

# Inspirations

The King David School's Magazine  
July 2019 Tammuz 5779



THE KING DAVID SCHOOL





# Contents

- 02      **School Council President**
- 03      **Message from the Principal**
- 04      **Yomim Commemoration and Celebration**
- 06      **Facing my fears on Year 6 camp**
- 07      **Exploring New Horizons on Year 9 camp**
- 08      **Join the club!**
- 09      **Bringing technology to life**
- 10      **Learning a new instrument**
- 11      **Picnic at Hanging Rock**
- 12      **Inter-house competition**
- 13      **Focus on wellbeing**
- 14      **KDSPA**
- 15      **Foundation**
- 16      **Alumni news**

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Front Cover: Joel (Year 3)



Every Friday night, as my family marks the beginning of the weekend by celebrating Shabbat, my teenage daughter whips the cover from the Challah shouting "chicken souffle!" It's a tradition that dates back many years – and was inspired by a story she was told by her Jewish Studies teacher.

Our recent Jewish Life and Learning survey made me think about the many traditions we incorporate into our home lives that are inspired by what our children learn at school. How much joy does it provide parents to see the pride on the face of the child whose school-made challah cover adorns our Shabbat table? And how many Seders have been saved by The King David School Hagaddah?

School Council devised the survey together with our Director of Jewish Life and Learning, Sidra Moshinsky, because we wanted to understand the connection to Judaism our students experience at home, as well as the hopes and expectations of our parents around what we provide to ensure Jewish identity is holistically and seamlessly incorporated into the lives of our children.

Once again, we were overwhelmed by the response to the survey from our school community. Jewish life and learning is clearly an important issue to everyone.

So what did we find?

We learned that almost 80% of our families celebrate Shabbat dinner every week, and that almost all of you celebrate Pesach with at least one Seder. As to other festivals, nearly everyone celebrates Rosh Hashanah and observes Yom Kippur.

Four out of five families told us that Jewish Life and Learning was important in their choice of King David for their children's education, with even more deeming our experiential Jewish education important. Interestingly, almost as many viewed academic progress in Jewish studies as equally important.

But what areas should our children study? Our families' priorities align with the core values of King David, with exploration of identity, Jewish culture and actively pursuing tikkun olam (social justice) and tzedakah (charity) being the most important. The outcomes from our survey are helping us shape King David's Jewish Life and Learning programs for 2020.

Jewish Life and Learning is the beating heart of our school. The aim is that in partnership with our families, our students will have the tools they need to choose how they wish to live their Jewish lives now and in their future.

*Lahra Carey*

Lahra Carey  
School Council President



Too many times this year we have had our hearts broken by the extreme violence and hatred that comes from fearing "the other." From Christchurch, Sri Lanka and the United States we have mourned with different targeted communities through each new tragedy.

With this in mind it is especially gratifying to paint a different scene for you. This one involves young Jewish students engaged in a spontaneous musical jam with First Nations members of the Black Rock Band. I stood by while the combined group sang, played guitar, kazoo and didgeridoo in a mutual expression of joy and friendship.

For the third year in a row we hosted the Black Rock Band from West Arnhem Land, near where our Year 8 students will shortly visit as part of their Jabiru camp. The band played a joyous set for us in our annual Reconciliation Assembly. This assembly was carefully designed to acknowledge the proud culture and connection with country experienced by Australia's First Nations.

This knowledge and understanding are key aspects of our curriculum and peak school experiences. They are explored through our unique relationship with Indigicate – our indigenous-run outdoor education team, our Jabiru experience, through our special commemorations and events and through our academic program.

Occasionally I bemoan some of the negative impacts that social media have on our young students' lives, but did you know that many of our students have used social media to remain in close contact with the indigenous students that they met when in the Northern Territory?

In designing our program, we felt that it was crucial that our students are granted the opportunity to demystify the other and form bonds with indigenous students of their own age and stage.

The peak of the assembly was a raucous and passionate rendition of Black Rock's new song, Red, Yellow and Black which was well supported by an audience of students wearing those colours in honour of the special day.

At our school we will take opportunities to build thriving, respectful relationships with other communities and we also make the effort to stand up when these values come under challenge. We try to bridge gaps in order to highlight that our similarities are far more powerful than our differences and to contribute meaningfully to the blessing of a peacefully, diverse community.

*Marc Light*

Marc Light  
Principal

*Black Rock Band performed at our National Reconciliation Week Assembly*



Will you be in Year 7 in 2021?

## Connect Day

Current Year 5 students attending **any school** are invited to experience a taste of life and learning at The King David School.

**Friday 16 August**  
**8:35am - 3:40pm**

Senior School  
517 Orrong Road, Armadale

Bookings essential.  
Contact the Admissions  
Department on 03 9527 0102 or  
admissions@kds.vic.edu.au

[www.kds.vic.edu.au](http://www.kds.vic.edu.au)





It's where I...  
celebrate my identity



## Yomim commemoration and celebration

Students commenced Term 2 with solemn commemorations for Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Commemoration Day) and Yom HaZikaron (Remembrance Day) in the Senior School before the whole school experienced the joy of Yom Ha'atzmaut celebrations.

The commemorative assembly for Yom HaShoah focused on the particular fate of children and young people in the Shoah, their stories and varied situations. The School heard from child survivor Richard Rozen and a number of students joined their survivor relatives (grandparents, great grandparents or extended members of the family) in lighting six yartzeit (memorial) candles.

The School was transformed into a sea of blue and white for Yom Ha'atzmaut.

Pre-School children had a very full day, taking a "flight" to Israel to learn about all things Israeli, including the buoyancy of the Dead Sea, a Bedouin tent, the Kotel and Masada.

In the Junior School, students started the day with a tekes (ceremony) hosted by the Year 5 leaders followed by the traditional flag parade led by Year 4 students. The remainder of the day involved engaging activities with an Israeli theme, including making an

Israeli salad and decorating blue and white biscuits in the Kinder and Technion science experiments and Israeli geography games for Prep to Year 5 students.

Senior School students entered an Israeli "kibbutz", greeted by kibbutzniks (the Hanhaga). The day's activities included art projects, Technion science problem solving, a masterchef-inspired Israeli cooking competition and a fascinating presentation by Anshel Pfeffer, a British-born Israeli reporter for Haaretz newspaper.

The lunch time carnival was a highlight for students, complete with delicious Israeli lunch, carnival activities and a foam party. The day culminated in an entertaining "Eurovision" style song contest with some outstanding student performances.

**Sidra Moshinsky**  
Director of Jewish Life and Learning







It's where I...  
*challenge myself*



## Facing my fears on Year 6 camp

Every footstep led us closer and closer towards our next activity. Ahead a delicate, golden brown tree trunk with leaves dancing in the wind, stood right before our eyes. Beneath the beautiful tree, some classic yard games lay. Some of those games included, slack line, totem tennis and badminton. My favourite was the slack line because I felt like I was flying, with the support of my friends.

Once we'd received the safety instructions, Mika, Stella and I went to the slack line. I helped Mika get across and then Stella helped me. In five short minutes, I got ready to put on my harness.

Suddenly all of my emotions overcame me. What if the holds on the tree were too far apart? Will my group make fun of me if I don't reach the top? I was strapped in and ready for action. My legs were shaking as fast as a wet dog on a cold day. Luckily my first step calmed me, so did the second and third. Unfortunately, on the rest of the climb, the shaking and emotions came back to me like a swarm of angry and ready to sting bees. What if I fall? What if my foot slips? How will I get down?

My legs kept on shaking until I heard some noise below. Was that cheering? I looked down and realised it was the sounds of my awesome friends!

Those motivational words pushed me higher and higher up the tree.

Before I knew it, I was there sitting on the top branch. I waved to my friends and reminded myself of how brave I was. After my glory, I got up and faced the tree ready to abseil back down again. I felt so comfortable and relieved to be back on the ground and out of that tight harness. Exhilarated, I yelled, "I want to do it again!"

Abi Krause (Year 6)

**"My favourite was the slack line because I felt like I was flying, with the support of my friends."**



## Exploring New Horizons on Year 9 camp

On the 29th of March, the Year 9 students left on a two week camp to Bridgewater Lodge near the border of South Australia and Victoria. We were split into four different groups. Two went hiking in week one and the other two went canoeing. Each group left on Sunday and came back on Friday for Shabbat and an exciting weekend with surfing and some time to relax. Camp taught us many different things about how to work cooperatively as a group and how to manage difficult experiences. It was a once in a lifetime experience which I believe has set us up for learning how to tackle difficult problems in the future.

Behm Gaddie (Year 9)







It's where I...  
*explore my passions*



## Join the club!

Fancy some lunchtime Lego? Or perhaps before school personal training sessions? The co-curricular program offers students the chance to mix with like-minded peers across different year levels in a fun and social environment. From technology and science, to choir and art, the range of activities on offer means that students are spoilt for choice.

The Street Netball Club provides a coordinated indoor sport option each week during the winter months. In the Junior School, the students learn about sustainable environments and becoming eco-warriors in the Nature Club, programming their own video games in the Coding Club and extra drawing lessons for interested students in the Art Club.



## Bringing technology to life

A highly popular co-curricular program across both the Junior and Senior School is MERIT. The MERIT program (Making, Engineering, Robotics and Innovative Technologies) encourages curious and creative learning through a broad range of practical learning experiences. The School offers a weekly Junior MERIT program (Years 3-5) conducted Thursday after school and a tri-weekly lunchtime Senior MERIT program (Years 6-12).

Across the School in the MERIT program, makers have participated in a range of activities:

- designed and built a chariot, powered by a Sphero robot, and raced against their peers
- created robotic artwork, inspired by Jackson Pollock
- made a digital duct-tape wallet that can calculate the money stored on a MicroBit
- learnt the fundamentals of block-based coding and programming concepts
- created a hovercraft out of a CD, balloon and pop-top lid
- investigated and created trebuchets (catapults)
- made a robotic hand model out of cardboard, straw and string
- learnt the fundamentals of 3D design and began 3D printing objects
- created light-up and pop up, Mothers' (and special friends) day cards



- created a network of Raspberry Pi computers to play a networked computer game
  - made a game-controller to play Tetris using fruit, aluminium foil and play-doh
- and much more!

Students may enrol in the Junior MERIT program at the beginning of each term via the Parent Portal.

To learn more about the MERIT program students and parents are invited to the MERIT page blog on myKDS:

<https://my.kds.vic.edu.au/homepage/4697> and watch the news section on myKDS for MERIT program activities, competitions and events.

Heath McGregor  
MERIT Co-ordinator







It's where I...  
*learn new skills*



## Learning a new instrument

As part of King David's Classroom Music Curriculum, all students at our Junior Campus are provided the opportunity to learn an instrument in an ensemble setting. This is a hands-on, immersive learning experience that challenges our pupils to develop complex new skills and allows for the practical application of their theoretical musical knowledge.

The Years 2 and 3 Strings Program introduces students to the orchestral string instruments; violin, viola and cello. The Years 4 and 5 Wind and Brass Program provides the opportunity for all students to learn flute, saxophone, clarinet, trumpet, trombone, euphonium and horn.

For many of our young students, ensembles are their first experience of practical musicianship, and for some, these programs are a doorway to lifelong musical engagement. In Term Two, the programs culminated in a series of performances for an audiences of enthusiastic Pre-School



and Kinder students. The Years 3 to 5 students showcased their knowledge of their instruments and musical skill through instrument demonstrations and performances. These concerts were also a fantastic way to sow the seeds for our youngest students' future learning. The wonder and fascination evident on their faces was a testament to our older students' achievements, as well as the power of music to excite and engage young people.

In these programs, students learn how to produce sound and play simple pieces in an ensemble setting. Through this program, our students in Years 2 to 5 are actively engaged in developing their memory, hand-eye coordination, fine motor, language and auditory skills as well as developing the confidence to perform in front of an audience.

Liz Hender, Junior School Music teacher,  
Lyndon Chester & Barry Luo, String teachers  
Brooke Taylor & Reuben Lewis, Wind teachers

**'The wonder and fascination evident on their faces was a testament to our older students' achievements, as well as the power of music to excite and engage young people.'**



It's where I...  
*love to perform*



The all-female cast brought to life a tale that has haunted the Australian psyche for more than half a century.

## Picnic at Hanging Rock

Our VCE Theatre Studies students performed Tom Wright's adaptation of the Australian classic novel, 'Picnic at Hanging Rock' in three sold-out performances. The all-female cast brought to life a tale that has haunted the Australian psyche for more than half a century. Through extraordinary acting skill, our audiences were transported back to a fateful Valentine's Day in 1900 where three schoolgirls and their teacher vanished without a trace.

The intensity with which the cast portrayed a large variety of characters had audience members transfixed as the chilling Australian classic became nightmarishly real!

Congratulations to Laura Rickhuss for her expert direction and to the cast and crew of this special production which left audiences well and truly wowed by the talent.







It's where I...  
*can be my best self*



## Inter-house competition

The Years 3-5 Swimming Carnival showcased outstanding sportsmanship and stellar individual performances in the pool. The final scores were the closest in recorded history with only 9 points separating first and fourth place. The final race determined Galil the 2019 Champions.

Well done to all students!

**Galil 215 points**  
**Negev 211 points**  
**Kineret 209 points**  
**Arava 206 points**



## A focus on student wellbeing

Our Keshet (connection) program in the Senior School aims to support the academic growth of our students and foster relationships within each cohort with age-appropriate activities.

Students in Year 7 were encouraged to express who they are as individuals, using a small calico square. They decorated this square with paint and text as well as sequins, thread and buttons. Over the holidays their individual squares will be sewn together to form a quilt which represents their uniqueness as individuals but also their place in a strong and vibrant cohort.

Students in Year 8 have been highly engaged in a collaborative task developing a product to sell at a market. They had to work together in small groups to develop their idea, present a market plan and develop a marketing strategy, with all profits donated to charity.



**'Years 9 and 10 students have been working on setting SMART goals. Students in Year 10 also learned about Motivational Interviewing.'**

Years 9 and 10 students have been working on setting SMART goals. Students in Year 10 also learned about Motivational Interviewing. They have attended workshops on effective study habits and techniques and have also been involved in sessions of yoga, mindfulness and physical workouts in the gym.

The focus for our students in Years 11 and 12 this term has been on minimising anxiety and exam stress. In Keshet sessions, Psychologist Evie Bowtell discussed how to manage stress and maximise study. She explained the causes of anxiety, the physiological signs and ways

to proactively prevent anxiety from spiralling out of control. Students were encouraged to articulate things that calm their brain and body. They shared their ideas, thus building an extensive resource. Evie also outlined specifics on how to study; from the physical set up of space and getting in the right mindset to overcoming procrastination and other obstacles to productive study.

Students in Years 6 - 8 also benefited from their first of three workshops run by facilitators from Validate Me. The focus for each session was different at each year level. Year 6 focused on the basics and fundamentals of friendship. The Year 7 students focused on self-awareness and value sets while the Year 8 student sessions were about redefining self-esteem and its relationship to peer pressure.

Jayne Wise  
Senior School Wellbeing Coordinator

## EISM Athletics

In mid May, five talented KDS athletes competed under lights at the EISM Athletics Champions Round at Lakeside Stadium. It was a strong field of athletes from 21 schools. These competitors had qualified as the top participants of each of the three EISM Division Athletics Carnivals.



All of our King David athletes had strong performances, with our field athletes dominating. Teal Komornick (Year 8) won Gold in Shot Put and Camilla Burrows (Year 11) earned two gold in her favourite events, the Long and Triple Jump. She also ran 7th in the 200m sprint.

Noah Spitz (Year 9) was a close 4th in his Triple Jump, doing well to get three jumps on the board in a headwind. Noah Segal (Year 7) ran 9th in the final of the 100m sprint and Abi Brankicki (Year 8) did well to come 7th in two grueling races, the 400m and 800m runs.



All of our athletes were commended on their sportsmanship and performance by many event officials. Congratulations to all.

Sarah Naismith  
Head of Sport & Senior School Teacher





It's where I...  
*join with community*



Taree Mackenzie, Pepper's Ghost Effect, Diamonds, Green and Magenta, 2018.  
Justin Art House Museum collection, image courtesy the artist and Neon Parc.

## KDSPA

It is hard to imagine a more perfect family day out than the King's Carnival held towards the end of March. This well-loved event exceeded expectations on every level. The weather was flawless and the entertainment, food and retail options kept the young and the young at heart busy all day.

It was a wonderful spectacle of community effort and engagement with parents, grandparents, students and staff all volunteering to create a successful day.

Candi Apel and her dedicated committee invested months of planning and it certainly showed in the brilliant end result.

Many thanks to our generous sponsors and supporters, including grandparents who contributed to the success of the day. The Parents' Association are thrilled to report that a profit of just over \$50,000 was achieved which will be used by the School to fund educational programs and resources.

Our PA have also facilitated fundraisers including the Entertainment Books and Art by Kids as well as wonderful opportunities to purchase tickets to musicals and theatre productions at reduced prices. This includes Saltpillar's latest production, Solomons' Secrets on Sunday 11 August and Charlie and the Chocolate Factory on Sunday 15 September.



We are looking forward to our Annual Breakfast which will be held after this magazine goes to print. Many thanks to our hardworking committee for all the preparation.

**Carrie Kausman**  
President – Parents' Association

THE KING DAVID SCHOOL  
PARENTS' ASSOCIATION



THE KING DAVID SCHOOL  
FOUNDATION



## Support your School

Every donation, no matter what size, directly impacts the education of our students and provides valuable resources for our community. School fees do not provide funds required for facilities, scholarships, and specialised educational programs. There are many ways you can support our School. Choose a tax deductible fund that is meaningful to you and help make a difference today.



### Share your Simcha

When your family is planning a Simcha or Bar / Bat Mitzvah, it is always a special time you can share with The King David School community. By choosing your School as one of your nominated charities for guest donations in lieu of gifts, your milestone event will contribute to your choice of the Building Fund, the Educational Programs Fund or the Scholarship Fund.



### Leave a Legacy

Creating a Jewish legacy for our children and grandchildren is the greatest gift we can give. Planning your giving in the form of a bequest in your will to The King David School is a meaningful way to leave a legacy and underwrite future generations, ensuring they know and understand our Jewish heritage.



### Corporate Partnerships

Thank you to the many corporate partners who have taken sponsorship at The King David School Business Breakfasts over many years. This annual event has seen many high profile speakers address a corporate audience of between 300-400 attendees each year, raising funds for our Scholarship Fund.



### Give Your Time

Our volunteers are valued members of our community and The King David School is the wonderful school it is today due to the many people who have volunteered so many hours to support our school. You can make a difference by getting involved in the Parents' Association or Friends Association for grandparents and past families.  
Contact: [kdsipa@kds.vic.edu.au](mailto:kdsipa@kds.vic.edu.au) or [friends@kds.vic.edu.au](mailto:friends@kds.vic.edu.au)

**For further information, contact:**  
Naomi Pizzo 03 9527 0122  
[foundation@kds.vic.edu.au](mailto:foundation@kds.vic.edu.au)  
[www.kds.vic.edu.au/donate](http://www.kds.vic.edu.au/donate)

## Let there be Light

The Justin Art House Museum (JAHM) recently hosted guests of The King David School Foundation during their "Let there be light" exhibition. This event celebrated the generosity of the community. Guests heard our Principal, Marc Light and School Council President Lahra Carey, share some insights about the future for the Foundation and thanked our community who support the School in so many ways.







## KDS ALUMNI NEWS

Our Classes of 2014 and 2009 came together recently for their five and ten year alumni reunions. It was held at the Junior School where our past students were able to appreciate the wonderful new learning spaces for our students. It was a great opportunity to reconnect with classmates and teachers.

### Where are they now?



Dean Levinson

**Dean Levinson's** (Class of 2018) passion for programming was sparked in Year 10 by Science teacher, Milorad Cerovac. After building a wallpaper pricing calculator in the language Python, Dean began experimenting with Python in his spare time. One project he remembers is writing a lengthy text adventure that took place at school featuring his Year 10 teachers and classmates!

In the same year, he approached the School's IT department with a suggested new feature for Vivi, digital product that the School uses to enhance interactive learning. This involved a more efficient way to share video files.

Fast forward to the start of 2017, and Dean applied for work experience at Papercloud, the company originally connected to Vivi. He was offered a casual software development job after school.

Aside from landing a job and learning a lot about coding, Levinson says his favourite aspect of gaining a job at

Vivi was "feeling like I was actually making some sort of difference. Everything else I had been doing in terms of programming was just for fun, just for me. But to actually have new abilities benefit someone else was quite an interesting-and good-feeling."

Since graduating at the School last year, Dean is an important part of the eight person engineering team, working on the Vivi App, Vivi Box and Vivi Central, as well as other behind the scenes infrastructure.

Dean's future plans are to complete a degree in Computer Science and continue to contribute to Vivi's success.

Please continue to keep us informed by sending your news or changes to your contact details to:  
[jackie.ellis@kds.vic.edu.au](mailto:jackie.ellis@kds.vic.edu.au)

We invite all alumni to register with our new online platform: KDS Connect  
[www.kdsconnect.com.au](http://www.kdsconnect.com.au)

For information about The King David School contact the Admissions Department on:  
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THE KING DAVID SCHOOL



Modern | Thinking | Judaism