Give a helping hand so that more students can experience a Modern Thinking Jewish education.

Look for your 2013 Annual Giving Scholarship Appeal Brochure with this edition of Inspirations
The 2013 year has seen Council continue to focus on key strategic issues to ensure the School is providing the best possible environment for our children to learn.

Project Chai Ve’kayam was launched to the School community late last year. It is an exciting milestone in the history of The King David School which will deliver a significant refurbishment and rebuilding of our facilities.

I am pleased to announce that progress has been made with the formal development application having been lodged for the building works at Orrong Rd and the final touches being put on the application for Dandenong Rd.

In addition, during February we held detailed information session evenings with the neighbours of both campuses over two consecutive nights. These are important components of the planning process.

While we are principally in the hands of Stonnington Council we are still generally on track to meet our initially proposed timelines. I look forward to updating you in the next edition of Inspirations with the progress of this Project. Current parents are invited to visit the Parent Portal for further details and can log any questions regarding the Project on the Chai Ve’kayam Parents’ Forum. The whole community can find information on Project Chai Ve’kayam on the School website: www.kds.vic.edu.au. We will be updating these sites with more details about the exciting features of our new facilities over the coming months.

The School Council is proud to announce the launch of the Walter and Alwynne Jona Award, made possible by the generous bequest from the late Alwynne Jona. Please see below for more details.

I look forward to sharing further strategic initiatives with you.

Mark Harrison
President, School Council

THE WALTER AND ALWYNNE JONA AWARD

The late Walter and Alwynne Jona were extremely passionate about the importance of Jewish education and making Jewish education available to all.

The generous gift they have bequeathed to The King David School has afforded The King David School the opportunity to provide a one-time only offering of The Walter and Alwynne Jona Award to students entering Year 7 in 2014.

It is because of their commitment to equity that the School is proud to offer this Award to all students in this Year level*. Students will be offered a 25% remission on tuition fees in Year 7 for 2014, Year 8 for 2015 and Year 9 for 2016.

For more information, please contact our Admissions Department on (03) 9527 0102 or email admissions@kds.vic.edu.au

*Please note some conditions apply.
Reflections from the Principal

Our School has reached a very important stage in our growth. Having progressed from our excellent VCE results in December 2012, we have moved into 2013 busy with Year level camps, celebration of Purim and preparation for Pesach, extension and enrichment programs and Inter-House and Inter-School swimming competitions.

Beginning with our Back to School Service – Shacharit – to set the tone for the year, we have felt the joy of Purim and explored the important issues that Purim raises, such as the rights of women to be self determining and the plight of many in our community who are victims of abuse – sometimes alcohol fuelled and drug addiction. Students prepared for Pesach in traditional ways with Matzah baking and Sedaim. In addition, they collected chametz to provide to others in Melbourne who go without food.

Reflecting on how we can help others is only one important aspect of the ways in which we promote thinking and understanding at The King David School. This year Philosophy for Life is centre and forefront at Junior and Middle Schools. An outline of the program can be found on page 5.

To become better learners and thinkers, students need to be able to recognise, understand, label, express, and regulate their emotions. Four of our teachers; Justin Baigel, Russell Kaplan, Nicole Myerson and David Opat were trained as trainers in the RULER Approach last year and now our teachers are presenting it to our students. More details about the RULER approach can be found on page 4.

The Interstate Music Camp for Instrumental Music students in Years 7 to 12 took place in Sydney at the Emanuel School. The student’s benefitted from the experience of playing new pieces arranged for larger instrumental groups than those that The King David School alone can create.

Inter School Sport is an increasingly successful experience for our students in the Eastern Independent Schools of Melbourne (EISM) Competition. We have made a quantum leap in our progress in this area and have performed extremely well in Term 1. I look forward to sharing our success stories in the next edition of Inspirations.

As I reflect on Term 1 2013, I feel an enormous sense of pride in the well-directed professional activities of our teaching team and the enthusiastic engagement of our students in the learning opportunities opened up for them.

Michele Bernshaw, Principal

VCE Results 2012

We are proud of our 2012 graduates. Our VCE results place The King David School in the top 4% of the state.

- 28% of Study Scores over 40
- 51% of all ATARs 90 or above
- Top ATAR 99.75
- Median Study Score 36
- Top Designs, Top Screen and Top Arts – Marco Fink
- 1 perfect score in Media

Tertiary Courses

Receiving a first round offer for the preferred course and institute is one of the ultimate goals of the VCE student. All students achieved first round offers and over 80% received their first or second preference.
The RULER Approach to Student Wellbeing

The Student Wellbeing program at The King David School teaches students important life skills over and above the prescribed curriculum. Wellbeing classes, incorporating The RULER Approach, give students the opportunity to have a more well rounded education, developing their emotional intelligence and helping them to succeed in the ‘real world’.

The RULER approach has been developed by Dr Marc Brackett of Yale University and teaches emotional literacy skills that have a positive influence on personal development and academic achievement. Using the RULER approach means students are given the tools to Recognise, Understand, Label, Express and Regulate their emotions.

The importance of Wellbeing has been recognised by the School and all students have a “Wellbeing” class scheduled into their timetable each week.

In 2013 the program has started well with very forthright discussions in the various homerooms across the school as the students were encouraged to consider the following questions:
1. How do we want to feel in school each day?
2. What will we do to have these feelings consistently in order to create a positive learning environment?
3. How will we handle uncomfortable feelings and unwanted behaviours? How will we prevent and manage conflict?

Throughout the School, each class has created their own “wellbeing charter” which provides the answers generated and agreed upon by the class.

Meet the man who started it all!
Wellbeing: Education for Life and The RULER approach
Dr Marc Brackett, Yale University
Wednesday 29 May
7:30pm - 9:30pm
Rebecca Magid Centre,
520 Orrong Road, Armadale

All parents are encouraged to attend

Year 3 teacher Adam Black with Lachlan and Claudia holding their Wellbeing Charter
Why The King David School values the teaching of Philosophy to our students

“Philosophy asks about life’s meanings. Philosophy asks who we are and what we might be, how we conceive ourselves and how we can even think these questions.”

Professor Wendy Brown, University of California, Berkeley

Every person’s ideas are like gemstones. They are potentially valuable; they may start out quite rough and sometimes require polishing. How can one polish these ideas? Think about a jeweller polishing a gem until it sparkles. The jeweller uses tools to achieve this aim. Philosophy gives us the tools to polish our ideas, to think critically, explore concepts, challenge preconceptions and evaluate in order to understand what really matters in this world.

Allowing our students to explore personal areas of concern, to open up their critical and creative thinking in an intellectually safe environment has proven to be the most valuable tool.

May we continue to offer our students many tools!

Anita Bass
Philosophy Co-ordinator
Challenging our Students

New Head of Maths
Dr Philip Swedosh, is the new Maths Learning Area Leader for Years 6-12. He has outstanding credentials and we are delighted to have him lead our elite Maths department.

Philip was employed by the University of Melbourne, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, for 12 years before moving to St Leonard’s College where he served as Head of Mathematics for 12 years. He is the author of numerous Maths textbooks and is a VCAA Chief Examiner of both the setting and assessing panels of Specialist Mathematics. Philip currently serves (since 1998) as the State Director for Victoria of the Australian Mathematical Olympiad Committee and is on the National Executive of the Australian Mathematics Trust. He has been involved in the development of the Australian Curriculum for Mathematics. Philip is a member of the Educational Advisory Committee of the Australian Mathematical Sciences Institute (AMSI). He has also served on the organising committee for the World Federation of National Mathematics Competitions.

Alumni Mentors
We are proud and privileged to have the support of our Alumni. Boaz Ash (2010), Michael Eisfelder (2009), Devon Boyd (2009), and Josh Marlow (2011) are four Alumni who regularly mentor the students involved in Robotics. Robotics teams have been very successful and you can see some of the trophies they have won in the photo below.

Pi Day
On the 14 March the Maths Department at the Middle and Senior School ran activities to celebrate Pi Day. At the Senior School, Morry Hayman invited interested maths students to participate in a lunch time competition to see who could recite the greatest number of decimal places for Pi. Jacob Brooke Year 10 was able to recite 70 decimal places. Second place was awarded to Benjamin Sheiman Year 11 with 61 decimal places and third place went to Ari Samuel Mushin with 45 decimal places.
The Music Exchange is a wonderful opportunity for music students to learn and perform together and to broaden social horizons.

In February nearly 50 students from The King David School flew to Sydney to attend the annual Music Exchange with the Emanuel School (Sydney).

On the morning of the first full day, students were treated to a backstage excursion to the Sydney Opera House before returning to Emanuel to commence rehearsals for the concert scheduled the next evening.

Students were grouped by instrument and were led through the rehearsal material by both King David and Emanuel staff.

The appreciative audience at the concert enjoyed the variety of works on offer which reflected the diverse tastes, styles and abilities of our staff and students. There was the upbeat “John Williams Swings” (featuring the “Cantina” from the first Star Wars movie) and the quirky – “Oh, me Thinks you can Think!” (a chorus number from KDS’ upcoming Years 7-12 musical, Seussical, the Musical). The soulful “Superstition” of Stevie Wonder, the spiritual “Sanctus” from Faures Requiem (a movement which was featured in Oliver Stone’s 1998 The Thin Red Line) and the religious re-imagining of a nigun (melody) arranged for Choir and Orchestra by KDS’ Director of Music, Adam Yee were all also skillfully performed.

The program closed with the “World Anthem” – an orchestral and vocal work that is an amalgamation of the national anthems of over ninety countries – a fitting close to the ideology of the annual Music Exchange.
As we launch our annual giving appeal, it is important to remember the other ways you can be involved in securing the financial sustainability of The King David School. Every week, new members of the School community approach me to contribute towards some of the following areas:

Make KDS your nominated charity

Donations in lieu of gifts for milestone events

Robotics Program is one such example

Consider making a bequest to The King David School

Project Chai Ve’kayam New Building – naming rights available

New naming rights available

“...a distinct sense of community sets The King David School apart as we continue our commitment to social justice and egalitarian opportunity for all Jewish students.”

Naomi Pizzo
Foundation Manager

Michael Lawrence
Foundation Chair

If you would like more information about how you can help The King David School Foundation grow for future generations, please contact Naomi Pizzo, Foundation Manager on (03) 9527 0122 or email foundation@kds.vic.edu.au
Every year, the Jewish community must invest in its continuity. For The King David School Foundation, we take maximising the potential of our students very seriously.

Our outstanding Scholarship Program honours worthy students as they become the Jewish leaders of future generations. Merit-based Scholarships are earned for Academic Excellence, Performing Arts, Visual Arts, Sport and Language.

Sasha Goldenberg, current Year 10 Student
Member of Australian First Robotics Champion Team Melbourne

Tell me about the First Lego Robotics program...

The Robotics program is a really fun way to learn how to work with the same materials and command systems used in the real world. You can sit in a classroom and learn from a book, but we learn stuff they don’t teach in classrooms. It’s really fun to learn how to connect electronics and you get to know mentors in the industry like at the Grand Prix this year and go to Hawaii.

How important has the Scholarship Program been to you?
Robotics is a really enriching part of what the Scholarship Program has allowed me to be part of. The Program has been really important as it has allowed me to come to King David. I would like to have a career in Programming, Electronics, Mechatronics or Robotics.

One word to describe King David?
Family.

Itai Franco, current Year 11 Student
Jewish Studies Award Winner 2012

What has been a highlight of your time at King David?
That is a tough question. My passion is Music. I come from a very musical family, very interested in the Arts. The Music School and staff at King David are really helpful and the new facilities have been very good for art, music and media. The general atmosphere at King David is a highlight - teachers are always willing to help not just me but every student. The students are very warm here.

How important has the Scholarship Program been to you?
It has been really important. It is also great that I have been able to contribute back in many ways, to give back to the School for everything they’ve given me.

One word to describe King David?
Welcoming, encompassing.

Elie Loummer
current Year 12 Student
Tikkun Olam Award Winner 2012

It is always so important for young women to feature in Science and Engineering. Tell me about how King David has helped you reach your goals...

I have always loved maths and computers. Milorad Cerovac (Senior Science Teacher and National Excellence in Teaching Award winner 2011) has been amazing! Competing as one of only six girls Internationally in the University level International CanSat competition last year in France showed me what I want to do with my future. We came equal third place out of 15 teams. BAE Aerospace have offered to open a pathway to working with them in their Women’s Program. We are all so determined to get where we want to be, but I like that the boys come to me for help with Physics.

How important has the Scholarship Program been to you?
Robotics is a really enriching part of what the Scholarship Program has allowed me to be part of. The Program has been really important as it has allowed me to come to King David. I would like to have a career in Programming, Electronics, Mechatronics or Robotics.

One word to describe King David?
Inspirational!
The Year 10 Yesh trip was an experience like none other! As we journeyed in the land of Israel we were able to experience the rich culture that encapsulates the country. Fourteen of us travelled to Israel accompanied by Rabbi Gersh Lazarow and Feygi Zylberman. We were also joined by our enthusiastic madrich, Yuval. We greatly enjoyed the plethora of bonding experiences we shared in our month abroad. Highlights of our trip included hiking up Masada for sunrise which tested our mental and physical limits, spending four nights in the Arava with our generous host families and travelling to the Western Wall - a first for many.

In the Arava, we were billeted with host families on different Moshavim for four nights. Undoubtedly, this was an incredible opportunity to truly learn about Israeli lifestyles and experience them firsthand. Whilst in the south, we taught games to young children in the Shittim (Acacia) school, travelled to an alligator farm, picked peppers and tomatoes in the greenhouses and made great friendships.

Bedouin hospitality was at the top of the list for most, as we stayed in exquisite tents overnight and appreciated the traditional lifestyle. We were greeted with several servings of delicious tea and enjoyed a ceremonial meal in the presence of numerous tourist groups.

After two challenging hikes we were finally able to unwind at Ein Gedi and dip our feet into the beautiful oasis. Refreshed by the stream, we proceeded to the Dead Sea for a relaxing afternoon.

Each night, we engaged in different activities designed to expand our knowledge about Israel and about current issues the country faces and to observe the Jewish nation from a perspective that perhaps we had not considered.

Our experience on Yesh has allowed us to further connect with Israel, our Jewish heritage and one another. We were able to develop a better understanding of Israeli culture and daily struggles endured by the people, through interactive learning that created memories, which will be cherished for life!

Sabrina Lewis & Daniel Kahan, Year 11
Bedtime and Morning Rituals

Junior Kinder students and their families participated in a Parent and Child Education (PACE) program recently to discuss special rituals that are performed before going to bed and upon waking in the morning.

The children came dressed in their pyjamas, and brought their favourite sleeping friend and pillow.

Families listened to an English and Hebrew reading of The Very Hungry Caterpillar, then talked about special rituals at bed time.

The students then illustrated these rituals on their pillow cases and learnt the night time Shema, and Modeh (Modah) Ani that is recited after waking.

Pesach Olympics

Year 4 students and their families competed against each other in a “Seder Olympics”, with events based on the order of the Pesach Seder.

The teams, The Mighty Matzah Pesach People, The Pickled Matzahs, Steve Eats Matzah and the Kranky Kiddush Kups participated in a Pesach sing-off, egg and spoon races, matzah pyramid building competitions, and a host of other activities.
Purim

Celebrating Purim at The King David School is both fun and educational.

The day started off with a costume parade which is always highly anticipated by students, staff and families.

The creativity of the costumes was very impressive and clearly students and many parents went to an enormous effort to create memorable characters.

Students from Pre-School through to Year 12 participated in activities which were designed to fulfil the mitzvot of Purim. These are:

- Matanot L’Evyonim - Gifts to the needy
- Mishloach Manot - Food gifts for friends
- Megilat Esther - Telling the story of Purim
- M’sibat Purim - Celebrating Purim

Matanot L’Evyonim - Gifts to the needy
Students from Years 3 - 5 heard a presentation by Australian Books for Children of Africa (ABCA) and students in Years 6 - 8 heard a presentation by IMPACT for Women. In both sessions, students learned about the organizations and the work in which they’re involved. Then, they decorated tzedakah boxes with the idea that they will spend the rest of the month of Adar filling them. The money was collected and donated to the two organizations.

The Year 9 students heard a presentation by IMPACT for Women, and then worked to make gift baskets for victims of domestic violence. Toiletries had been donated by students at the Middle and Senior School and the students grouped these into parcels to be donated to IMPACT.

Mishloach Manot - Food gifts for friends
Students had a chance to bake hamantaschen and include these in mishloach manot bags for their friends.

Megilat Esther - Telling the story of Purim
Students at the Middle School worked together to stage and film “Schmaltz... A Greased Purim.” This Purim shpiel uses the sights and sounds of Grease the Musical to tell the story of Purim.

The Year 10 students visited different aged-care facilities and provided entertainment for the residents by reading the story of Purim and singing Purim songs.

M’sibat Purim - Celebrating Purim
Students were treated to a variety of fun activities including jumping castles, a giant Jenga game and giant snakes and ladders.
Preparing for Pesach

In preparation for Pesach, Junior School students participated in the annual Matzah Bake.

Our students milled their own wheat to make flour and then added just the right amount of water to make the sticky dough.

Then the fun began as the race against the clock started. Students learnt that the Matzah has to be made in just 18 minutes from when the flour touches the water in order to make it kosher Matzah!

First the children kneaded the dough, then rolled it out - adding the obligatory holes to ensure it baked quickly.

The children then watched eagerly as Rabbi Gersh cooked it outside on an open fire and took it off just in time!

It was delicious and a very meaningful experience for all involved.
On Sunday 17 March, not even the rain could deter the thousands of people of all ages who attended the annual King’s Carnival - The King David School fete.

The King David family spirit was on proud display for the entire community as many parents gave countless hours of their time in preparation for this first class event with the entire event coordinated by the KDSPA and run by parent and student volunteers.

Gary Peer, one of the many sponsors of the King’s Carnival came to host the auction on the main stage and commented that “this School has such a great heart”. The Kings Swim Crafty Kids Zone with its wide variety of arts and crafts activities was busy all day with sherbert necklaces, shrinkbits and crazy t-shirts the highlight activities of 2013. The chair-o-swing ride was extremely popular again as was the new addition of the butterfly enclosure and the new Moose Sideshow Alley games.

With many hungry mouths to feed, the volunteers in the Gary Peer Food Court did a great job meeting the demand with a great range of food offerings, keeping the crowds happy. Record numbers of bake-at-home cakes were donated to the Sweet Tooth stall with many grandparents and parents bringing in their delicious home made cakes which were all sold before the end of the day.

On top of this, the Sweet Tooth baking team cooked an enormous amount of biscuits, cakes and jams which were as popular as ever. The New Gifts stall was busy all day with all the Moose Showbags selling out and the regular bargain hunters snapping up great deals in the Market Bazaar and in the Fashion Arcade. The Talent Shows on the main stage kept the crowds entertained all day with many students preparing songs and dances in the weeks leading up to the Carnival.

The KDSPA would like to thank all parents, grandparents and students who helped to make this fete the success that it was and look forward to another wonderful Carnival in March 2014! If you would like to become involved in the 2014 King’s Carnival, please email kdspa@kds.vic.edu.au.

Rochelle Rothfield
President, KDSPA
The annual Inter House Swimming Gala for Years 6-12 was held on Thursday 28 February at the new Glen Eira Sports and Aquatic Centre (GESAC). Arava House which had been the champions for the previous two years in the pool were outdone by 2013 winners – Kinneret House. The day started off with the Staff vs Students race with the staff once again winning in fine form. Arava and Kinneret battled it out for 1st and 2nd place all day and it wasn’t until the final relay of the day that Kinneret overtook Arava in a surprise victory.
We extend a hearty mazal tov to the following King David Alumni. Please continue to keep us informed by sending your news to: jackie.ellis@kds.vic.edu.au

Alumni News...

Engaged
Daniel Eckhaus (1994)  Bianca Neuhof engaged Jan 2013

Married

Births
Jacqui (1989) & Sam Goldenberg (Kay) Romy Tali 19 Feb 2013
Julien (2002) & Kylie Schulberg (Harris) Raphael born 21 Feb 2013
Craig (1987) & Alyssa Woolf

Teaching Two Generations
Danny Gorog (1993), attended The King David School as one of its early students when the School was established 36 years ago. In 1986, Phil Lerner was his Year 5 teacher and Phil is now teaching Danny's oldest child, Oscar who is a Year 2 student at King David.

Israel Bound
Many of our graduates from the Class of 2012 have taken a gap year. Seen in this photo are our graduates who left on the Aviv Program and will be in Israel until June this year, with many staying on to travel beyond the program.

Life after School
Alexandra Harrison - Ichlov graduated from The King David School in 2008. In 2009, she took a GAP year during which she backpacked through Europe. From 2010-2012, Alexandra completed her undergraduate degree in Arts (Politics and International Studies) at The University of Melbourne. A semester of this degree was undertaken at Venice International University in Italy. Alexandra plans to begin law school next year, and this year will be relocating for 8 months to Tel Aviv to undertake an internship in the field of advocacy and peace building. Alexandra gave a presentation to Years 10-12 at Magid Institute assembly on her experiences since leaving KDS and provided some valuable hints and insight into surviving and succeeding at the VCE.

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

The King David School
Modern | Thinking | Judaism