.

Tahl's interest in design continued after he graduated from King David in 2010 and began his Bachelor of Industrial Design degree at Monash University in 2011. He was also heavily involved in the AgIdeas International Design Forum based in Melbourne, where he appeared on stage at Hamer Hall introducing and talking about eminent world designers.

Tahl has recently graduated from Monash University with an Industrial Design degree with H1 Honours and he is currently considering further study and international travel.

Tahl's creative talent as a designer has been recognised with numerous design awards, which include:

Winner - Eckersley's Art & Craft, Fimo Sculpture Competition, June 2012

Finalist - Newstar Design Competition, 2014

Winner - Best in Show, 2014 Graduation Show, Industrial Design Monash University

Winner - Hills Design Innovation Award, 2015

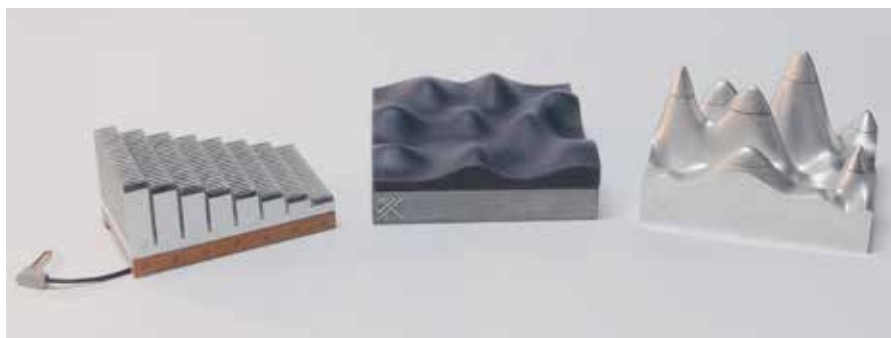


Character sculpture by Tahl Swieca

*Please continue to keep us informed by sending your news to:
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



Tahl Swieca's musical instruments - working prototypes (represents his Honours research)