Dear Community,

The early years classroom operates as a microcosm of life as a whole. Here, our youngest students are exposed to almost all the vital life skills that will establish them as competent contributors to any social environment.

Our students learn to share, to take turns and to establish meaningful relationships with their peers. They will learn to talk and also how to listen. They will gain a sense of self and their relationship to a larger group.

And oh, how they change! Their growth and development often seems to take place before our very eyes. When I first started at the School approximately a year ago, I enjoyed visiting our youngest students at the Alma Road Pre-School. Each time I returned I could track the students’ progress. Students that could not walk were running by the end of the year. Those whose primary means of expression was non-verbal become chatter-boxes.

Whilst it is forgivable to be overcome with how cute our little ones are, it would be a mistake to dismiss the significance of their growing competence and capacities. It is with this in mind that I reflect on the enormous importance of a well-tailored educational program that gives our young ones every opportunity to thrive.

Our inspiring early childhood educational team at both the Alma Rd and Kooyong Rd campuses provides an educational environment which is fun and nurturing but also which challenges our students to flourish through their key developmental milestones and to develop the necessary skills that will carry them through their lives with great positivity.

I encourage you to explore the highlights of the program that are detailed in this magazine and on behalf of our school community I take the opportunity to acknowledge and thank our early years educators for the incredibly important work that they do.

Many thanks,

Marc Light
Principal
The King David Pre-School in Alma Road, St Kilda has had a very successful start to the year welcoming 39 new children to the Centre as well as those continuing from last year and graduating to older rooms. Most notable are our tiniest children in the Nursery – from as young as nine months of age. We have watched them start to crawl and stand and walk before our eyes! The settling in process has been very smooth and we continue to work with families to create personalised programs for each child. This continues in our Toddler and Pre-Kinder rooms where we encourage and challenge the children to become independent thinkers with play based and open-ended activities. We are so proud of the warm and stimulating environment that our talented Educators provide for our youngest King David students.

This year, we welcomed Heather Cheshire as the Director of Pre-School. Heather continues to offer enormous energy and passion for Early Childhood Education and has inspired her team of educators to bring the same enthusiasm to the Pre-School on a daily basis.

New this year to Pre-School has been the earlier opening hours of 7.30am, accommodating families who work. We value feedback from our parents about their experience throughout the School. We have included comments from some Pre-School parents and it confirms that The King David Pre-School truly is a special place for young children to start their learning journey.

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’What do you like best about The King David Pre-School?’

“We adore The King David Pre-School. My eldest attended since he was 18 months (2013) and my youngest at 13 months (2014) in the new Nursery room. All along our journey we have had a wonderful experience. The staff provide a very loving, nurturing and safe environment whilst developing their social skills, their confidence and having fun! They really take notice of each child’s interests and help develop different activities that help grow their natural curiosity and passions.

Nicole Goodman, mother of Ollie, Nursery Room.

“The King David Pre-School has been an excellent choice for our daughter Rio. She is learning so much every day and her language skills are developing more and more thanks to the great teachers she has. Heather Cheshire has created a supportive and loving environment and Rio’s days are a great blend of creativity, play and socialisation under the guise of a strong Jewish culture. It’s a no brainer that we will definitely be sending all our kids there”.

Rodney Hampel, Father of Rio, Pre-Kinder Room

“The educators! They are warm, nurturing and fun, and genuinely understand and care about our kids, quirks and all. They feel more like extended family - a collection of really awesome aunts.”

Lainie Kluska, Mother of Arlo, Nursery Room (and Wilkie in Prep)
Parents often question their child’s readiness to move from Kindergarten into the more formal School environment. We believe that one of the main benefits of attending a Kindergarten connected to a School is that teaching staff can work together to prepare students for this transition. We also provide many opportunities for our Kindergarten children to join with our Junior School so that when it comes time to move to “big school”, this is a natural transition and children can move forward with confidence in their environment and knowledge of the daily routine of school.

In response to this demand, The King David School is launching a program called “Ready Set Go!” to prepare children in Senior Kindergarten for Prep. This program is developed by Early Childhood Educators who specialise in this area with knowledge of the skills required to make a smooth and successful transition to school.

Teachers often talk about important milestones for School Readiness such as the ability to follow instructions and use of the correct pencil grip for writing and drawing. These skills form part of the program, however the “Ready Set Go!” program also offers a much wider range of skills that have been identified as important to a successful transition from Kindergarten to School. Teachers often talk about important milestones for School Readiness such as the ability to follow instructions and use of the correct pencil grip for writing and drawing. These skills form part of the program, however the “Ready Set Go!” program also offers a much wider range of skills that have been identified as important to a successful transition from Kindergarten to School.

Ready Set Go! aims to prepare children in areas such as gaining independence and confidence, increasing attention span, learning to work in groups, initiating conversations and making friends, strengthening gross and fine motor skills, understanding concepts such as sharing and taking turns, as well as literacy, numeracy and general knowledge.

Every family, in conjunction with their child’s educators, will set developmental goals at the start of the program.

Later in the year, educators will write a developmental summary for each child, followed by a Parent / Teacher Interview where these goals and other achievements are reviewed. If a child is at an age where going to school the following year is an option, this process will help families make the decision as to whether their child is ready for the challenges of school.

We also hold an annual Ready Set Go! information session where we discuss and answer any questions about School Readiness. Our educators are always ready to give our families more information about our School Readiness Program and welcome feedback about the activities they are doing at home to help their children prepare for school. This feedback is incorporated into the Program and assists the educators in tailoring the learning experiences to each child’s specific needs and strengths.

An Information Evening will be held this year and details of this date will be promoted via our website.

To find out more about Ready Set Go or to arrange a tour of our Kindergartens, please contact our Admissions Department on (03) 9527 0102 or email admissions@kds.vic.edu.au.
Jewish Life

Dressing Up Purim with Social Justice

Jewish living at its best, was brilliantly celebrated during Purim, balancing learning with joy, celebration with social justice and fulfilling Purim mitzvot while placing students at the centre. Creative Purim costumes and decorations filled the School and Purim music was both sung and streamed through speakers.

Partnering with the Social Justice Community: Matanot L’evyonim - gifts for the needy

Each campus actively learnt about a major project of our community helping to make the world a better place. Southwick Campus, supported by the whole School canned food collection, learned about the important work of SecondBite feeding Melbourne’s hungry. Years 3-5 now understand the significant work of WIZO, supporting the needy children of Israel. Years 6-8 engaged in sensitivity training with Camp Sababa, gaining insight into living a life with a special need. Year 9, on camp, participated in an interfaith workshop with a local school. Senior students learnt from Slavery Links, appreciating how our consumer choices either facilitate or weaken active slave trades around the world today. The students were challenged to consider their choices as we moved towards Pesach.

Student Leadership: Seudat Purim - Celebrating Purim

Years 3-12 joined together at Magid Campus for a massive lunch time Purim experience. Years 8, 11 and 12 students designed and ran this Carnival. The students chose the activities and staffed them as well, including a sausage sizzle and carnival games such as Duck Pond and Hammer the Mole. Year 8 students presented a Purim Spiel, written and directed by Rabbi Conyer, for all of the Middle School, while Senior students created the ‘Glow in the Dark’ party for their campus. Some Year 10 students spent part of the day with our Prep - Year 2 students, leading one of the creative craft activities. There was hardly a quiet moment!

Bryan Conyer
Director of Jewish Life

Bringing the Ancient Pesach Seder to Life

Mixing King David’s secret ingredients of student leadership, contemporary relevance and Jewish tradition, all students were treated to a warm up seder or Pesach experience.

From our tiny Pre-Schoolers through to Year 12, each student participated in an experience that spoke to each child’s stage of development. Rabbi Conyer facilitated a song filled and creative Pesach journey for Junior and Senior Kinders. Rabbi Gersh facilitated the seder for Prep, Year 1 and Year 2. Bryan Conyer, Feygi Zylberman and Year 8 leaders facilitated the Years 3-8 experiences, while Steph Gratch and the Year 12 leaders took all of Years 9-12 through a chocolate seder.

The challenge of Pesach is bringing its ancient messages to a contemporary audience. We are always so gratified when students lead students, and the modern world becomes a place of purpose and meaning because of our Jewish tradition.

Bryan Conyer
Director of Jewish Life

Appreciating how our consumer choices either facilitate or weaken active slave trades around the world today. They reflected upon technology, fashion labels, gossip or a myriad of other options. Years 9-12 took time to understand the slave trade existing around the Cocoa bean, and understood the difference between Fair Trade versus other chocolate sources.

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Year 7 Orientation Camp

Year 7 students, started the new school year by travelling to Philip Island with their teachers, to spend a weekend getting to know each other at the Year 7 Orientation Camp. The goal of the Camp is to provide a neutral and exciting venue for students to get to know each other, as many new students joined Year 7 in 2015. Below are recounts from 2 students who attended the Camp.

I had a lot of fun on Orientation Camp. My favourite experience was body boarding because I love the sea and catching waves. It was a lot of fun finding out about the new students and what they did over the holidays. My favourite non-sea activity was definitely the Havdallah activities. I loved making candles and spice bags. Overall I thought that the camp was quite fun and a good way to meet new students.

Jonah Epstein, Year 7

Orientation camp started when we went to the Monash swimming pool to test our swimming skills. We then got on the bus to go to Phillip island where we would spend our next two days. Two hours later we had arrived and were sitting down listening to our introduction to camp YMCA.

In the period of time that we were there, we went surfing, body boarding, did a beach walk, had an introduction to Aboriginal studies and shared a Shabbat. We had lots of meals. For camp food it was quite good. By the time I got home I was exhausted and couldn’t even move. I slept for two days.

Sarah Barnett, Year 7

Year 9 Expanding Horizons Camp

Camp was an incredible event. Over the three weeks, I have made many friends, become better friends with my friends and done things that I would’ve considered the impossible a few weeks back. When I was at home, I would normally do what any teenager like myself would do: Play X-Box, read comic books and do other activities that would’ve been inside the house. I would rely on my parents to cook me all my food, clean my dishes and wash my clothes. But during camp, my parents weren’t here to take care of me, I had to wash my clothes, cook my food and clean my dishes. I’m assuming that all you readers would say “Omg, I would rather spend a night in a cage with a King Cobra” but you know what? It was extremely fun and camp is my favourite time of the year.

A great man once told me “I am rich, not with money but with family”. On camp, I felt like everyone on camp was my family. Yirmi was the father who would put too much food on my plate so I would eat until I was getting excited, as if a bushfire had appeared and was spreading fast. I had my knife prepared, my hands stiffened and my hands were wet and ready. I chopped and chopped, and there goes the filling for the dumplings. The group and I shaped the food and got all the cutlery prepared.

The hand hit the seventh number, and here comes the crowd, rushing through the entrance and into the seats they go. Entree was served and all the hungry customers smashed their food into their faces; however, the main seem to calm them down. Dessert came and it seemed too ‘cold’ for them, made them freeze up and stop eating. Then, suddenly, the lights went out and then back on again, and there was a panda with a book standing up.

A folk tale was told and the crowd had their laughs, as the show was closing. A choir ended the show with a miraculous song, I did not know that was going to be performed.

And thus, the theme night ended there. I enjoyed this moment so much that I felt as if I had got to know the students a lot more and how they work. Who knew that I could work so well as an individual, to be able to bond with such a community? I’m so glad to be at this school.

By Kevin Tran, Year 9
Creating Successful Careers for our Students

Each year, the Senior School runs a Careers program for Year 10 students. Recently, all Year 10 students participated in a three day Careers program which started with speakers from the Slade Recruitment Group presenting to students on how best to write a cover letter and resume when applying for a particular job. In addition, students were instructed on how to best present themselves at an interview.

Social media presence was also discussed including appropriate email addresses and voice mail messages. The following day, students took part in mock interviews for a job that they had chosen from eight possibilities. The jobs were for positions such as Assistant Manager, Supervisor, Receptionist and Front of House staff in a restaurant. The interviews were conducted in groups in front of a panel of three, two being staff members and the other an outside guest who facilitated the interview. Students were chosen for the job by the panel and the successful candidate will receive a certificate and small gift from the Careers Department.

Students then spent half a day on the Morrisby Profile, which is a test that helps match students’ strengths with potential careers. This is also a valuable tool to help determine the students’ VCE pathway in consultation with the Careers Advisor.

Kathy Popper
Careers Counsellor/VET Coordinator

Community Spirit at King’s Carnival

The 2015 King’s Carnival ran flawlessly, on a picture perfect Melbourne day, with plenty of buzz and excitement. Over 3000 people attended our annual Fete, making it a true community event. Completely run by volunteers, the Fete featured rides, carnival games, arts and crafts activities, great food, gifts, plants, freshly made baked goods and the ever popular ‘Opp Shop Alley’. Students participated in the “You’ve Got Talent” shows and Senior students helped parent volunteers to run stalls throughout the day.

A highlight of this year’s Carnival was the new “Made by KiDS” stall with items made from recycled materials by Magid Campus students. This stall, involving students in the production of items for sale was reminiscent of early School Fetes in the 1980’s where student run stalls were a large part of the day. A special mention must also be made to Marc Light and other School staff who participated in the extremely popular and fun stall “Soak a Teacher!”

Thank you to all staff, students and parents who helped to make this day such a success.

Upcoming Events

As a joint schools’ initiative, The King David School Parents’ Association (KDSPA) together with Sholem Aleichem College Parents’ Association (SACPA) are inviting the community to attend a social event for the highly anticipated Saltpillar Theatre’s production of My Name is Asher Lev based on Chaim Potok's 1972 best-selling novel. This will be held on Thursday 30 April at the Phoenix Theatre in Elwood and tickets are available on our website.

Please also diarise our upcoming Women’s Breakfast on Friday 12 June 2015. You won’t want to miss out on our exciting guest speaker as well as the opportunity to catch up with friends and family in a stunning environment.

Rochelle Rothfield
President, King David School Parents’ Association (KDSPA)
2015 Annual Appeal Chair Tom Gorog

Dear Community,

As one of the champions of the KDS Annual Scholarship Appeal, I would like to reach out and ask that you once again support this very important raising of funds.

As the financial stress on young families increases, it is important that we continue our support of the Scholarship Fund.

The School, as a responsible part of our community, offers a large number of unfunded places to selected students in order for them to achieve their dreams. The monies raised by the Scholarship Fund are put towards this community initiative. We should consider it a mitzvah to be in the position to be able to help make a difference to the education of a young student. Please donate generously.

Thank you,

Tom Gorog, Annual Appeal Chair

Online www.kds.vic.edu.au/donate
Phone Naomi Pizzo 03 9527 0122
Email foundation@kds.vic.edu.au

Every year the Jewish community must invest in its continuity. The King David School Foundation, take the obligation to maximise the potential of our students very seriously. Our outstanding Scholarship Program honours worthy students as they become the Jewish leaders of future generations.

I love The King David School. The fact that this is my last year - it’s actually like my home King David… It’s so comfortable and I am genuinely one of these kids that love school. I love the social and the academic parts. Leaving the institution that has been such a big part of and has shaped my identity, my experiences and has had so much influence on me… I can’t even wrap my head around it. I’m upset but at the same time, I’ve been given such an incredible opportunity being here - I am so fortunate for it.

The Scholarship Program does enable some of the best kids to come and relish in these opportunities which I think is amazing. I can’t speak more highly of the School. Over the years, I have been involved in the Leadership programs the School offers. Mozeet is a group of leaders from Year 7 to 12. I was a Mozeet captain in Year 7 and Year 8 - you would think it was daunting but that is where my leadership started. I loved representing my class and the School. I went to quite a few out-of-school conferences which, again, added quite a dimension to my leadership. In Year 9 I was again a Mozeet captain, in Year 11 I was a vice-captain and now in Year 12 I am a house captain. So leadership is definitely something that is fostered within the School and within me. With these leadership programs, our leadership skills have grown exponentially which I think are great life skills which we need and will take into careers.

I did a Business Management VCE subject last year and did very well in it. I really enjoyed the course. I saw myself applying it to everyday life but I knew that I really wanted to do well so I worked very hard and I was so happy at the end of the year with my result. That showed me what hard work can do. I really worked so hard, and Chris Williams and I worked quite closely which was really helpful, and that is something that I don’t think I would necessarily get at another school just because how small we are. I benefitted 100% from it. It also shows, for Year 12, what I can achieve with my other five subjects this year. It was truly a motivation for this year. I learnt so much from my mistakes and about study practices that I can implement this year - it was brilliant.

My goals are to do well this year and to go to universities with a very high ranking. I might study Law or Arts, I am not 100% sure yet. I have thought of becoming a Psychologist or a Barrister, a Criminologist… there are so many options. I have loved the Jewish education at King David, it has been such a big part of my life. King David in one word? It’s another home.

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14 | The King David School’s Inspirations
We extend a hearty mazel tov to the following King David Alumni. 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.

ENGAGED

BIRTHS

MARRIED

Karen Jaffe attended TKDS from 1984-1991 until Year 8, which was as far as the School went up to.

After completing high school she went to travel and live in Israel for a year, taking part in the Shnat Program with Netzer. She then returned to Melbourne to study the five-year double bachelor degree of Chiropractic at RMIT University, graduating with honors in Applied Clinical science and Applied Chiropractic Science in 2001.

Following graduation, she practiced alongside two of Australia’s most well known chiropractors where she developed her love of working with pregnant women, babies and children. In 2004, due to a love of travel and adventure, she took the brave step of moving to the other side of the world, to Amsterdam, in the Netherlands for an exciting job opportunity even though she had never been there before.

In 2008, Karen was certified in The Webster Technique, a gentle chiropractic technique used on pregnant women. She continues to travel internationally each year to investigate the latest research, and chiropractic. Her focus is pregnancy and paediatrics. In 2010, after more than 2 years of traveling to Barcelona back and forth, she completed her further qualifications in Pregnancy and Paediatric Chiropractic care with the International Chiropractic Paediatric Association. She is now one of only a handful of Chiropractors in Europe to have received the CACCP title alongside her Doctor of Chiropractic title.

In 2011 she established her own Chiropractic practice in the centre of Amsterdam, which has already become the city’s largest family and paediatric focused practice.

In 2011 she was also awarded the DUTCH CHIROPRACTOR OF THE YEAR award, the first woman to ever receive the title.

Later in 2015 she will be returning home to live in Melbourne with her two children Noa and Shai who are enrolled as students at TKDS in 2016.

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

Modern | Thinking | Judaism