

Inspirations

The King David School's Magazine

September 2017 Tishrei 5778



THE KING DAVID SCHOOL



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Inspirations

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Last month we held the fortieth Annual General Meeting of The King David School where several changes were made to School Council.

I would like to welcome four new members; Michael Benson, Adam Kaye, Peter Levi and Lisa Klepfisz. Michael has accepted the role as our new Treasurer replacing Peter Kahan after 4 years of service. I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Peter for all he has given to our School to improve our financial position. Peter leaves the School in a much stronger financial position than when he commenced as Treasurer.

Adam Kaye, a current parent, brings with him significant strengths with both a legal and property background and Peter Levi joins us as a long time member of Finance Committee, past parent and former School Council member. Lisa Klepfisz joins Council in her capacity as President KDSPA. I look forward to working with all of our new Council Members.

I would also like to recognise the contributions of outgoing Council members, Dr Caroline Marshall and Dr Erica Frydenberg and I thank them for the many hours they have devoted to the School.

School Council is very excited to have commenced building works to realise the final stage of our transformational building project, "Chai Ve'kayam", meaning life everlasting. During September, we began the refurbishment of the historic mansion at the rear of the Magid Campus. This mansion has been renamed "Southwick House" in honour of School Founders, the late Mark & Joyce Southwick. It is anticipated that this final stage of the project will be completed by April 2018. Upon completion, Southwick House will become the home for our Years 6-8 students. This final stage of the project will also include the completion of the Michele Bernshaw Resource Centre, a Jewish Life hub as well as new offices for Year Level Coordinators and other staff. This refurbishment will complete the vision articulated by School Council some years back that on completion of Project Chai Ve Kayam all students will be housed in either brand new or refurbished state-of-the-art learning facilities that will provide the optimum environment to obtain a Modern Thinking Jewish education.

Mark Harrison
School Council President

The King David School Council



Mark Harrison
(President)



Michael Benson
(Treasurer)



Michael Lawrence OAM
(Immediate Past President)



Marc Light
(Principal)



Jason Arnheim
(Vice President)



Lisa Klepfisz
(President KDSPA)



Lahra Carey
(Member)



Adam Kaye
(Member)



Rabbi Gersh Lazarow
(Member)



Peter Levi
(Member)



Rochelle Rothfield
(Member)



Rick Tudor OAM
(Member)



Joe Fazzolari
(Secretary)



The world our students will graduate into is vastly different to the one I experienced when I completed my secondary education. In the same way professionals like doctors need to be aware of current research into new medicine and practices, educators need to remain informed of new learning requirements that will define the skills our students need for the future.

In a recent TED-Ed blog, teachers were asked to respond to the question "what's the future of education?" Josefino Rivera, Jr an educator from Buenos Aires suggested "education will be not just taking in information and sharing it back, but also figuring out what to do with that information in the real world."

When looking at the future of education, students will have eLearning tools that facilitate opportunities for remote, self-paced learning. It is speculated that learning will often be project-based and students will be evaluated on critical-thinking and problem-solving skills.

I recently attended an Educational Neuroscience conference with our Vice Principal Teaching and Learning, Russell Kaplan, in the U.S. which focused on Executive Functions and its impact on learning. Executive Functions refer to the overarching skills that allow us to utilise our brains to manage the tasks in our lives.



They include attention, working memory, emotional self-management, organisation, prioritisation, judgment, critical analysis and cognitive flexibility. Executive functions have been shown to operate from the part of the brain called the pre-frontal cortex, which is the last part of the brain to go through maturation. This maturation process begins in the teenage years and continues into our early twenties.

Research suggests that our youth live in a far-more complex, multi-sensorial and hyper-stimulated environment that require heightened Executive Function skills to operate successfully.

One can easily appreciate how the demands of social media and the constant barrage of information require sophisticated levels of self-management, prioritisation and critical analysis.

Our School is committed to making best use of leading research to ensure that we create deep and lasting learning opportunities which provide our students with the capacity to thrive in the global and digitised world that they operate in.

Wishing all families a Shana Tova. May 5779 be a year of peace for Israel and for all the world.

Marc Light
Principal



Above Left: Joining with Prep students listening to Year 2 students blow the Shofar. The Year 2 students perform this Mitzvah every morning in the month of Elul.

Above Right: Cooking chicken soup with Rabbi Gersh at the Pre-School Grandparents & Special Friends' Shabbat.

Bottom Left: Marc Light with Senior Kinder students during Grandparents and Special Friends' Shabbat.

It's where I... celebrate my Jewish identity



Sharing Shabbat with our Family

The words of Lecha Dodi sang out across the Junior School as Prep to Year 2 students shared their weekly Shabbat celebrations with adoring grandparents and special friends. Prep students have learned a great deal about Shabbat this year so far and included a reflection on "why I love Shabbat". Year 1 students demonstrated their knowledge of Mitzvot with a focus on how to give Tzedakah and what Shabbat should feel like. Year 2 shared their exceptional knowledge of Shabbat Shirim, such as Shalom Aleichem and explained the symbolism of the items on the Shabbat table.

Each family received a small student made gift to take home with the bracha for lighting the candles and a photo of their child completing the mitzvah on it.

Jewish Life Team



Pre-School Celebrate Shabbat

What a joyous experience for our Pre Kinder children and their grandparents and special friends who came together recently to celebrate Shabbat.

Rabbi Gersh and Max lead with the children's favourite Shabbat songs they sing each week at the Pre-School. Shabbat themed activities included decorating a Kiddush cup and rolling and plaiting challah to be baked at home for the Shabbat meal.





It's where I... extend my Jewish learning

A Foundation in Jewish Learning

Year 4 students participated in the Kabbalat Tanach Ceremony this term where they received their very first Tanach. Kabbalat Tanach acknowledges the transition from learning about the original Jewish stories, to reading them from the Tanach.

Kabbalat Tanach's purpose is to communally mark the next stage of growth in our students' Jewish education, as they will use it every year in Jewish Studies at The King David School. The Tanach is the anchor of Jewish memory, containing the foundation stories, ethics, values, beliefs and history of the Jewish people. While Jews have always comprised of manifold Jewish identities, the Tanach (Jewish Bible) has been a common foundation for each.

Although Jews continue to disagree on exactly how the Tanach is to be understood, we all agree that it contains the oldest stories of the Jewish people – a combination of history and memory. It is precisely the continuation of this memory and the meaning we assign to it that determines our personal identities. This is true for all aspects of our lives – our personal, family and national identities.

Our special Kabbalat Tanach ceremony commenced with a student involved tefilla – allowing them to share what they have learned each Thursday morning. Following tefilla, students were very excited to see the homework their parents had prepared earlier.

As the Tanach contains the stories of the first millennium of Jewish families, each parent of our Year 4 students had secretly decorated and added a personal story to their child's Tanach. Before the ceremony, students wrote a statement about why being Jewish matters to them. Both the parents and the child's writings were then pasted into the front and back covers of the Tanach, reminding them that they are forever part of the same family tree.

The Jewish Life Team



Israeli Insights with Dynamic Madrachim

Every year at King David, a team of dynamic Israelis run specially tailored programs over several weeks, designed to engage our students in conversation about Israel.

Senior School students participate in a Yom Yisrael seminar, where there are discussions and activities that aim to challenge the students' understanding of Israel beyond the headlines. This year's themes include: Israeli childhood compared to Australian; Minorities of Israeli society; Grassroots social justice projects; Thinking about Jewish life beyond the VCE and more.

The Israeli madrichim also joined Year 9s for their first Shabbat on camp and lead a 5 day Zionism Seminar for Year 10 students. At the Junior School, the madrichim participated in Hebrew classes, giving students the opportunity to hone their Hebrew conversation skills.

Dr Bryan Conyer
Director of Jewish Life





Mind Games

As part of the enrichment program this year, a group of Year 7 and 8 students had a wonderful opportunity to participate in the Tournament of Minds competition at Deakin University on Sunday 20 August. We competed in the social sciences category, which entailed a long term and a spontaneous challenge. The seven members of the team (Julian, Raphael, Adara, Jasper, Erin, Danny and Henry) were very committed to the team, giving up lunchtimes, taking on extra homework, and even coming together on Sundays.

We were thrilled to participate in such a prestigious competition and represent the School.

The adrenaline we felt during the competition was exhilarating. We would like to thank our facilitator, Andrea Gore, and Mr. Kaplan for their guidance during rehearsals.
Julian Adey and Erin Padowitz (Year 8)



Maker Breaker Club

The "maker" movement has been growing rapidly over the last several years, helped largely by the influx of cheap and powerful microcontrollers such as the Arduino and Raspberry Pi. It is a social phenomenon which brings together artists, hackers and technology tinkerers, creating new ideas and products with innovative technologies from their own home, or school. Not surprisingly the New York Times has referred to members of the maker community as "kitchen table industrialists".

At The King David School, we have been running maker-type programs for many years and appreciate the valuable learning that can be gained from pulling things apart.

Over the last couple of weeks a group of Year 6 students have had the opportunity of doing some "making" and "breaking" in our lunchtime Maker-Breaker club. From building a simple electric motor, to pulling apart the solar-powered garden lights that usually end up in the waste once they have stopped working, these students have been learning about how things work, and how we can re-purpose some of our more commonly thrown away items.

Milorad Cerovac
Senior School Teacher & Robotics Coordinator



Record Success in Team Sport

Our Senior School sporting teams are on their way to record success this Winter Season! By the time this publication went to print, the following results were in:

- **Senior Boys Soccer**
Runners up in Grand Final
- **Years 8/9 Boys Basketball**
Grand Finalists
- **Years 8/9 Boys Touch Rugby**
Grand Finalists
- **Years 8/9 Girls Netball**
Grand Finalists
- **Years 8/9 Girls Basketball**
Won the Championship
- **Year 7 Boys Tennis**
Won the Championship (end of Term 2)
- **Year 7 Boys AFL**
Undefeated after 3 rounds
- **Year 7 Boys AFL**
Undefeated after 3 rounds
- **Year 6 Girls AFL 9s**
Runners up in Grand Final
- **Year 6 Girls Hooptime**
Runners up in Grand Final

Drew Solewicz
Sports Manager



It's where I... challenge myself

Snowsport

Our inaugural inter-year-level Snow Camp saw 24 Years 6-10 participants developing their skiing and snowboarding skills at Mt Buller. The snow has been rated the best at Buller in two decades.

Damien Green, Senior School teacher who attended the camp with the students, noted "the students progressed rapidly through their levels, many starting with little or no experience. Watching students go from zero before their first lesson to confidently negotiating a mountain of white-outs and fog makes the task all the more satisfying for us educators to see. What has been nice to see are students who are confident skiers helping their peers and urging them to challenge themselves".

Our students who participated in the Maccabi and Jewish Interscholar Snowsports Competitions performed outstandingly well. Seven of our students placed in the top 10 of the Junior Maccabi competition with Charlie Rozenes placing second overall. In the Senior competition, Year 9 students Jasper Harris, Daniel Lindros and Ryan Liberman were very strong competitors with Jasper placing first by 0.42 seconds! Daniel and Ryan ranked 2nd and 4th respectively.

In the Jewish Interscholar Snowsports competition, Avi Wolff came 1st in the Junior Snowboard alpine competition with Charlie Rozenes right behind him! Sienna Vorchheimer, Adam Weisz and Livia Lazarow all placed in the top ten and Nina Kanat came 9th in the Senior Snowboard competition. In the Ski Cross/Snowboard Cross race Charlie Rozenes placed third, closely followed by his sister Lola in sixth and Avi Wolff in ninth position. Daniel Lindros came second followed by Jasper Harris in sixth place.

Kol Ha'kavod to all of our snow athletes for their great effort and determination.





It's where I...
love to perform
Steel Magnolias

The Lawrence Family Theatre was transformed into a visually rich stage depicting life in a small town in the deep South of America in the '80s for the VCE Theatre Studies' production, Steel Magnolias. This Robert Harling play focuses on the bond of a group of women in a small town community and how they cope with the death of one of their own.

A requirement for students in this subject is to choose areas of stagecraft in which they work towards the realisation of a production. They surpassed expectations and delivered a wonderfully entertaining theatrical production which included rich and believable characterizations. Robert Harling would be very proud!



**FERTUMMELT
FAIRY
TALES**

Fertummelt Fairy Tales (fertummelt is Yiddish for "mixed up"), performed by our Years 3 to 5 students, provided them with a unique learning and performance opportunity. The theme of Fertummelt Fairy Tales was based on the notion that Fairy Tales are immediately accessible to everyone at any age. We have all shared in the joy and magic of being swept away to far off kingdoms. However, not all fairy tales were created equal. In her Director's note, Jayne Wise, Assistant Head of Junior School (Prep to Year 5) noted that "some of our best loved tales have messages that do not reflect the social and moral norms of our modern lives".



Students were actively involved in discussions about characters' intent and purpose that guided the final script. Dedicated rehearsals followed and students learnt valuable lessons about performance skills and stagecraft.

The unanimous feedback from the audience over all three shows was that the polished performances belied the lack of performance experience for most of these students. Their commitment to authentic characterization, accurate delivery of lines, and genuine delight in the opportunity to perform was wonderful to witness. Every student from Years 3 to 5 had a role to play and it all came together in a thoroughly enjoyable production.



It's where I... explore
my creativity



B'nai B'rith Art Show

The B'nai B'rith Annual Jewish Youth Art Competition offered our students a wonderful opportunity to have their artwork displayed along with other Jewish students aged 11 - 18 years.

There was an impressive display of creative talent and our students' work stood out in many of the categories including painting, drawing, mixed media and sculpture.

Our congratulations go to the following students:

Age Grouping 11-13

Sculpture

Henry Wise 1st place
Kari Boymal 3rd place

Painting

Mia Moshinsky 2nd place
Erin Padowitz 3rd place

Age Grouping 14-15

Sculpture

Hannah Ungar 1st place

Mixed Media

Ella Benary-Belfer 2nd place

Age Grouping 16-18

Sculpture

Lauren Priester 3rd place

Mixed Media

Tasha Friede (Class of 2016) 2nd place

Painting

Amy Priester 2nd place

Alex Maybloom (Class of 2016)

Highly Commended

In addition, Natasha Kane (Year 12) received the Bencjon Rozencwaig Scholarship, worth \$1,000, for the student who showed the most potential.





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



Building Resilience

Confucius, the great Chinese philosopher once said "Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall."

The School and our parents are in partnership to help each student develop the ability to "rise again" by providing an environment and skills that foster resilience. Resilience is the skill to cope, learn and thrive in the face of change, challenge or adversity. Some children find it harder than others to cope with the challenges they face whether at school or at home. In the Junior School, coping strategies are incorporated into student learning so students can deal with stress and challenge. Key resilience skills include self awareness, self control, social awareness, effort and persistence and strong self esteem.

Our Early Childhood Centres recently hosted a parent information evening with highly regarded parenting expert, Professor Helen McGrath. The session was entitled 'Where's the Manual: Parenting Young Children in 2017.' Professor McGrath strongly encouraged parents to take steps to foster the development of their children's resilience, social confidence and self-respect. Parents and educators should avoid the "lawnmower" style of parenting or teaching where the path ahead for the student or child is made smooth. This does not allow the child to experience the "bumps" which are a normal part of child development and they in turn don't learn to find strategies to cope with the challenge or adversity.

David Opat
Vice-Principal - Wellbeing & Head of Junior School

Chaverim

Each week, 2-3 year old children who will commence Kindergarten in the following year, come together with their parents, grandparents or special friends in our KDS Chaverim program. For many families, Chaverim is their first taste of a King David Kindergarten experience and gives children and their caregivers a chance to familiarise themselves with the programs, educators and the environment offered in our wonderful new Kindergarten.

The program offers play based activities, unstructured outdoor play and a Shabbat experience. Enrolling into this program gives children the opportunity to get to know their peers, learn how to play and share together, and enjoy a shared learning experience before they begin Kindergarten. Due to the popularity of this program, two sessions are run each week and only limited spaces are now available.

For further information, please email chaverim@kds.vic.edu.au



Igniting a Love of Learning

Our early childhood educators have been creating new and exciting ways to work with our youngest students to introduce literacy and numeracy in fun age-appropriate ways. Literacy and numeracy should be a meaningful and relevant part of everyday life for young children. From letter and name recognition through to rhyming words and playing games together, educators introduce a range of play based experiences with an emphasis on fun learning.

In both our Pre-School and Kindergarten, educators are using rhythm and rhyme to foster literacy skills. Educators read books with rhyming words and the children play a rhyming game where they solve the riddle and identify the rhyming word. Another activity has been to match picture cards where the words rhymed. Children then tell a story using all four rhyming words.

Other activities have included letter, name and sound recognition. This develops an awareness of the alphabetic and phonological principles. Children use letters on a table and trace them with marbles.

Developmentally at this age, children can recognise their name before they can write it. For younger children, they begin to recognise words, letters and numbers and use language and ideas that they have seen educators or other children use. Incidental counting and measurement experiences help to introduce children to the concepts of number and quantity.





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



THE KING DAVID SCHOOL PARENTS' ASSOCIATION



להבין ולהבין
TO KNOW AND UNDERSTAND

KDSPA Update

It has been a busy term for the KDSPA. The Annual KDSPA Breakfast in June was a fabulous morning and a hugely successful fundraiser. We were lucky enough to have Susan Barton AM, Founder of the Lighthouse Foundation speak emotionally about her work protecting vulnerable young people. Susan was joined by Cherie Wilson, a young mother who shared with us how the Lighthouse changed her life and her daughter's life providing them with hope and the tools for a bright future. The KDSPA together with Year 9 New Horizons students presented the Lighthouse Foundation with a donation on behalf of The King David School Community to support the wonderful work they do. Thank you to the Breakfast organising committee for making this such a great event.

Exciting things happen when a passionate team of creative people join forces to create and launch an art festival. Our inaugural ARTKDS Festival took place soon after this publication went to print so we will report on this wonderful event in the next issue.

Planning for King's Carnival 2018 is well underway. The King's Carnival Committee is working hard to bring you all your KC favourites and much, much more. King's Carnival 2018 is an event not to be missed so please mark Sunday 25 March 2018 in your diaries.

Thank you to the KDSPA Committee who bring you all the events and services that you know and love. Thank you also to Danielle Opat who once again coordinated the successful Art by Kids fundraiser for the KDSPA.

The KDSPA is very grateful for the support given by Erica Frydenberg and the Friends of The King David School. On behalf of the KDSPA I would like to wish everyone a Chag Sameach and wonderful Term break!

Lisa Klepfisz
President KDSPA
kdspa@kds.vic.edu.au



Collaborative Artworks

A number of wonderful initiatives were introduced at our inaugural Art KDS Festival. One of them involved all students in the Junior School (Prep to Year 5) who created collaborative pieces that were sold at the Festival.

Zoe Arnott, KDS parent and art therapist very generously facilitated this project with the assistance of Art teacher, Danielle D'Amico. Zoe commented that "all works were collaborative in nature and had a focus on mindful creation as well as a celebration of the individual within the group".

Each year level created a unique collaborative piece.

PREP - concentrated on colour, considering what how a specific colour made them feel. The finished art work was a heart shape made of all the students' finger prints.

YEAR 1 - wet on wet water colour as collaborative painting which was cut into a mosaic

YEAR 2 - school of fish sculpture using cardboard

YEAR 3 - organic mindful mandala using cool colours giving calmness

YEARS 4 & 5 - students designed a 1/4 of a circle - pieces were then combined into a large mandala



ENGAGED

Carina Lawrence (2008)
June 2017

Kim Glajchen

MARRIED

Daniel Aronson (1999)
June 2017

Amber Garrett

Gabriella Weitzer (2010)
August 2017

Josh Bartak

BIRTHS

Braham Cohen (2005)
Scott, July 2017

Hannah Cohen

Cara Newstadt (Silpert) (2003)
Madison, June 2017

Saul Newstadt

Daniel Skrabal (1996)
Goldie, June 2017

Rachel Skrabal

Eitan Steen (1993)
Rafael, June 2017

Romy Grace

Where are they now?



Jarred Sibel, Class of 2013 completed his undergraduate degree at Deakin University in Middle Eastern Studies, Arabic and Spanish.

He is pursuing a Masters degree in International Relations (Diplomacy and Trade) at Monash University beginning February 2018.

Jarred has developed an interest in Arabic studies and promoting dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians.

He aims to work either in the commercial sector as a Geo-political risk analyst or Middle East & North Africa region consultant, or alternatively in the Government for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Diplomacy.

Jarred participated in an Intensive Arabic In-Country program for three months at Sultan Qaboos' College in Oman in MSA and Gulf dialect, graduating with a final research assignment on Orientalism and Cultural Imperialism.

He undertook Advanced Arabic Skills & Translation units, with a minor research thesis in Arabic on Democratisation and the Arab Spring. Jarred is also the Founder and President of the Deakin Arabic Student Society, an initiative which focuses on informal education of the Arabic language with social & academic events for students.

In April 2017, Jarred was selected to represent Australia at the International University Arabic Debating Competition. Australia placed in the top five teams out of fifty countries. He was also chosen to be interviewed live on Arabic television to talk about his experiences learning Arabic.

Jarred now works as a Consultant and Marketing Manager for Project Rozana, an NGO that creates and funds health care programs and aims to strengthen Israeli and Palestinian relations. Projects include up-skilling Palestinian doctors in specialised and unique fields, hiring of Arabic speaking nurses in Israeli hospitals, the opening of a Psychiatric Ward for Palestinian children with PTSD and more.

Additionally, Jarred is an intern at the Australia Arab Chamber of Commerce and Industry (AACCI) in the International Chamber House. AACCI promotes trade and investment opportunities between Australia and the 22 Arab League countries.

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