

Inspirations

The King David School's Magazine

September 2019 Elul 5779



THE KING DAVID SCHOOL



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Front Cover: Talia, Freya and Rachel (Year 12)



Our King David students are passionate about their future and the world in which we live. The School's core values of social justice and Jewish values of tikkun olam (repairing the world) encourage this mindset, and are evidenced time and again through many and varied student led initiatives.

Protecting our environment ranked high on the list of student priorities in this space - a passion shared by the School, to ensure a sustainable future, with a reduced carbon footprint.

To this end, we have recently completed the installation of solar panels so that 80% of the School's power now comes from the sun. While the significant cost savings for the School will be felt in about four years time, the educational benefits begin immediately, with students learning about alternative energy and future proofing for a sustainable future.

Another recent Council-led initiative I am extremely proud to support is the NCJWA Gender Equality Pledge where Jewish organisations - including The King David School are committing to finding a more equitable gender balance in leadership structures. The aim of the pledge is to ensure there is a more balanced representation of Jewish women in leadership and positions of influence across our community, and this certainly aligns with our School's core value of egalitarianism.

As we enter a new Jewish year, I am proud that King David continues to be a School that moves with the times and is at the forefront of positive change for a better future for our young people.

Shana Tova,

Lahra Carey
School Council President



Anna Fink, Head of Sustainability Committee, Ella Freeman and Freya Boltman, School Captains and Marc Light with the newly installed solar panels at the Senior School



Our passionate educators have continued to provide dynamic and innovative curricular and co-curricular programs for our students this term and some of these are featured in this issue of Inspirations.

At King David we value the wonderful impact our teachers make on our students' lives. We employ educators who are invested in our students' successes. We recognise that the teacher-student relationship is the key one in ensuring positive student outcomes and so we prioritise developing our teachers' capacities to support student wellbeing through our conferences, professional development and programs.

We offer outstanding learning opportunities for our students which inspire curiosity and questioning and we open their eyes to the fantastic possibilities that can come through approaching the world with wonder.



Dr Nichole Barry, guest speaker at a special Science Week assembly



Year 7 students engage in a discussion regarding the solar panels installation

It was deeply gratifying to witness the engagement of our students, from Pre-School through to Senior School in Science Week. In the face of significant global issues, motivating our students to deepen their interest in science has become essential.

Supporting our students to explore and develop through the creative and performing arts, Jewish Life, outdoor education, sporting competitions and curricular and co-curricular programs offers them so many opportunities to thrive.

Wishing our community a Shana Tova and a year ahead filled with meaning and purpose.

Marc Light
Principal



Year 4 Kabbalat Tanach ceremony



Senior Kinder Grandparents' Shabbat



It's where I... *celebrate my Jewish identity*



Year 4 Kabbalat Tanach



Year 4 students were presented with their personal Tanachim by their families in a special celebration, Kabbalat Tanach in Term 3. The Tanach is a compilation of our foundational stories, guiding our personal, familial and communal ethics, values and beliefs. It is the history of the Jewish people and this ceremony is a handing down of heritage and tradition.

Recently the students have been learning Jewish Studies through a lens of understanding character analysis. Who a person is, what motivates them and what forms the core of their truest self. In striving to learn more about themselves, the Year 4s discussed their own Hebrew name, its meaning and why it was chosen for them. We are told that parents are given a glimmer

of divine inspiration when naming their baby. Judaism considers a name to be the conduit of divine energy and in bestowing a name on each of our children we pass on attributes, characteristics and the essence of what makes each of us unique individuals.

Our Year 4 students shared their reflections on their own names and character traits. They created unique artworks and discussed how they feel connected to our rich Tanach heritage. Each child spoke beautifully and touchingly. Kol Hakavod!

Justine Kaicer and Louise Lowinger

Celebrating Kabbalat Shabbat

Students from Pre-School to Year 2 had the opportunity to welcome grandparents and special friends to a Kabbalat Shabbat where they showcased their learning of the beautiful Shabbat rituals and songs. Their enthusiasm showed they have clearly been engaged throughout their Jewish Life learning.





It's where I...
challenge myself



"... our students were engaged in learning the various art traditions taught by local students ..."

called The East Alligator river. It hosts over 4000 crocodiles! On that cruise we learnt about the animals and trees that surrounded us and were given a powdered rock called "ochre" which we mixed with water to make paint, that we could paint onto our skin. Another highlight was seeing the sunset at dusk. We saw it on top of a huge rock call Ubirr, and we could see the land for miles on end. In between we have been going to the local pool, meeting the people who live here and and eating delicious meals. We all enjoyed our stay in Jabiru, and are extremely happy to be escaping the cold in Melbourne.

Samuel Want (Year 8)



Indigenous Camp

The Year 8 students were immersed in experiential learning on the Indigenous camp to Kakadu. The camp has a strong focus on developing cross cultural connections and looking at Indigenous Australia through the eyes of other children. For this we partner up with Jabiru Area School to have activities taught to students from both schools.

"One of the most challenging things has been leaving behind modern conveniences, including phones and TV."

We invited members of the local community to our Shabbat service during which various students from King David led and explained the significance to those present.

Then our students were engaged in learning the various art traditions taught by local students, had the option to learn the local language, Kunwinkju, participate in various sporting activities that have an Indigenous practice, as well as going out on country to spend time learning from the Elders, Auntie Violet and Auntie Elizabeth.

Russell Newman
Camps Coordinator

Student reflection

We have been trying all sorts of new things including sleeping in tents, meeting all types of people and experiencing a new culture. One of the most challenging things has been leaving behind modern conveniences, including phones and TV. Not to mention that we have been sleeping in tents with the temperature at 23 degrees despite it being Jabiru's winter! Some of my highlights of the trip include when we went to a local river

It's where I...
thrive

Israeli Cultural Immersion



Our dynamic visiting Israeli Madrichim have engaged students in various activities involving Israeli culture.

These informal education programs complement the Jewish Studies curriculum.



Staff Wellbeing Program

At the beginning of Term 3, all staff participated in a Student Wellbeing Conference that focussed on the theme "Friendship". Led by highly qualified presenters including psychologists, educators and people working in the area of resilience, they addressed friendships in the cyber world, bullying and the complexity of changing friendships. The sessions explored how our educators can assist students with their friendships which clearly helps them at school, but also later in life.

One of our keynote speakers was Mike Rolls, a motivational speaker and youth counsellor who is also a double

amputee. Marc Light in one of his Insights blogs conveyed that "Mike's powerful message was that we cannot predict the vicissitudes of life but we should do what we can to prepare our students to develop the skillsets to cope when things do not go their way and to be better prepared to embrace the subsequent challenges so that they can thrive regardless".

Across the School, wellbeing sessions are an integral part of the curriculum and educators plan age-appropriate programs.

David Opat, Vice Principal - Wellbeing

Year 10 Wellbeing Program

Early this term, Year 10 students experienced a full day wellbeing program with male students engaged in sessions run by The Man Cave and female students attending Flourish Girl.

Through a series of activities, the male students had an opportunity to think about the qualities they wish to possess as they get older. They had a chance to examine the perception of men in society and then they spoke about heroes, happy times and hard times in their lives. It was beautiful to hear so many boys talk about their heroes being their own fathers. The day broke down many barriers between students who spoke about a series of travails

that they have each faced. They left the program feeling supported by their mates and knowing that they can depend upon each other.

Flourish Girl is an organisation that works to empower teenage girls to "become unstoppable women in today's world". The female students participated in discussions and activities that helped them open up to one another, and they began to address and break down the barriers they often face when trying to express themselves and navigate the world. The group worked together to unpack some of the negative thoughts that stop them from being their true selves,

and they helped each other build a 'tool kit' for tackling these challenges. The young women left the day feeling supported by one another, and empowered to be the best version of themselves that they can be.

Jayne Wise
Senior School Wellbeing Co-ordinator





It's where I... explore the wonders of science



A Passion for STEM

Our educators at King David recognise that a passion and aptitude for Science and Technology opens many doors for future jobseekers. As such, our youngest students in Pre-School through to our Senior School students have been engaged in innovative Science programs and activities this term.

In support of national Science Week, Pre-School children engaged in experiments using milk, food colour and detergent to explore shapes and patterns. In the Kinder, Jonah's Dad, Leon came into Gan Te'ena to do Science experiments including "a colour symphony", "blobs in a bottle", "coloured flowers" and "foaming mountain" experiments.

In the Junior School, Years 1 to 5 students are learning coding and robotics including Scratch programming and the sophisticated Python chatbots. These will be essential foundational skills needed for a future in digital technologies.

The Senior School celebrated Science Week with a smorgasbord of choices for students to actively engage in Science. This year's theme was: "Destination Moon: More Missions More Science" in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the moon landing. Observational cosmology and radio science speaker, Dr. Nichole Barry, gave an inspiring presentation at a Senior School assembly.



Year 8 students participated in a live stream from the International Space Station.

Year 7 students hosted an Earth in Space Expo. They presented their key knowledge and 3D models to very interested Year 3 students!

A Planetarium Science Dome gave Year 7 students a chance to visually explore the earth's moon and beyond.





It's where I...

love to perform



42nd Street

The magic of Broadway came to our School at the end of Term 2 in the form of its biggest dance show, 42nd Street. One had to continually remind oneself that it was a school production because it felt so much more. The catchy tunes and large dance numbers made it such an entertaining production, but it was the cast that took this musical to new heights. Director Laura Rickhuss expertly cast each member into the perfect role and they shone. Many of the cast had never tap danced before but you wouldn't have known that! Alumni mentors, Jamie Fink and Hannah Cohen (Class of 2017) worked tirelessly to choreograph and rehearse routines with the cast.

Our Year 12 Performing Arts superstars Talia Benson, Freya Boltman, Avishai Conyer, Jacob Moulton and Rachel Silber performed for the last time in a KDS production. They have been an integral part of the success that is our Performing Arts program and they will all be greatly missed.

Music Director, Adam Yee and his musicians provided an unforgettable music accompaniment.

Kol Hakavod to all involved in bringing this magnificent production for all of us to enjoy.



"One had to continually remind oneself that it was a school production because it felt so much more."





It's where I...
can be creative

"Art competitions are a great way to foster the artistic abilities of young people..."

Exceptional Creativity

The 24th Annual Jewish Youth Art Competition, organised by B'nai B'rith Victoria was held in August. The event exhibited over 300 artworks by artists whose ages ranged from 11 through to 18 years. Morrie Gold, a long-time member of B'nai B'rith and art benefactor initiated this competition to encourage the interest and confidence of children in the arts. Art competitions are a great way to foster the artistic abilities of young people and The King David School is proud to enter the finest student artwork each year. The following King David students received awards:

- Year 11 student, Layla Light won first prize In the category of mixed media for her artwork titled Boy. The photograph was of fellow art student Joel Schyer. Inspired by Frida Kahlo, her artwork aimed to explore traditional and non-traditional definitions of masculinity and femininity to reveal the beauty in all.
- Year 8 student, Tara Rotstein took out first prize in the painting and drawing category with her pet portrait titled Milo.
- Year 6 student, Hannah Kausman won second prize in the sculpture category for her paper sculpture titled A snail's colour.

A total of 18 exceptional artworks from KDS students was entered into the exhibition. Congratulations to all those who were selected to enter this prestigious youth art competition.

Jacklyn Roberts
Senior School Teacher



It's where I...
love to compete



Sporting Highlights

We've had a very successful year of sporting competition thus far. The year began with Arava winning the House swimming carnival. Only 6 weeks later, our Senior Boys Tennis won the EISM Interschool Tennis Championship, defeating Alphington to take home the first trophy of the year.

Negev once again dominated the House Athletics carnival with their 6th win in a row. With some individual brilliance both at Swimming and Athletics interschool competition, it was the team sports that was exceptional. Our teams competed in the Winter Season with five teams qualifying for the Grand Finals and three teams winning the championship! Our basketballers, both Senior boys and Years 8/9 boys fought valiantly but missed out on the winners trophies. The Year 8 girls won their championship in convincing style. On the same day, our Years 8/9 boys soccer team won the School's first ever soccer championship as they went undefeated across the



whole season. In another KDS first, the Year 8 boys indoor soccer team also won the championship making it five championships for the year so far.

Drew Solewicz
Sports Manager



"With some individual brilliance both at Swimming and Athletics interschool competition, it was the team sports that was exceptional."



It's where I...
join with community



THE KING DAVID SCHOOL FOUNDATION



"He who cares for days sows wheat, he who cares for years plants trees, he who cares for generations educates people."

Janusz Korczak

Foundation News

I'm very excited to have recently joined The King David School family as the Head of Foundation. As you may know, The King David School Foundation has recently undergone some significant changes which positively impacts its fundraising capacity.

The Foundation entity has been re-structured so that donations raised from any source, for example grant funds from trusts or bequest gifts, can be accepted and are eligible for tax deductibility. The new entity is in keeping with philanthropic best practice and aligns with the practice of many Australian independent schools.

The Foundation may now direct funds to educational programs or school projects as they emerge and can respond with greater flexibility to our donor's needs.

In the short time that I've been at KDS, I'm heartened to learn that we are extremely fortunate to have the generous support of many benefactors within the School community.

Our donors are dedicated to the School, have a genuine interest in creating opportunities for the students of today and strongly believe in investing in the students of tomorrow.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like any information about special projects available for funding, the bequest program or have a general enquiry. I look forward to meeting all of our supporters in the coming months.

Ruth Lew
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Barbara Jacobs, Ruth Lew, Viv and Harry Rosenberg at the Senior Kinder Grandparents and Special Friends' Shabbat

KDSPA Update

Natalie Isaacs, Founder and CEO of 1 Million Women was the guest speaker at our annual KDSPA Breakfast which was held once again at the magnificent Kooyong Tennis Club. Natalie is a climate change activist who began building a global movement of women and girls to "empower women everywhere to act on climate change through the way they live".

Since 2006, she has recognised the power of the individual and as a collective, to affect change. 1 Million Women is now a movement of 900,000+ women and girls. She talked about "bite sized changes", for example reducing one's household energy, buying quality not quantity and cutting meat consumption by half. She also lives by "less is more".

It was a wonderful event where guests enjoyed the company, the food, the wonderful speaker and the awesome raffle and silent auction prizes, generously donated by the many school supporters.

A special thank you to our major sponsors, Bayside European, Beyond Zero Emissions, Small Giants, Brenniston and Dental Art.

Our hard working KDSPA Committee have also been facilitating fundraisers such as Entertainment Books, Art by Kids and theatre opportunities.

2020 King's Carnival planning is also underway so please save the date -

THE KING DAVID SCHOOL PARENTS' ASSOCIATION



Sunday 29 March 2020. If you would like to be involved in the planning of this event or any of the other KDSPA activities please email us at kdspa@kds.vic.edu.au. We would love to hear from you! Wishing you a great term break.

Carrie Kausman
President - Parents' Association

Share your Simcha

Thank you to Kara Freitag for generously sharing her Bat Mitzvah with The King David School Foundation. Kara very kindly invited her family and friends to make a donation in lieu of gifts on the occasion of her special simcha.

Principal, Marc Light was delighted to present a Todah Rabah, Thank You, certificate to Kara acknowledging this generosity. Over \$7,000 was donated which has been directed to the Scholarships Fund.

Mazal Tov and thank you again Kara for demonstrating the true values of chesed and tzedakah.



"I've been at King David since the age of 18 months so the School has really played a big part in my growing up. As Bat Mitzvah is about acknowledging maturity and transitioning into adulthood, I wanted to say thank you to the School for helping me mature."

Kara Freitag (Year 6)

KDS ALUMNI NEWS

Births

Jen Brown (1999) & Aaron Hubbard
Nilaya Willow, April 2019

Nicky Dobos (1998) & Trevor Ausbruch
Hazel Jean, August 2019

Melissa Markov (2006) & Daniel Markov
Kodi Belle, March 2019

Naomi Rozen (Green) (2005) & Jared Rozen
Jack Myer, July 2019

Daniel Stiglitz (1995) & Simi Stiglitz (Kaplan)
Talia Emily, August 2019

Where are they now?



Lauren Midler graduated from KDS in 2011. With the goal to work in TV production, she studied a Bachelor of Media and Communication at RMIT, graduating in 2016. She took a semester abroad, studying at the incredible film school at San Diego State University in

California, taking classes in directing & producing (and surfing).

Before returning home to finish her degree, Lauren interned for 6 weeks at Bray Entertainment, a production company in New York City. She worked in the casting and development department on shows such as "Pawn Stars" and "American Diner Revival." This experience solidified Lauren's dreams of moving to the US to work in TV production.

Lauren spent her last year of Uni and her first year after graduating working freelance in reality TV in both Melbourne and Sydney on local shows such as

"Masterchef", "The Block" and "My Kitchen Rules", the 2017 Australian Open, and on a season of the US MTV show "Are you the one?".

In mid 2017, Lauren moved permanently to Los Angeles, California. For her first 6 months she worked freelance on a number of shows, most notably the 2017 Emmy awards. In late 2017, Lauren landed a full time position as an office production Assistant at ITV America who make well known reality shows including "Queer Eye", "Love Island", "Hell's Kitchen" and more. She has worked on a number of productions over the last 2 years, with the newest show "Styling Hollywood" released on Netflix at the end of August. She loves living in sunny LA and can't wait to see what the future brings.

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 new 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

www.kds.vic.edu.au

THE KING DAVID SCHOOL

