

Inspirations

The King David School's Magazine
April 2020 Nisan 5780



THE KING DAVID SCHOOL



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Front Cover: Billy (Year 3)



Thank you for your feedback

Last year we changed the way we surveyed our school community. We wanted feedback on a whole range of topics and decided to ask you directly.

It's always a little daunting asking for honest feedback - you never know what you will get back. So we held our collective breath, and pressed 'send'.

The surveys were distributed to our entire King David community towards the end of the last year - parents, teachers and students. To our delight, the survey received the highest response rate in the School's history. We truly appreciate the time spent in delivering your feedback - it allows us to benchmark how our school is tracking against a number of important criteria.

We heard from the overwhelming majority that you would recommend The King David School to other people. Positive word of mouth is one of our biggest assets and we thank you for being our ambassadors in the community and sharing your enthusiasm for the School with your family and friends.

We are also reassured that the sense of community and family that has historically been a vital part of the King David DNA continues to be integral to our current families.

But of course we are also very keen to understand the areas in which we can improve - although carefully combing through the results and analysing the differences in responses between teachers, students and parents felt at times a little like a version of Goldilocks and the Three Bears: too much homework ... not enough homework ... just the right amount.

Council together with the Senior Leadership team are currently reviewing processes to improve the management of classroom discipline, uniform policy and social interactions between students. Your feedback will help us ensure we have best practice in these areas. Our school has always been at the forefront of student wellbeing and this priority has not changed.

The values and mission of our school continue to inform everything we do. We want to ensure that while we grow and develop, we remain true to who we are and deliver well-rounded graduates who will continue to make us proud.

Wishing all families a Chag Pesach Sameach,

Lahra Carey
School Council President



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Dear Community,

One of the great blessings of my job is being involved in guiding our students, regardless of age and stage, through their school journeys.

At the Prep Orientation at the start of the year, I delighted in seeing the students' serious faces, swimming in over-sized uniforms, lugging school bags that they could practically live in. There were far more smiles than tears, and even those were predominantly amongst the parents who seem less equipped to cope with separation than their children!

The Year 12s started their year with a lead-in day and their nervous energy was palpable too, as they mentally prepare for their final year at our school.

We are at the dawn of a new school year in a new decade. Many in our school community are experiencing a new campus or a new school. The school year has gotten off to a tremendous start. When I have walked the corridors, I have seen happy and engaged students busy getting to know their peers while focused on learning new things.

I have stood at the gates and seen the students walking out in groups with huge smiles, buzzing with the energy of a great day. I hope that the hard work and dedication of our teachers and the great relationships forged, help to maintain this positive energy throughout the year.

I have been amazed by the variety of learning experiences our students are undertaking already. The new Year 9 Nitzan program offers our students practical life skills that will help them forever. They have so far enjoyed getting involved in gardening, ironing, sewing, hammering, sawing, mechanics, electronics and a Barista course.

The Years 6 – 8 Launch Week has also seen our students engaged in great fun, learning and social development opportunities. Students have been challenged with the 1000 step climb in the Dandenongs, have been on scavenger hunts across the School and have begun to forge new friendships.

At one of our opening assemblies, I asked our students to consider what their 2020 legacy would be.



Meeting of the Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) group

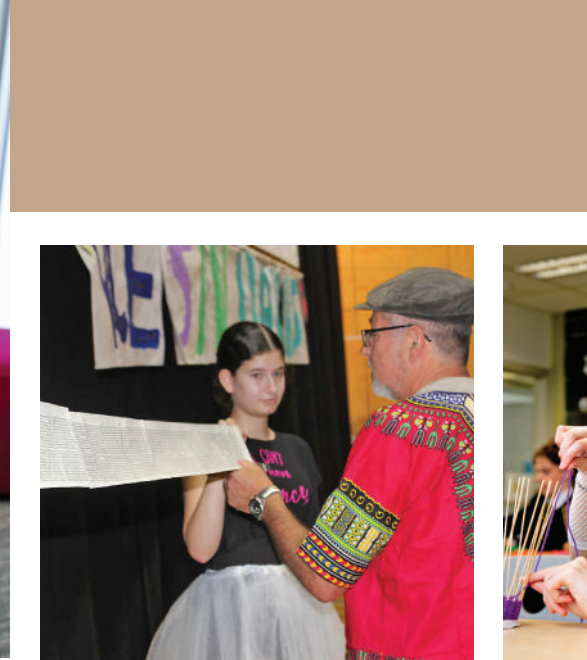
I reminded them that we are highly regarded for our positive relationships. I explained that when we sit in enrolment interviews we often ask the students how they think their friends would describe them. I then extended on this question with our entire student body. How would they like their friends, their teachers, their parents and their friends' parents to describe them? What are they like as a friend, as a student, as a daughter or son? What adjectives would they like to add to the list during this school year?

I have been reminded that we truly have something special at our school. It is so clear that we have a unique and powerful pull of community, infinite respect for the individual and an offering of a genuine sense of belonging and connection. This is no accident – we all work hard on building the community that we wish to be a part of. That said, we must not take it for granted and have to focus on continuing to strive to welcome our newest members into the KDS family. So to all our families, I request that you take the opportunity to model the behaviour that we would like our children to exemplify. Please invite one-another in and make an effort to get to know our newest community members.

I trust that with all your help we will continue to be the place to belong in 2020.

Marc Light
Principal

Follow us on  and  Instagram
@thekingdavidschool



A joyous Purim

From the youngest Queen Esthers and Mordechai, to our Year 12 students decked out in space suits, all King David School students enjoyed a full day of Purim activities, characterised as always by intense colour, music, food and engaging sessions. Across the School, all students had the opportunity to fulfil the four mitzvot of Purim: exchanging mishloach manot (gifts), giving matanot l'evyonim (gifts for the needy), hearing the megillah and enjoying a mishteh (feast). ELC students donated to Flying Fox with Junior and Senior School students donating funds and needed items to C Care.

At the Junior School, students participated in the traditional parade, showcasing creative costumes of all types. They were led in activities by Year 10 students participating in Hadracha (leadership program), gained insight into the writing of a megillah with a visiting sofer (scribe) and were entertained by a circus show and fair.

At the Senior School, a circus theme defined many of the activities, decorations and food, with students

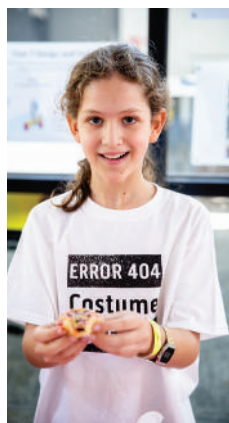
participating in circus workshops, drumming and being entertained by skilled performers. Dassi, a member of Pathways, presented to certain year levels about the Purim themes of identity and masks in her journey from ultra-Orthodoxy to a more secular lifestyle.

Sidra Moshinsky
Director of Jewish Life and Learning



It's where I ...

celebrate my Jewish identity



It's where I ...

make lifelong friends



Launching into the school year

Launch Week, a school initiative for Years 6 to 8 students has been an exciting way to begin the 2020 school year. Students participated all week in tailored programs, aimed at fostering a connection to the core King David values and to inspire our students to be their best both academically and socially as the school year commences.

Launch Week was jam packed for our Year 6 cohort starting with a scavenger hunt to assist in familiarising themselves with the Senior campus. They worked to build miniature billy carts, which encouraged team building and they learnt about cyber safety. Two real highlights were Kabbalat Shabbat with the Jewish Life team and their first Senior School Swimming Carnival.

Year 7s focussed on fostering new friendship connections as twenty seven new students joined the Year 7 cohort. Planned activities required students to work in a range of different groups, giving opportunities for getting to know one another and engender a warm and inviting environment for all. Some of the highlights from the week included guest speakers as well as a rock climbing excursion.

Year 8s prepared for their hike along the Kokoda Memorial Track (1000 steps) which is situated at the foothills of the Dandenong Ranges.

They walked together in small groups to ensure everyone completed the hike safely and comfortably and ate a hearty lunch which was organised by their group members.

We have been thrilled to see students embrace the challenges presented to them in their first week of the school year and we know that they have been given the opportunity to build skills and focus for a great year ahead.

**Feygi Phillips Year 6 Coordinator,
Jessica Chakman Year 7 Coordinator,
& Tina Syros Year 8 Coordinator**



It's where I ...

extend my Jewish learning



Setting the right tone

Starting the year on the right track, the Senior School students attended an uplifting and inspiring Back to School Service earlier in the term, led by the Hanhagah (student leaders) and Jewish Life team.

There were special honors given to staff and students in recognition of their contribution to school life and personal reflections.



Much of the service included music accompaniment by Senior School music students and singing. The Year 12 cohort received a blessing by Rabbi Gersh Lazarow with wishes for a successful year and beyond.



Kabbalat Siddur

Year 3 students received their Siddurim from their families at our Kabbalat Siddur tefillah recently. The Year 5s led the minyan (prayer community) and welcomed the proud and excited Year 3 students with some reflections and words of wisdom.

Students heard from staff members along with Year 3 parent, Monica, who shared the significance of personal and family Siddurim. Upon receiving their inscribed Siddurim, the Year 3 students were given a blessing by their parents and recited the shehechyanu blessing for having reached such an auspicious milestone. It was a moving tefillah celebration.

Louise Lowinger
Teacher & Jewish Life Coordinator K-5

Words of Wisdom from Year 5 students

"I feel a part of my Jewish community when we are all in one place doing something together. Praying together in our Years 3 to 5 minyan is important because we are like a family."

"Year 3s, now that you are joining our community, you should know that you never need to be scared to share your opinions here."

"You should know that it's OK to make a mistake because we are going to be here for you."





A journey of self discovery

Students in Year 9 are at a pivotal moment in their development. It is at this age that they begin to ask the questions “Who am I? Who do I want to be? How do others perceive me?” It is a period when young adults are tentatively developing a sense of self, are beginning to explore how they fit into the world around them, and start to question the status quo.

In response, The King David School has developed a full day program specifically designed to support and challenge our Year 9 cohort on their journey of self-discovery. Called “Nitzan” [Bud], the program is dedicated to providing practical skills for a self-reliant future. The program gives King David students ownership over their learning, empowering them to build skills for their future through a variety of vibrant, dynamic and practical learning opportunities. Students wear their Nitzan T-Shirt and casual clothes every Wednesday to further emphasise that Nitzan is special and to create a sense of belonging.

Jayne Wise, Senior School Wellbeing Coordinator adds that “our Year 9 program is about engagement and empowerment; it supports their need for independence as adolescents as well as giving them practical skills for the future”.

Starting each Wednesday with a physical activity – early-morning running, yoga, meditation or personal training - the students then spend the rest of the day learning practical life skills or exploring themes such as social justice, ethics and Tikkun Olam.

The afternoons are spent learning practical skills including ironing a shirt, repairing a bike, basic landscaping and home repairs. By the end of Term 1, each student will have accreditation in Food Handling, CPR and Barista Basics. Along with the ability to apply for a tax file number and write a CV, our students will be well prepared for entering the part-time workforce.

Each term has a theme which is developed through activities, excursions and peak experiences. The model follows the School’s understanding of educational neuroscience combining Project Based Learning (PBL) and Design Thinking (DT) and is supported by content from our Wellbeing curriculum.

A current Year 9 student asserted that they “used to think that school would only supply us with factual information, rather than skills that we may utilise in real-life scenarios, but now I think that The King David School has a dedication and goal to correctly set us up for adult-life”.



It's where I ...

challenge myself



It's where I ... bring
my learning to life

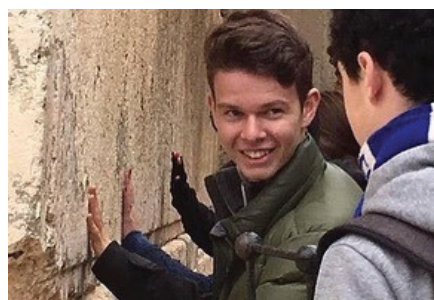


Exploring Israel

Yesh made me think about ... 'my connection to Judaism', 'my Connection to Israel', 'my life and the paths I could take'.

What I liked best was ... 'experiencing such a complex country with so many friends', 'getting closer with the year level', 'the food!'

These are just some of the student comments voiced at the end of Yesh 2019-2020, the School's four-week Israel trip for Year 10 students. Over their time in Israel, the 36 students, accompanied by four teachers, two Israeli madrichim and tour guide Dr Tuvia Book, travelled the length and breadth of the country. From ascending Masada and walking back centuries with every step and hiking in the dark to a lookout where we could view the sun rise over four



countries (Israel, Egypt, Jordan & Saudi Arabia), to coastal areas, the mystical town of Safed and, of course, Jerusalem, the group could experience much of the land's natural and historical diversity.

The program also invited students to experience the cultural and social mix that constitutes Israel in the 21st century by fostering encounters with the Bedouin, Palestinian and Druze minorities; hearing from a Sudanese asylum seeker, members of Tel Aviv's LGBTQ centre, modern Orthodox, kibbutzniks, far-right settlers, members of the Reform community and others.

A degree of choice was offered through the 'Tracks' options, with students choosing to spend three days either experiencing the desert close up, engaging in tikkun olam (social justice) or participating in a culinary tour.

'It was one of the best experiences of my life,' wrote one student. It doesn't get much better than that! Liad Navon commented that "Yesh was a truly incredible experience, that helped shape my Jewish identity, and opened my eyes to different perspectives".

Sidra Moshinsky
Director of Jewish Life and Learning



It's where I ...

learn new skills



My Year 7 camp experience

Throughout the week on Year 7 camp, I got to spend time with my friends and take part in amazing activities. We surfed at amazing beaches, went on walks, played sports, danced with Nina and more! My favourite thing at camp would have to be the beach carnival we had on the last day. At the carnival we were all split into our house teams to compete in a lot of different fun beach activities. My house is Negev, which was interestingly renamed 'Nan's Red Closet' for the day. I had a lot of fun competing with my team. We all cheered for each other (which we actually got bonus points for), contributed in team strategies and overall worked well as a team.

The activities throughout the day consisted of building sand castles, having a relay race in the water, practising life saving and racing on the sand!

Two things I definitely took away from camp were better teamwork skills and a love of surfing.

Kara Freitag (Year 7)



Boogie boarding, walking, surfing, skit night, more surfing, more boogie boarding, swimming in the ocean and having an amazing time. This basically sums up Year 7 camp. The aim of the camp was teamwork and we got to do this by helping each other stand up while surfing and doing different activities run by the teachers. Some of these were Nina's amazing dance lesson / party, building huts out of nature with the one and only Damien Green, doing archery and making fires with Russell Newman. These activities were the cherry on top after all the tiring, but amazing surfing. So many people tried so hard to get on top of that board and catch a wave.

As we surfed over the week, we improved our skills and nearly everyone got to stand up. Then there was skit night, a night filled with comedy, laughter and stupidity. This was on the last night and was an extremely fun way to end the camp and relax. There were intermissions performed by two M.C.s (Gaby Polkinghorne-Katz and Asher Levy) who kept the audience laughing. There were tales of fortune tellers, magicians, comedians, women doing aerobics and so many more magnificent acts. The final day of our trip included a beach carnival packed with beach games, lifesaving and house spirit. Galil came home with a win from the carnival and we all came home tired and happy.

Hannah Kausman (Year 7)



Camp was the best!!! We had so many fun and engaging activities to do and we were never bored. The camp site was amazing. All the rooms were so clean and comfortable. Go Ride A Wave was a really fun program and the beaches were beautiful and tidy. It was the best camp I have ever been on and I am so excited for future camps at this amazing school!

Olivia Penny (Year 7)



It's where I ...

learn healthy habits



Healthy body, healthy mind

Student wellbeing is a high priority and daily focus at King David. This can be seen throughout the School in all age groups.

We understand that students must be in the right frame of mind in order to be ready to learn.

Our youngest students in the Early Learning Centre include regular yoga and meditation practices throughout their week. Junior School students in Prep - Year 5 partake in daily mindfulness after they come in from their lunch break. This calms the body and gives each child the chance to recharge their energy and their mind for a fun afternoon of learning opportunities. This helps concentration and also gives students the tools to learn how to regulate their emotions.

At the Senior School, students in Year 6 each complete a term of mindfulness during the Kindle program; learning techniques such as mindful eating and breathing to calm the mind. Similarly, our Year 9 Nitzan program gives students one term in mindfulness and meditation and another in yoga during the early morning "Kick Start" program to encourage all students to experience the benefits of starting the day with a clear mind. Our VCE students have the opportunity to participate in guided meditation sessions on a weekly basis in the School's mindfulness studio to help balance out their studies.



Similarly, Sport and physical fitness are also a priority throughout the School. Students participate in both Physical Education and Sport each week. All students can also choose the Sport Science elective in Years 7 and 8. All students participate in inter-school sporting competition from Years 5-12. This weekly sport encourages all students to enjoy physical activity in a team environment.

Before school sport is run each morning at both campuses by our coaching team and students can join in a range of sports such as soccer, basketball, football and cricket from 7.30am. At the Senior School, the gym is also open 5 days a week for before school and lunchtime sessions supervised by our qualified personal trainer.



It's where I ...

try my best



Friendly competition at the pool

King David's biggest ever Senior School Swimming Gala took place at Harold Holt Swim Centre this term and the atmosphere was fantastic. The pool was busy with students participating in individual and team events. The day began with the student team narrowly defeating the staff relay team. The day began with the student team narrowly defeating the staff relay team. At lunch time Galil was leading on the scoreboard with Kinneret close by. The lunch time dance off saw Arava jump to the lead as they were electric on the dance floor but their performance in dancing could not be matched in the pool as they finished the day in 3rd place. Negev could not match their athletics day performance and came in 4th place and before the relays began it was a competition between Galil and Kinneret. Kinneret were named the 2020 Swim Champions as they dominated the relays in many age groups. A wonderful day was had by all students and staff.

Drew Solewicz
Sports Manager





It's where I ...

join with community

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 **entertainment.**

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 School and save.**

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Welcome to the new school year!

Our first term was a very busy one for the Parents' Association. Representatives from our committee attended parent orientation evenings across the School and we facilitated class reps at each level, ensuring streamlined communication between the School and families.

We hosted a hugely successful "Welcome to Kinder" picnic, with families coming together on a Sunday to mingle and enjoy a fun morning together.

Our annual Year 7 parent get together offered a great opportunity for families to meet in a relaxed setting. Many thanks to Rochelle and Daniel Rothfield for hosting this event in their lovely home.

Please support our Entertainment Membership fundraiser as this is an easy way to support the School and save across restaurants, attractions and shopping.

Wishing all families a Chag Pesach Sameach!

Carrie Kausman
 President - Parents' Association

THE KING DAVID SCHOOL
 PARENTS' ASSOCIATION



It's where I ... invest in
future generations

2020 VISION



2020 Vision – Annual Scholarship Appeal



At King David, we are proud to provide our students with outstanding educational programs and opportunities.

We aim to deliver graduates who are leaders in their chosen field and who make positive contributions to society and our community. One such alumnus is Alexandra, who graduated from the School in 2008. This year's Annual Scholarships Appeal will feature Alexandra's story.

Alexandra, known as Ally to her friends, remembers her time at King David fondly. As a 9-year-old girl, Ally clearly recalls the nerves she felt on her first day of school when she started in Year 4 at King David. Her fears were swept aside after experiencing the warm and empathetic embrace of the school community.

Ally is someone who has spent her life pursuing a passion for knowledge. At King David, Ally was encouraged to follow her dreams and ambitions. She remains forever grateful for the scholarship and financial assistance given to her family which enabled her to have a King David education, an education which transformed her life.

"King David is a school that highly values inclusivity and social justice. As part of this, we believe that every Jewish child should have access to these educational opportunities."

Ally went on to study arts, politics and law at the University of Melbourne and then travelled to the UK for a year where she completed her master's degree in Law at Cambridge.

She recently completed a 12 month position as an associate with a federal court judge and will soon be returning to her job at a major legal firm in Melbourne, following her wedding in March.

King David is a school that highly values inclusivity and social justice. As part of this, we believe that every Jewish child should have access to these educational opportunities.

In early May we will be launching our Annual Scholarship Appeal.

This Appeal will directly support Opportunity & Inclusion (O & I) Scholarships and Academic Scholarships. O & I Scholarships are means-tested,

allowing families to apply for assistance to join our School community and experience all that King David has to offer.

The Appeal will be promoted by mail, social media and community sponsored billboards.

Please feel free to contact the Foundation office if you would like more information at this time.

Ruth Lew
Head of Foundation
e: ruth.lew@kds.vic.edu.au or
T: 03 9527 0122

Georgia Levy
Foundation Officer
e: georgia.levy@kds.vic.edu.au or
T: 03 9527 0181

THE KING DAVID SCHOOL
FOUNDATION



Where are they now?



Gabi Abrahams graduated from KDS in 2015. Passionate about Science and Technology

and inspired by teachers including Milorad Cerovac, Russell Newman, Angie Atal and Philip Swedosh, he studied a Bachelor of Science majoring in Physics and a Diploma in Applied Mathematics at the University of Melbourne, graduating in 2019.

During his undergraduate degree, Gabi joined the Melbourne Space Program. He was team leader of the Mission Operations and Telecommunications teams, responsible for Earth-Space communications.

The satellite, ACRUX-1, has been successfully operating in space since July 2019 and is the first Australian student designed and built satellite to be launched into orbit since 1970.

Gabi has been delighted to discover the enormous diversity of research which can be addressed with a Maths and Physics background. He has worked at the CSIRO on two projects: researching protein crystallisation at the Collaborative Crystallisation Centre and investigating machine learning for epileptic seizure prediction at Data61.

He has also worked on radar detection of near-Earth asteroids at UNSW Canberra Space and on the communications system of SkyHopper, a satellite designed to study exoplanets and gamma ray bursts.

In 2020, Gabi is starting a Master of Physics at Melbourne, with a research focus on condensed matter physics and quantum sensing. He is excited to be pursuing a future of scientific enquiry and discovery.

Births

Gabi Bartak (Weitzer) (2010)
& **Joshua Bartak**
Eliya Yonina

Shayndle Loewy (Grinblat) (2007)
& **Nick Loewy**
Samuel

Engaged

Darren Abrahams (2002)
& **Amy Breuer**
December 2019

Hayley Eden (2010)
& **Omer Feldman**
November 2019

Simon Finkelstein (2007)
& **Natasha Bakanursky**
February 2020

Brett Joffe (2008)
& **Rachy Alter**
December 2019

Daniel Sheiman (2011)
& **Gabbi Grayman (2011)**
November 2019

Married

Or Cain (2004)
& **Matthew Colpoys**
March 2020

Shelley Esakoff (2011)
& **Dean Dagan**
March 2020

Romi Goldschlager (2004)
& **Kieran McLean**
February 2020

Fiona Grouber (2010)
& **Jonti Beder**
March 2020

Alexandra Harrison - Ichlov (2008)
& **Angus Willoughby**
March 2020

Jason Herbert (2010)
& **Tallia Tink**
March 2020

Liana Kiriati (2011)
& **Sam Blashki**
March 2020

Eliezer Moshel (2014)
& **Chava Turtletaub**
April 2020

Alumni Reunions

Please email alumni@kds.vic.edu.au if you have not received an invitation to our 5, 10 or 20 year reunions

CLASS of 2015 (5 Year Reunion)

Sunday 24 May 2020 6:30pm - 8:30pm
Junior School Campus, 373 Dandenong Road, Armadale 3143



THE KING DAVID SCHOOL

CLASS of 2010 (10 Year Reunion)

Sunday 24 May 2020 6:30pm - 8:30pm
Junior School Campus, 373 Dandenong Road, Armadale 3143



THE KING DAVID SCHOOL

CLASS of 2000 (20 Year Reunion)

Sunday 24 May 2020 6:30pm - 8:30pm
Junior School Campus, 373 Dandenong Road, Armadale 3143



THE KING DAVID SCHOOL

Please continue to keep us informed by sending your news or changes to your contact details to: jackie.ellis@kds.vic.edu.au
We invite all alumni to register with our online platform: KDS Connect
www.kdsconnect.com.au

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