2013 has been another momentous year at The King David School. Earlier this year, Michele Bernshaw, our Principal of the last 14 years announced her intention to retire by the end of 2014. School Council is well advanced in the search for Michele’s replacement and look forward to introducing our new Principal to the community in the near future.

In relation to Project Chai Ve’kayam we are delighted to advise that Stonnington Council have unanimously approved the granting of permits for the proposed development for BOTH campuses. We will now place Kooyong Rd on the market early in the new year and expect building works to commence in the second half of 2014.

The King David School Foundation continued to develop throughout this year. The Annual Scholarship Appeal raised a record amount enabling more students to receive a Modern Thinking Jewish education where they may otherwise not have had the wonderful opportunities that our School can provide. We were pleased to have our Scholarship Program endorsed by the Premier of Victoria, The Hon Dr Dennis Napthine, MP; at our sold out Business Breakfast held at the Park Hyatt in October.

It is remarkable how many exciting educational programs are being conducted at all different levels of our School; from the Kibbutz program in our Junior School to the Robotics and Technology programs in our Middle and Senior Schools, our outstanding Performing Arts department that provides students with opportunities to develop their confidence, our Sporting stars who are very competitive in our Inter-School competitions – The King David School is truly a remarkable institution with many opportunities for our students.

Our school community continues to astonish me with its commitment and support and I would like to thank the King David School Parents’ Association for the incredible support it provides to so many aspects of King David School life, together with all our generous donors and supporters who continue to give.

I would also like to thank Michele Bernshaw and her talented staff for the dedication and commitment they demonstrate in educating our children.

And finally, to the VCE class of 2013 - good luck. We will watch with interest and as your lives take you beyond The King David School and we look forward to sharing your future successes as you begin your next exciting journey.

Reflections from the Principal

For our students, the most memorable moments of their school life, the ones they will cherish for many years and share as anecdotes with old friends, will be those experienced in the co-curricular offerings of the school. In our final Inspirations for the year, we have chosen to celebrate some of these special events that have taken place. They are the ‘stand-outs’ but they are all also the culmination of many months of planning, many weeks of intense effort and many instances of striving to put the team first before oneself.

Our teaching team have excelled themselves this year in creating learning experiences that demand full involvement, dedicated and sustained commitment from our students. They have provided the students with opportunities to develop a deeper, more meaningful involvement in Jewish Life, in Sport, to explore new challenges in Science and to engage in the richness of Music and the Performing Arts.

As you read the pages that follow, I hope that you will feel the exuberance, the vitality and the engagement in learning in so many dimensions that is showcased herein as a fitting tribute to a year of growth and opportunities realised.

Michele Bernshaw, Principal

2014 Student Leadership

The candidates for student leadership positions in the Senior School and for School Captain were all outstanding and this was reflected in the voting which showed that a number of positions were very hotly contested.

Our thanks to all the candidates who acquitted themselves so well and made the task of voting a very demanding one.

Congratulations to the successful candidates. We trust that you will lead a strong team of talented Year 12 students whose commitment to our School matches your own.

Sophie Fink
Ross Lomazov
Rebecca Maher

We are proud to announce the 2014 Student Leadership Team:

2014 Joint School Captains

Jewish Life Captains
Joel Burston & Kaitlin Rapke

House Captains
Arama: Naomi Rubenstein & Alexa Bricker
Kinneret: Daniel Kahan & Doren Ben-Zvi
Galil: Aviva Green & Natalie Zaltzberg
Negev: Brittany Marlow & Joshua Lubofsky

I Had Trouble Getting to Solla Sollew

I was a great success. I read the book to the entire school and the students loved it. They were so excited to see me perform as the main character. I even got to sing a few songs from the movie. It was a fantastic experience and I would love to do it again someday.
A spine tingling and wildly entertaining performance of the musical “BATS” was presented by Years 3 to 6 students this week. Transporting us to the world of the remote village of Humperdink, students sang and danced through the Transylvanian Alps, once known for its population of vampires and ghouls.

Impressive stage props set the tone for wonderful characterizations delivered by our students. These included the Dracular family, monsters, police, tourists, baddies and townsfolk. Engaging dialogue as well as eerie musical numbers were delivered to the delight of the audience. Benji Vali as Mr Dracula, Freya Boltman as Mrs Dracula, Jeremy Zion as The Original Count Dracula, Ethan Engelander as Fritz, Ashley Roth as Igor the Hunchback, Rachel Silver as Zsa Zsa and Mitch Cowen as Cecil Starr were stand out performances. Jay Boymal and Lazar Feldman as Nosher and Nasher were also enormous crowd favourites.

The final musical number, “Things that go bump in the night” added the appropriate suspense to a highly entertaining production.

Thanks to Laura Rickhuss, stage direction, Adam Yee, musical direction and all the instrumental teachers. We also thank Gordon Dinn for production assistance and all the parent volunteers and staff who worked backstage with the students. Also to KDSPA for the wonderful BATS Cafe that offered refreshments for sale at both performances.
The Junior School production of “I had Trouble Getting to Solla Sollew” was performed at the Alexander Theatre, Monash University to rave reviews. The children sang and danced to the music of the Beatles, telling the story of the Wicks who were travelling to Solla Sollew in order to avoid their troubles. They eventually discover that the best thing to do is to face up to their troubles but not before being stuck in a storm, riding on sick camels, getting caught in a war and facing many other adversities along the way.

A very dedicated team ensured the success of this Show. This included Laura Rickhuss as Director, Michelle Moran as Musical Director, Karen Katz and her wonderful team for costumes. Year 6 vocal students were also a valuable contribution to the musical component.

The Dr. Seuss story was adapted to theatre by David Opat with Rachel Faigen (2008 Graduate) assisting with the script. It was an amazing night of fun, talent and storytelling. Well done to everyone who was involved.
FIRST LEGO League Robotics Tournament

FIRST® (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is a worldwide organisation dedicated to stimulating school students’ interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

FIRST LEGO League is a competition that encourages students to learn about a modern scientific problem and develop solutions for it while having fun with robots.

Recently, King David hosted keen Science students from Years 4 to 9 across Victorian Independent, State and Catholic Schools to participate in the annual FIRST LEGO League Robotics Tournament. Over 22 teams competed and were required to address the issue of natural disasters and provide solutions.

King David put forward 2 teams, “Stabilizer” (Years 6 & 7) and “The Red Robot” (Years 4 & 5), and the students met after school and on weekends with the assistance of teaching staff from the Middle and Senior School, to work on the challenge.

The Tournament ran throughout Sunday, 10 November at The Rebecca Magid Centre with students displaying their skills with the robots they had built as well as making presentations to a judging panel.

Many of our school staff, current students and alumni played a vital role in ensuring the success of this Tournament and have acted as mentors to new teams entering the Tournament. Special thanks to Milorad Cerovac for his ongoing commitment to innovative Science programs at our School.

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On a magnificent Spring day in Melbourne on 1 November 2013, King David students from Prep to Year 5 ran, jumped and threw themselves into every event for the 2013 Junior Inter-House Athletics Gala. This event gives all students the opportunity to participate in a variety of athletics events practised during Physical Education lessons leading up to the event.

The 800m race for Years 3 to 5 was the first event followed by the hurdles racing for all year levels. The exciting sack race for Prep – Year 2 followed. There was lots of encouragement from team mates, staff and families.

The scoreboard showed many lead changes throughout the day. After the field events of shot put, discus, long jump and triple jump, Arava was out of the contest and it was a fight between Galil, Negev and Kinneret to see who would get ahead.

The egg and spoon race, 50m, 100m and 200m sprints had concluded and it was then a battle between Negev and Kinneret going into the shuttle relay and the Champions Circular Relay.

Kinneret held a slender lead after the Year 1 and 2 shuttle relays and it was down to the circular relay where Negev blitzed the field in both male and female events and took home the title of this year’s champions.

Final Results:

Negev 2320
Kinneret 2254
Galil 2194
Arava 2081
Passion for Thinking

Year 8 students pursued a vision, a goal or an interest as part of their Passion For Thinking project. Guided by Stacy Vamvakas, Humanities Learning Area Leader, the students were highly engaged researching, documenting and creating their projects. This process says Stacy, gives students “the opportunity to deepen their understanding of themselves and all they can achieve through their personal passions.”

Students investigated an area they are passionate about, created solutions and designed an original product. In early November, students presented their projects to a panel of judges and their families.

Some of the incredibly original and creative project ideas included characterizations for a comic magazine, the design for a dream home, a guide to playing guitar for beginners, a travel games pack, a games App, designing and making fashion shoes using bike spare parts, a hand held solar panel, an eCar, a novel and branded cycling gear.

Grandparents and Special Friends’ Shabbat

Junior and Senior Kindergartens at Southwick Campus invited guests to a special Grandparents & Friends Kabbalat Shabbat in the Hall during Term 4. Each class had the opportunity to share what makes their Shabbat special, which included setting the table, saying the brachot (blessings), and of course, singing lots of songs about Shabbat. Songs such as ‘Bim Bom (Shabbat Shalom), ‘Hinei Mah Tov’, “L’cha Dodi” amongst others were sung with beautiful musical accompaniment from Shannyn and Stephanie from the Centre for Living Judaism. It was wonderful to see the guests joining in the singing and made for a meaningful and bonding experience. The children enjoyed passing around the tzedakah (charity) box, adding in their own coins and inviting grandparents to join in our weekly ritual of giving.

The Kabbalat Shabbat was enjoyed by all the children and was a true demonstration of how it is done each week in the classroom. Thank you to Grandparents and Special Friends for sharing such a beautiful and memorable experience with us.
Fluro gear, blue eye shadow, side pony tails, crimped hair and scrunchies were all the rage at the KDSPA end of year party at The Space on Saturday 16 November.

Parents showed off their best 80s dance moves with hits from the 80s delivered by DJ CeeJay, Alumnus Carina Lawrence (Class 2008). It was great to celebrate the year together.

Thank you to the organising committee for running a wonderful night that took us all back to when we were students and not parents!

KDSPA also ran a very successful Book Fair at the end of October. New books from a local bookstore very generously donated to the and approximately $3000 was raised.

We also organised the food and drinks the Prep-Year 5 Inter-House Athletics earning $800 for the Sports Department.

Naomi Engelander, supported by other parents, organised a Bats Cafe which included delicious home baked treats, at the Years 3-6 musical BATS. There was great support for this cafe and we raised $1000 for the Music Department.

What an incredibly busy Term 4 we have had. Thank you to all who volunteered their time to assist with these and all other activities the KDSPA has been involved in this year. We owe a debt of gratitude to all our dedicated volunteers.

Rochelle Rothfield
President, KDSPA

Don’t give away your pre-loved clothes and toys... YET!

Please save your good quality and clean pre-loved womens and children’s clothing and toys over the summer holidays for sale at the King’s Carnival. You will be notified when to bring them in to School at the start of Term 1 2014.

Calling All Volunteers!

If you would like to be involved in helping with a stall at the King’s Carnival, please email kdspa@kds.vic.edu.au. Your involvement helps to make this day a success!

The Class of 2003 and the Class of 2008 celebrated their 10 and 5 year reunions respectively at the Rebecca Magid Centre recently.

It was a wonderful opportunity to meet up with alumni, many of whom had not visited the new Rebecca Magid Centre and therefore had an opportunity to admire the new learning spaces for our students. Two of our alumni brought their babies with them, Rimma’s baby being only 7 weeks old!

Catering was provided by the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC) Catering which supports Asylum seekers who are residing legally in Australia.
We extend a hearty mazal tov to the following King David Alumni. Please continue to keep us informed by sending your news to:

Alumni News...

Engaged
Nimrod Rotenberg (2002) September 2013

Married

Courtney Whittaker
Amelia Plush
James Brichko
Artem Nikolaevsky
Serena Burd

Births
Sophia Rose
Daniel Dobos (1996)
Twins Annabelle Rose & Sebastian Leonardo September 2013
Josh Somerville (1995)
Abby Mae August 2013
Fairlie Wayne (2001)
Lily Hannah October 2013
Aaron Weinstock (1995)
Elina Sarah Ruth July 2013

Musical Maestro
Matan Franco graduated VCE in 2010 having arrived from New Zealand in 2009. As a singer, performer, arranger and composer he has performed in the Yom Hazikaron/ Yom Ha’atzmaut community concerts for the past 4 years and continues to perform at many community events. He was recently the featured performer at the Farewell Ceremony for Ambassador Yuval Rotem. At King David, Matan studied music with Adam Yee, and undertook voice lessons with Dermot Tutty. In December, Matan will be graduating with a Bachelor of Music, specialising in composition, from the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music. Matan has been proudly supported by the Lionel Gell Foundation Scholarship for Composition throughout 2013.

Matan composed and conducted a musical piece at this year’s Presentation Evening based on the poem by Raquel Chalfi.

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