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

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

Dear Community,

Since I began my role as Principal, I have spent much time in dialogue with students, staff, families and other key stakeholders in the wider School community. These discussions have been focused on gleaning a common sense of what is most valued about our School and why it is that people are so proud to be associated with King David.

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

It has been with great excitement that they bring.

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

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

We are thrilled to be receiving so much interest in our new facilities as enrolments for 2017 and beyond continue to grow.

The building project is largely funded by the sale of the Kooyong Road campus which we will continue to inhabit until the end of 2016 at which time our new Kindergarten and Junior School on the Dandenong Road campus will be complete.

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

Naming Rights for many spaces in the new buildings are available and I encourage you to consider how you can help our School reach its goal of sustained financial stability.

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

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

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

As you engage with the new tagline, I encourage you to complete the “It’s where I...” sentence with your own experiences or wishes for your own children or grandchildren. When asked to do so I came up with “It’s where I grew up” in acknowledgment of the key formative years that I spent as a KDS student. It is our hope that the individual “It’s where I...” statements serve as a beacon for us in forging ahead in shaping the next stage of our School’s development in a manner that is truly consistent with the values, ideals and culture that have served us so well up until now.

Many thanks,

Marc Light
Principal

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

Daniel Kahan
2015 Australian Student Prize Winner

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

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

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Preparing for the High Holy Days

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

Dynamic Role Models

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

Students also had the opportunity to be involved in a Krav Maga class at the Senior School, a Hebrew festival, a lesson about Kibbutzim in Hebrew classes, a screening of Israeli films during lunch and the teaching of new songs during T’fillah. Exuberant Israeli dances were taught at every Yom Yisrael and the Year 7 students played a life-sized version of The Game of Life, confronting Jewish decisions along the way.

Israel forms one of the centres of contemporary Jewish identity, and at King David, we invite our students to engage in all facets of Israeli society, especially those that move beyond politics. Our Jewish Life program at the School encourages each student to explore their beliefs, to confirm or develop what they already know, and to feel comfortable in a space with other students who may feel differently. At the heart of this process is the building of a community that values Jewish heritage, celebrates difference and cherishes the views of each of its individuals.

Bryan Conyer
Director of Jewish Life

Grandparents & Special Friends’ Shabbat

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

The visitors were then invited to join Marc Light for morning tea in the Library.
Each year level enjoyed an interactive and engaging experience. Year 5's baked challah with residents, Year 4's played bingo with the residents, Year 3's participated in an origami workshop and made gifts out of origami paper to give to the residents and also sang a special song for Tu B'Av. The students made gifts out of origami paper to give to our community by spending time with the elderly in our community. Each year level shared a special time with the residents. Year 3's participated in an exercise program, Year 4's played bingo with the residents, and Year 5's baked challah with residents. Each year level enjoyed an interactive Kabbalat Shabbat with the residents.

**Random Act of Kindness**

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

The students made gifts out of origami paper to give to the residents and also sang a Hebrew love song to entertain them. Each year level shared a special time with the residents. Year 3's participated in an exercise program, Year 4's played bingo with the residents, and Year 5's baked challah with residents. Each year level enjoyed an interactive Kabbalat Shabbat with the residents.

**Communal Lamentation**

Tisha B’Av is known as the saddest day of the Jewish calendar, marking those moments where Jewish existence was nearly decimated. The students in Years 3-12 participated in assemblies to commemorate these moments and to learn the lessons of resilience within troubled times.

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

**Stories from my Suitcase**

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

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

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

Ayal Nathan
Middle School Teacher

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Ayal Nathan
Middle School Teacher
New Kindergarten for Young Inquisitive Minds

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

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

The new facility will feature flexible spaces that can be opened up for group activities such as celebration of Jewish festivals, Book Week parades and special incursions. The new kitchen will ensure that cooking programs continue to be a regular highlight for our Kindergarten children. The designs see plans for a window and a special step so that children can view teachers taking their freshly baked challah and birthday celebration cakes out of the oven. Story time and spaces for quiet play have their own special nooks designed into each room and pinnable felt walls will provide teachers with a functional way to display the creations made by the Kindergarten children. A wonderful feature of the second storey area is the craft terrace and rooftop garden. This is a specially designed child-safe and shaded area where the children can play and move easily from indoor to outdoor play. Planting and gardening will continue in the new Kindergartens as the program provides an introduction for students to the Junior School Kibbutz program. With an emphasis on working together and a proud sense of achievement when harvesting something that was planted together, the gardening program in Kindergarten allows children to get involved and make a positive impact on their environment.

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

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

Please phone (03) 9527 0102 or email: admissions@kds.vic.edu.au
Recently, 54 intrepid Year 10 students and 7 staff from King David took over Mt Buller for a glorious week as part of the Year 10 Snow Camp. With many students seeing the snow for the first time, the wonder and awe as snowflakes fell was heard across the mountain.

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

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

The Snow Camp is far more than just learning how to ski or snowboard. Students had to persevere with really challenging weather conditions on 3 of the 5 days with the wind and visibility making the terrain even more challenging. Being organised meant that students arrived at the lessons on time and usually with the correct gear, including lift passes, clothing and some food in the stomachs so that they could make the most out of each day.

Russell Newman
Coordinator of Camps

Living History

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

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

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

Rebecca Rudstein
Middle School Teacher

Students Challenged on the Slopes
Epic Theatre at Senior School

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

Kol Ha’Kavod to all involved!

Creativity on Display

The B’nai B’rith 20th Annual Jewish Youth Art Competition award ceremony was held on Sunday 9 August at the Glen Eira Arts Complex. This event is a great forum for showcasing the creative talents of Jewish students in the 11 - 18 age group. The exhibition this year had a very large selection of artworks from all the Jewish schools. Once again the talented and creative Visual Arts students at KDS were given recognition and praise for the high standard of their artwork. More importantly students had the opportunity of seeing their work displayed in a public gallery space.

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

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

Senior School students this year won awards in all the categories of the competition, which includes painting, drawing, mixed media, sculpture and digital art. This is a testament to the broad and varied art curriculum that is offered to the students at The King David School and their ability to experience and gain proficiency in many forms of media and techniques.

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

11 – 13 Age Group
Layla Light Sculpture 1st Prize
Tom Scheuer Mixed Media 2nd Prize
Emily Borenstein Painting 2nd Prize
Lara Valansi Painting Highly Commended
Jessica Stein Painting Highly Commended

14 -15 Age Group
Lauren Priester 1st Prize
Lauren Priester 2nd Prize
Miriam Rubinstein Sculpture 3rd Prize

Age Group 16 – 18
Courtney Pollack Digital 1st Prize
Sabrina Lewis Painting 2nd Prize
Sophie Fink Digital 2nd Prize
Aviva Green Mixed Media 2nd Prize
Amy Priester won the Morrie Gold Memorial Prize of $500 for the best artwork the Show. This was for a painting she did at the Rose Epstein Studio.

Maya Huxley
Visual Arts Learning Area Leader
and we invite you to join us in this pivotal project in our history.

At this time, more than ever, the Jewish community must unite and invest in its continuity, and create state-of-the-art learning spaces for Jewish students now and into the future.

Building Fund. Your donation will enable King David to complete its building program institution and help us with our Capital Appeal by donating to our tax deductible

I encourage you to discover what makes The King David School such a special learning environment. It’s where I...
Alumni Reunions
Class of 2005 & Class of 2010

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

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

Where are they now?

Tahl Swieca's wonderful imagination and creativity was already on show back in his days as a student at King David where he was constantly moulding and creating his eclectic little figurines and leaving them in places around the School to be found and wondered upon.

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

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

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

- Winner - Eckersley’s Art & Craft, Fimo Sculpture Competition, June 2012
- Finalist - Newstar Design Competition, 2014
- Winner - Best in Show, 2014 Graduation Show, Industrial Design Monash University
- Winner - Hills Design Innovation Award, 2015

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

Character sculpture by Tahl Swieca

Please continue to keep us informed by sending your news to: jackie.ellis@kds.vic.edu.au

Please also advise of changes to your contact details, especially email.

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

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