



**קשר . KESHER**

LEIBLER YAVNEH COLLEGE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER | 8 DECEMBER 2023 . 25 KISLEV 5784



Wishing your family a  
**Chag Chanukah Sameach**  
From the #YavnehFamily



## ABOVE & BEYOND

*CHAIM COWEN, Deputy Principal & Head of Jewish Studies*

There is an important message contained in the concluding of the school year during the festival of Chanukah.

One way of understanding the conclusion of the year is that it is the 'end' of our educational journey for the year. My response to that is *chas veshalom*, Heaven Forbid! Education does not end, to the contrary it only intensifies with each passing day. As my father would often tell me, in the USA they refer to school break as 'vacation' – for it is, in their view, vacant. In Australia we call it 'holidays' – for it is, in our view, holy days. These are the days in which students and families are charged with 'owning' their Judaism, an elevation from the co-ownership of their Judaism that can exist in the school context, where structures are in place to support its fulfilment.

## PARASHAT VAYESHEV

## SHABBAT TIMES

Light Candles Chanukah Night 2 - 8:14pm

Shabbat Ends - 9:20pm

Light Candles Chanukah Night 3 - 9:20pm

## UPCOMING DATES

## DECEMBER

**Monday 11 Year 6 Graduation**

**Tuesday 12** Last Day of School

## CONTINUED...

Chanukah contains this very message. It is the only mitzvah that I am aware of which the entire Jewish community performs in the most embellished manner – *mehadrin min hamehadrin*. Many of our Gemara navigating the sugya in Shabbat 21b concerning Chanukah this week learned about the three levels at which one can perform the mitzvah of lighting the Chanukiyah:

תנו רבנן: מצות חנוכה, גר איש וביתו. והמקדרי, גר לכל אדם ואדם. והמקדרי מן המקדרי, בית שמאי אומרים: יום ראשון מדליק שמנה, מכאן ואילך פוסת והולך. ובית הלל אומרים: יום ראשון מדליק אשת, מכאן ואילך מוסיף והולך.



**The Sages taught in a baraita: The basic mitzva of Chanukkah is each day to have a light kindled by a person, the head of the household, for himself and his household. And the mehadrin, i.e., those who are meticulous in the performance of mitzvot, kindle a light for each and every one in the household. And the mehadrin min hamehadrin, who are even more meticulous, adjust the number of lights daily. Beit Shammai and Beit Hillel disagree as to the nature of that adjustment. Beit Shammai say: On the first day one kindles eight lights and, from there on, gradually decreases the number of lights until, on the last day of Hanukkah, he kindles one light. And Beit Hillel say: On the first day one kindles one light, and from there on, gradually increases the number of lights until, on the last day, he kindles eight lights. (translation and elucidation courtesy of sefaria.org)**

I have never encountered a family lighting their Chanukiyah in accordance with the basic mitzva, nor even the level of *mehadrin*. We all just jump straight to the most meticulous level of its observance, *mehadrin min hamehadrin*. There are explanations given for this, including the fact that the miracle of Chanukah itself was 'unnecessary' insofar as what we really needed was military and ideological victory over the Hellenists, however in addition to this we got a bonus miracle of the menorah remaining alight – and as measure for measure, we repay HaShem with a gratuitous 'bonus' in our performance of the mitzvah.

However, I believe there is a special message in this for us, as we conclude the school year, to remember that the real measure of where we are at, is found in our ability to go above and beyond – to learn Torah when there are no scheduled Jewish Studies classes and to daven when there is no convenient school minyan to slip into.

It is in this vein that I reflect on a year where much was done above and beyond. In the wake of October 7, I have been floored by our students' stamina for additional tefillot daily – recited at the Kenes Tefilla each morning in secondary as well as in our primary classrooms. I have witnessed an exponential increase in tzitzit being worn proudly by our students. I have watched as students and staff signed up to say Tehillim regularly to the point that it was being covered two and a half times daily. I have observed 88 students, staff and members of the Yavneh executive come together for the Shloshim of October 7 and finish the entire Seder Mo'ed of mishnayot in one sitting. I have seen the hundreds who have contributed to chesed initiatives raising much needed funds for our displaced brethren in Israel and our wounded soldiers.

These are a small taste of what has been a very trying, but nonetheless uplifting, term. The pain with which it began, morphed into the most incredible campaign of achdut, chesed and strengthening in Torah and Mitzvot. We truly are the people about which Moshe said in his final speech **ישראל מי כמוך אשריך**. "How praiseworthy are you Israel, who is like you?"

These summer holidays, keep up these efforts – Israel relies on each of us to continue to strengthen our Jewish identity and halachic observance. And may our efforts in going above and beyond bring about a lasting peace in Israel with the announcement of the final, and permanent, redemption.

## ALIYAH HONOUR BOARD

Please let us know at [reception@yavneh.vic.edu.au](mailto:reception@yavneh.vic.edu.au) if any ex-students have made Aliya, so we can update the Aliyah Honour Board.

## BAR/BAT MITZVAHS

Please remember to register the date of your son or daughter's Bar/Bat Mitzvah with at Reception on 9528 4911 or email [reception@yavneh.vic.edu.au](mailto:reception@yavneh.vic.edu.au)

## בנות &amp; בחורים HESDER

If you would like to host the Hesder Team, please contact Rae on 8317 2504 or email






**JCAS supports  
aides for 250  
children with  
disabilities in  
Melbourne's Jewish  
schools**

### WANT TO SUPPORT US?

- Donate quality goods to our Posh Opp Shoppes
- Go shopping at our Posh Opp Shoppes, pick up a bargain, or just have fun browsing
- Join our friendly community of volunteers
- Donate now to JCAS ([www.jcas.org.au/donate-now](http://www.jcas.org.au/donate-now))

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 [jcas.assist@gmail.com](mailto:jcas.assist@gmail.com)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### MAZEL TOVS

To Hillel Solomon & Tamsi Eintracht on their upcoming wedding

**May you continue to have Nachat from your families.**

### CONDOLENCES

The Yavneh Family continues to mourn, with our brothers and sisters in Israel, the horrific loss of lives and prays for the safe return of the hostages.

To include your announcement in Keshet, please email [reception@yavneh.vic.edu.au](mailto:reception@yavneh.vic.edu.au) with relevant names and a contact phone number.

## SECOND HAND UNIFORMS

YPO Second Hand Uniform Shop welcomes your donations of pre-loved uniforms in good condition. All proceeds from sales support our Yavneh children via YPO projects.

Contact [ypo@yavneh.vic.edu.au](mailto:ypo@yavneh.vic.edu.au) if you wish to buy or donate pre-loved uniforms.

Join over 350 members in the [Yavneh 2nd Hand Uniform & Books Facebook group](#) to buy and sell your pre-loved uniforms, books or extra-curricular gear (eg. ballet, karate, cricket kit). Please restrict the sales and requests to items relevant to education.

**Please note:** The YPO will no longer be accepting secondhand books but you are welcome to buy, swap and sell them via the Facebook page.





## SCHOOL IS OUT!!

**CHARLENE ORWIN, Head of ELC**

It's that time of year again, when we are all at the end of another school year. As the end of term approaches and the summer holidays beckon, we can all look forward to a more relaxed and time at school as we all wind down ... well that's what is 'supposed' to happen! As teachers and professionals however, we know that for some kids, the end of the school year can be a time that is anxiety-provoking as they do not understand and cannot cope with the many changes (especially our younger children).

So, how can you prepare your kids to cope with the inevitable changes in routine that are an integral part of the transition between school and summer holidays?

**Use of a Visual Timetable:** A visual timetable will enable children to make sense of their day and of the countdown to the summer holidays

**Provide a Great Transition Experience:** There are inevitably many different transitions that children have to deal with at the end of the year, they could be changing class on their return to school or moving schools. An adequate period of transition to help them know that they will be ok, to be able to meet new teachers and new classmates is vitally important.

**Don't underestimate the 'tiredness' factor!** Let's face it, we ALL get tired as the school year draws to a close! It is important that we acknowledge this and allow children to have choices and options of activities they would like to do and ones which they know will help them to self-regulate. For some kids that may be mindfully colouring for others it may be quiet time and others may thrive on physical activity to keep themselves happy and relaxed.

**Home Involvement:** It cannot be underestimated how much the home environment can help in supporting children through these end of year routine changes. Parents and carers are invaluable when they know what is coming up at school and can then spend time with their child and prepare them for what is going to happen next.

Overall, remember to make your child's environment a relaxed and safe space for them– this will minimise tiredness and allow each individual to cope with routine changes in ways that work for them.

Wishing you all a Chag Chanukah Sameach, a wonderful Summer break and the very best for 2024.





## 30 YEARS OF #LUVYAV

**TANYA SHALTIEL, Foundation Executive**

At Yavneh, we truly treasure welcoming back our old collegians. The class of 1993 spent time reminiscing and reconnecting back on campus! After 30 years it was fantastic to see so many familiar Yavneh Family faces comprising of both old collegians and past staff. A special highlight was welcoming our much loved, Mrs Wenig and Mrs Brown!

Following the recital of Tehillim for Am Yisrael, Rabbi Cowen shared an inspirational message with this cohort: "While Yaakov may have spent much time outside of Israel – in the house of Lavan – he considered those as a temporary sojourn, being that his identity was formed in the Holy Land. So too, while 30 years may have passed since their Yavneh journey, it was clear that the reunion of the class of 1993 was in fact a homecoming, an act of reconnecting with their early identity-formative years."

The stories, memories, year books and photos that were shared was exceptionally special. Please keep in touch! We look forward to welcoming you back soon!





# Leibler Yavneh College 2025 Academic Scholarships



Leibler Yavneh College are delighted to announce that our 2025 Academic Scholarships are now open until Monday 19 February 2024.

A limited number of academic scholarships are awarded to students entering Years 7, 9 or 11 in 2025. These scholarships are designed to assist families seeking a first-class Jewish education & are awarded for academic and general excellence.

The Scholarship Exam for both current & external students will take place on Sunday 25 February 2024.

To register for the Scholarship Exam or for further information please visit [yavneh.vic.edu.au/scholarships](http://yavneh.vic.edu.au/scholarships) or contact [enrolments@yavneh.vic.edu.au](mailto:enrolments@yavneh.vic.edu.au)

*Now Open*

## THE COMPLETION OF SEFER SHOFTIM

MICHELLE SHARP, Primary Jewish Studies



Kol Hakavod to the students of Years 3-6 Jewish Studies group who have just completed learning the entire Sefer Shoftim (Judges)!!! This program, which runs on a Thursday morning, has been created for the Year 3 to 6 children who attend the Born to Soar program. Building upon what was begun towards the end of last year, the students have diligently engaged in exploring the exciting chapter of Jewish History following the passing of Yehoshua, the conquering of Eretz Yisrael during the period of the Shoftim. This period lasted roughly 350 years and was a unique era in Jewish History.

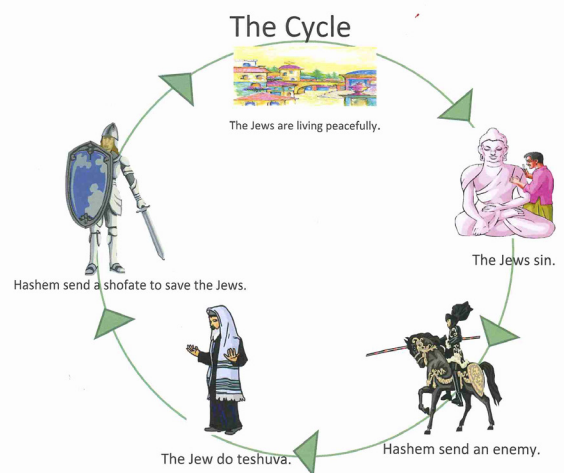
Using the Lookstein's Centre online program from Bar-Ilan University as our guide, the students began each lesson with a short engaging video on the highlights of each Perek and then we then delved into discussion and analysis of each Shofet. We had role plays, read midrashim and completed interactive activities such as being newspaper reporters during the time of the Shoftim who reported on the exciting events of the day.

1. The students learned that there were four main ideas that repeated themselves throughout Sefer Shoftim:
2. With no organised leadership, the Jewish people fall into a terrible cycle.
3. Hashem always wants what is good for us, but that can sometimes be painful.
4. Without unity, Am Yisrael will never thrive.
5. Hashem is prepared to help us but wants us to be close to Him.

The recurring cycle of Shoftim is the basis of the entire Sefer Shoftim. It involves the following five stages:

1. Bnei Yisrael sin and worship idols, like the Cana'ani nations amongst whom they live.
2. Hashem sends a message to do better by letting those Cana'ani nations overpower them and cause them trouble.

3. Bnei Yisrael cry out to Hashem.
4. Hashem sends them a shofet to rescue them from their oppressor.
5. Bnei Yisrael don't do real teshuvah or accept the rebuke of the shofet, and when the trouble passes and the shofet dies, they return to their sinning ways.



During the period of the Shoftim, all the Judges were temporary rulers whose powers were not automatically passed on to their sons. These great judges realized that their power was insignificant, that they were merely serving as messengers of Hashem. Sefer Shoftim conveys to the Jewish nation a clear message: We are constantly under Hashem's guidance. When the Jews sinned, the enemy rose against them and ruled over them. When Bnei Yisrael obeyed the Torah, they were successful and able to defeat larger and more powerful enemies!

As the Chag of Chanukah is upon us, a time where we celebrate the Jewish military victory over the Greeks and our rededication of the Beit Hamikdash, may we realize that just like in Sefer Shoftim, we are constantly under Hashem's guidance. May the Jews all over the world unite and come closer to Hashem at this time, and through our positive actions, may we see a speedy end to the war in Israel and the safe return of all our hostages. Chag sameach and next year may we merit to celebrate together in the third Beit Hamikdash, with the arrival of Moshiach, speedily in our days!!!



CONTINUED...



# Shoftim Chart

By Shneur Munitz

**Grade Level:** Elementary

**Description:**

A colorful chart which clearly displays the names of the Shoftim and the number of years that they presided over K'lal Yisrael. A great resource when teaching Sefer Shoftim. It is available as a letter-sized non-editable pdf only, but can be resized and used as a classroom poster as well.

### Goals/Objectives:

**Goals/Objectives:**  
Students will refer this resource when studying Sefer Shoftim.

### Instructions:

1. Give the students the chart at the beginning of Sefer Shoftim and have them keep it in an easily accessible spot.
2. Refer to the chart as necessary.

### Variations:

Enlarge the chart and use it as a classroom poster.



## PRIMARY CHOIR

**SARAH FINCH, Primary Music Teacher**

The Primary Choir runs once a week during lunchtime, all year round. Students from Years 3 to 6 meet in the Music House and we learn all different kinds of songs: modern songs, songs from the Siddur and songs from Tehillim. It is a commitment that the students happily make, as they join with their peers singing and enjoying each other's company.

The Primary Choir performs during the year at assemblies and at various performance evenings presented by the Music department with other ensembles and choirs.

At Speech Night, this past Tuesday night, the Primary Choir outdid themselves singing a beautiful song for Chanukah in front of the whole school including family and friends. They sang a medley of Al Hanisim and Maoz Tzur, two traditional songs that families throughout the world sing every Chanukah when they light the Chanukiah. They are songs of praise to Hashem for all the miracles and wonders that He performed for us during times in our Jewish History when we needed Hashem's special help. We pray that this Chanukah, our collective Chanukah lights will light up the world and expel the darkness in which we currently find ourselves. Chag Chanukah sameach!



# CHANUKAH @ YAVNEH

## חנוכה ביבנה

Thursday 7th December כ"ד כסלו

Chanukah event @ Emmy Monash  
Years 9-11  
6:15pm - 7:30 pm

Friday 8th December כ"ה כסלו

'Coin for a Coin' - trade a gold coin for a chocolate coin at the gates during drop off.

Years 2-6  
Dreidel spin off  
Lunchtime @  
Lamm Hall

Chanukah Carnival  
With the Jlife Captains  
Secondary  
Lunchtime @ Area E

Monday 11th December כ"ח כסלו

Prep and Year 1  
Dreidel Spin Off  
Morning recess  
@Area A and B

Year 2 - 6  
Chanukah Treasure Hunt  
Lunchtime  
Meet @ Area C

Tuesday December 12th כ"ט כסלו

Donuts for charity @ Lunchtime - \$3

Prep - Year 2 will be delivered  
to classrooms

Years 3 and 4 - FOS

Years 5 - 11 - Area E

**Money raised will be donated to ZDVO**



*ELLA NEW, Secondary Jewish Studies*

The angel of Hashem did not need to know what Yosef was doing in that exact moment, but rather was asking him a deeper, more existential question; *“what is it that you are trying to achieve?”* The Kotzker Rebbe explains that this question is one that is posed to every person at a turning point in their life. It is a question that we should all be asking ourselves. Where do we want to be? What are our goals in life? What are our ambitions? These questions are especially relevant as we finish up another school year and reflect on what we have achieved and what we hope to improve for the coming year.

**In recent times we have seen an incredible display of this unity and selflessness amongst Am Yisrael. May we merit to continue to put each other first in times of peace and Geulah.**

*Adapted from Parsha Perspectives by Rav Efreim Goldberg*



## ENGLISH TEXTS IN 2024!

**KAROUNA MUDDAPAH, Head of English**

Over the years I have always had students question the texts listed on the booklist. Hence, I would like to share some insights about our thought process when selecting texts at Yavneh.

Here is the list of texts across the year levels for 2024!



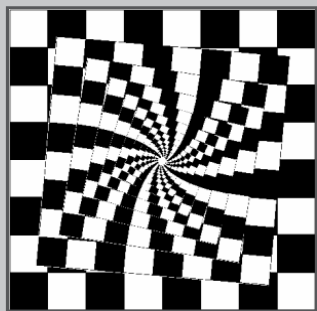
TEXTLIST – in line with the VCE Study Design 2024				
Year Level	Reading and Responding (Analytical response to text + Personal response)	Reading and Crafting texts (Framework of ideas)	Reading and Responding (Analytical response to text- film)	Exploring Argument
Year 7	Murder on the Orient Express	Short story- 'There Comes Soft Rains' - Ray Bradbury	WALL-E	-
Year 8	Poetry (Blake)	A Christmas Carol (Penguin Classic)	Whale Rider	-
Year 9	To Kill a Mockingbird	Animal Farm	Black Panther	-
Year 10	War poems – Wilfred Owen	Night – Eli Wiesel	Invictus	-
Year 11	Rear Window	Like a House on Fire	The Crucible	-
Year 12	Runaway – Alice Munro	<a href="#">Reading and Crafting Texts list (Yr12).docx</a>	Sunset Boulevard- Billy Wilder	-

There are numerous factors that influence our choice of texts at Yavneh; the VCE study design, content/plot of the texts, genre, social and historical context, the skills and knowledge that students must develop throughout the course of their secondary English learning to perform well at VCE, and the life lessons that we can teach our students through the texts. Usually, the first step in our selection process involves scrutinizing each text to ensure they align with the religious ethos of our school (this sometimes involves a conversation with the Rabbis at school).

Whilst this may sound surprising to many, studying poetry is directly linked to the development of skills for the Analyzing Language and Argument (ALA) unit. When we study a poem, we focus extensively on the language and unpack the implied meaning, an important skill that is required when approaching the ALA task!

Further, we have listed films across all year levels because studying a film text is a new requirement in the VCE study Design. Studying film texts from Year 7 will ensure that our students develop the right metalanguage and knowledge of film techniques to perform their best in VCE.

# Chess Ideas



## Child Safe Organisation

*In accordance with the Child Safety and Wellbeing act of Victoria.*

**Mobile 0476024493**

**P.O. Box 3158  
Ripponlea 3185**

[admin@chessideas.com.au](mailto:admin@chessideas.com.au)

- *Established in 1994*
- *Teaching in over 100 schools in Melbourne and Ballarat.*
- *Coaches to the top junior students in Victoria.*

## Yavneh College Chess Club Term 1, 2024 Starting Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> Feb



**Dates:** 7 Feb – 17 April (11-week programme)

**Time & Day:** Wednesday 4:15- 5:15pm

**Cost:** \$209 (\$19 per session) 2<sup>nd</sup> child \$187.00

- If chess lessons coincide with swimming or school camp, please deduct the cost of these lessons from the total amount
- A discount will be given for siblings - every sibling after the first/child will pay only \$17.00 per lesson

## How to pay

**Please pay online:** [www.chessideas.com.au](http://www.chessideas.com.au)

1. Select Pay Fees and Term Fees
2. Enter registration cost – e.g. 209 (with no \$ sign)
3. Select add to cart.
4. Enter your child's details  
NB: for Chess Username or ID please put N/A
5. Select Pay
6. Payment options are PayPal or Credit Card (excl. American Express or Diners card)

### Payment Notes:

- **All Payments need to be made by the second week of Chess**
- Students will not receive a refund for classes missed except if it is a school function.
- Students commencing *after* the first week *do not* pay for the earlier lessons.

**Go to [www.chessideas.com.au](http://www.chessideas.com.au) for our home page to see upcoming tournaments and events.**