



Because I Said So:

The Beauty of Boundaries and the Joy of Just Being

Shula Lazar, Principal

This week's parsha, Parshat Chukat opens with one of the most famously confusing mitzvot in the Torah: the Parah Adumah – the red cow. It purifies those who are impure, but somehow makes impure the people who are involved in preparing it. It's really topsy turvy, so much so that even Shlomo HaMelech, wisest of all men, said he couldn't figure it out.

Rashi jumps right in, quoting the Midrash: "Because the nations of the world (and the Satan) will taunt you saying, 'What is this commandment and what reason is there for it?' – therefore the Torah writes, 'It is a chok – it's a decree from Me, and you have no permission to question it.'"

It's the ultimate "Because I said so."

Fundamentally, in education (and parenting), we're not in the business of dodging questions. Quite the opposite. At Yavneh, we're all about the how and the why. We love that our students ask and debate. Questioning is a Jewish superpower!. At the same time, our teachers explicitly teach, explain, model, and then model again. Whether it's how to structure a paragraph, how to parse a verb in Chumash, or how to figure out the gradient of a line – our teachers are experts in making the complex make sense.

But sometimes, explanations muddy the waters and just get in the way. There are times, like with the Parah Adumah, when what children need is a firm, loving boundary without going into the hows and whys. Like when they ask for a snack in the supermarket and you say, "It's not kosher," and the conversation ends. Or when they want ice cream ten minutes after schnitzel. "You're still fleishik." End of story. These are parenting chok moments. Beautiful, clear, and (if we're lucky) argument-proof.

And that is actually one of the quiet beauties of childhood – that

**דבר תורה
פרשת חקת**

**קשר
KESHER**

Friday 4 July 2025
ח תמוז ה'תשפ"ה

"because I said so" can suffice. That not everything needs to be fully explained or rationalised. Children find security in boundaries. They thrive when they know the rules and can rest inside them.

Another beauty of childhood is simply... childhood. Playing, imagining, pretending. Not trying to be older than they are. Not fast-forwarding to grown-up problems. Just being.

One of the standout moments for me this term was going to Year 12 Zionist camp. Students always tell us that camp is one of the highlights of their Yavneh journey. And it's easy to see why. Aside from the inspiring tochniyot (thank you Noah E and the incredible JLife team), the kids bond. Deeply. Meaningfully. And they bond over things that are joyfully simple. They bond by making Shabbat food together – yes, really! Our Year 12s prep the cholent, yupchik, matbucha, and Shabbat morning cakes. There's something powerful about watching teenagers take pride in creating food for their peers, preparing for Shabbat together with intention and teamwork. And then there are the games.

Once dinner and singing at the tisch wraps up on Friday night, out come the board games and card games. Some kids play Rummikub or Bananagrams. Others play endless rounds of Spit or Bluff. And they play for hours. No phones. No screens. Just kids being kids, laughing, concentrating, talking. Some tables get loud, others stay quiet. You can tell they're in their element.

פרשת חקת

Shabbat Times



Light candles 4:55pm

Shabbat ends 5:56pm



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We always face the same dilemma: it's 1:30 am, sometimes even 2, and the kids are still playing, still bonding. Should we send them to bed? They need to be up for Shacharit at 9 and we have a full Shabbat day of programming planned. But they're so happy. So connected. So in the moment.

These moments remind us of how much kids love being kids. How boundaries and structure give them room to flourish. And how sometimes, the best thing we can do as educators and parents is not push them to understand everything or do everything, but to let them enjoy the stage they're in – while setting the right limits around them.

Not everything needs to be explained right away. Not everything has to make perfect sense. Sometimes the best kind of love says: not now, not yet – because I said so.

And then other times we explain everything. That's the dance of parenting. Of teaching. Of raising children to be confident and whole. At Yavneh, we honour both sides. There are times when explanations are absolutely necessary. When we teach, we teach the how and the why. We don't rely on osmosis or intuition.

We break it down, step by step. We teach explicitly, in General Studies and in Jewish Studies. We don't have open-plan classrooms. We believe in teacher-led learning, with students seated at desks, engaged in structured, intentional lessons. Because research, and experience, tells us this works. And because our students deserve the best.

And we also understand that not everything in life is about explanation. Some things are about emunah, about trust, about knowing that even when we don't get it, we are still held by something meaningful.

As we head into the holidays, let's hold on to that balance. Let's give our kids experiences that are inclusive, uplifting, and good for the soul. Let's let them be kids in all the best ways. Let's remind them that they must act as proud Jews not just when they're in school uniform, but always. At home, on camp, on holidays, everywhere!

Wishing you a holiday filled with rest, joy, and perhaps even the occasional chok.

(And no, you can't have ice cream. You're still fleishik.)

The Yavneh Academy: Hebrew 101

**Hebrew Language Enthusiasts
Gather for a Warm and Inspiring Evening**

Sharon Samuni, Head of Hebrew Primary & Secondary

This Wednesday, despite the cold and rainy weather, the second meeting of our Hebrew language enthusiasts took place at the Learning Centre – and once again, the group brought warmth and light to the evening.

The session focused on two main activities. The first was a Hebrew conversation circle, continuing from last week's discussion. We reviewed previously learned questions and added new ones such as: Where would you like to travel? What restaurant do you enjoy and why? Is there a public figure you would like to meet? What would you say to them?

It was truly inspiring to hear the responses from our wonderful group. Some participants shared that they would love to meet figures such as Queen Elizabeth, Nelson Mandela, Marilyn Monroe, and even grandparents they never had the chance to know.

Following the conversation activity, we moved on to a creative art task. Each participant received a special page and writing tools to create a handwritten "Home Blessing" using meaningful words such as: blessing, joy, luck, peace, livelihood, health, love, and success.



Our senior students practiced writing in Hebrew block letters rather than cursive, and one lovely participant shared that she had never written in block letters before. Although no one fully completed their artwork, by 9:20 PM – when the security staff gave us a gentle, pleading look – we knew it was time to turn off the lights and head home. I want to thank the students and the school for the opportunity to hold these special gatherings. It was a pleasure to spend the evening with you all.

As we wrap up the first semester, I send my warmest wishes to my fellow teachers and to all our students. May we enjoy the upcoming holiday and spend meaningful time with our loved ones.

Personally, I will be flying to Israel this coming Monday to visit my wonderful parents and the rest of my family who live there.

בסד

**Adult learning initiative
for Alumni
and Yavneh Families**

Term 3 Launching Soon!

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תורה ומדע • ציונות • דרך ארץ

Farewell to Rav Johnny & Rebbetzin Shira Brull

Chaim Cowen, Deputy Principal & Head of Jewish Studies

As the semester comes to a close we are farewelling Rav Jonny and Rebbetzin Shira who have given so much of their energy, time and care to the students of Yavneh over their term of their shlichut.

Rav Jonny has provided many students with a dugma of a Talmid Chacham, guiding them in their study of Gemara and exposing them to its depths. He is also a regular presence in the Yavneh Bet Midrash, giving shiurim to our Tzevet and overseeing their independent Torah learning. The presence of a Rosh Kollel on campus has enriched the atmosphere of the school and his absence will be felt.

Rebbetzin Shira has been a nurturing teacher for our younger students in the ELC. Through her instruction she has assisted our students in forming a solid foundation in as young Jewish boys and girls, connected to Torah, mitzvot, Israel, the



luach hashana and all of our precious values.

We wish the Brull mishpacha mazal tov on the recent birth of Shachar Ari, named after Shira's late brother Ari Zenilman ז"ל who fell whilst protecting Am Yisrael in the current war. May the entire family have a nesiya tova and may Hashem repay them for the inspiration and guidance that they have provided our community.

שבוע שלום



The SKA class shared what they love about Morah Shira and all the special things they will miss about her:

- Zamira: 'Mazal Tov because you have a baby'
- Adina: 'Morah Shira taught me songs'
- Eve: 'I will miss her Hebrew'
- Audrey: 'I will miss you'
- Lyra: 'I'm going to miss her baby'
- Jasmine: 'I will miss Morah Shira helping me'
- Mila: 'She taught me the Parasha'
- Lia: 'She did nice davening.'
- Liora: 'I loved all the Parshiot that Morah Shira taught me'
- Netzer: 'Morah Shira taught me about the Parashot'
- Lavi: 'I love my baby/ I learnt Hamotzi'
- Raphi: 'I love having Shabbat party with her.'
- Louis W: 'I'm going to miss her because she teaches us.'
- Elior: 'I love you Morah Shira'
- Ezra O: 'I learnt from Shira'
- Micah: 'I love the songs from Tefillah'
- Netti: 'I love how she teaches the Bracha'
- Louis J: 'I like doing Tefillah with her'
- Ezra W: 'I love davening with Morah Shira'
- Matan: 'She teaches us Hebrew'
- Jack: 'I don't want her to go to Israel'





Reflecting on a Joyful First Half & Embracing What's Ahead

Charlene Orwin, Head of Yavneh Early Learning Centre

As the first half of the year draws to a close, our ELC community is buzzing with pride, learning, personal growth and warmth. The past six months have been a beautiful tapestry woven with amazing developmental achievements, laughter, discovery, Jewish pride, learning and friendship. Each child has made remarkable strides—whether it's mastering the art of sharing, expressing ideas with confidence, or simply learning to engage with others with determination and delight.

Our outstanding educators have nurtured not only the cognitive development of our young learners but also their emotional wellbeing. From morning tefillah and group learning circles to days filled with creative play through exploration, discovering and curiosity, our children have thrived in environments built on kindness, community, and connection. Their joy has been contagious—spreading from classroom walls to family homes.

Now, with the term break upon us, it's the perfect moment for everyone to pause, recharge, and celebrate the essence of togetherness. The holidays offer a golden chance to slow down and enjoy those simple, unforgettable moments: baking cookies together, going on nature walks, building forts in the living room, or night-time bed routines of curling up with a favourite book. These shared family experiences help strengthen the loving foundations that support children's lifelong learning journeys.

As we look ahead to the new term, excitement bubbles for the adventures still to come. New topics, fresh friendships, and more opportunities to explore the world through play and explicit teaching. With rested minds and joyful hearts, children will return, ready to embrace what lies ahead.

To all our families, thank you for your ongoing support, and may this holiday period be filled with giggles, cuddles, and treasured memories. Let's step into the next term with renewed energy and the same spark that makes early learning so magical.

Sk Brachot Party

Our SK children enjoyed a Brachot party this week to celebrate the end of their Brachot learning. During the party the children enjoyed tasting different foods and made sure to recite the correct Bracha. Kol Hakavod to the SK children for integrating their learning into real life practice!



Alef Bet in Kinder

Sara Amzalak, Aleph Bet Kinder Teacher



It has been a very busy term in both Junior and Senior Kindergarten, in our Alef Bet sessions.

Junior Kinder finished the term with learning to recognise Daled and know its sound. Students made a Daled out of sticks and their bodies and decorated a Daled with squares of material. They also put Kachol-blue stickers to make a Degel Yisrael.

Senior Kinder students finished the term with learning the letter Lamed. It has been amazing to see how quickly they learned to recognise so many letters and their sounds, and that are able to say what letter words start with just by hearing them. Looking forward to another great term of Alef Bet when we come back from holidays.





Senior Kinder Musical Havdalah

Yael Lewis, Co-ordinator of Jewish Studies (ELC)

On Motzei Shabbat the ELC held a Senior Kinder Havdalah evening. Children came wearing pyjamas, with the biggest smiles on their faces and excitement in their eyes.

The atmosphere was incredible as Rav Sendor made Havdalah together with Tzviki and some of our amazing year 11 and 12 students. This experience was organised to mark the beginning of the Havdalah bags in Senior Kinder. Each week two children will have the opportunity to take home the Havdalah bag and enjoy making Havdalah at home with their family and then share their experiences with the class through the Havdalah Journal. As our Senior Kinder children and their families sang and danced together this past Motzei Shabbat there was such a special Yavneh family atmosphere in the room, filled with yiddishkeit, warmth and unity.

A very big thank you to Rav Sendor, Tzviki and the year 11 & 12 students for helping to make it such a meaningful Havdalah for everyone. We can't wait to start sending home the Havdalah bags in the coming weeks, and seeing our families enjoy this experience.



ELC Kinder Open Day

Ta'am Shel Yavneh



Simcha & Song

Tuesday 29 July 2023
9:15am - 10:00am

We invite you and your little one to join us for a morning session!



Primary J-Life Update:

Sara Amzalak, Head of Jewish Life & Learning (Primary)

The Ruach at Year 5/6 camp was palpable. Jewish and Israeli music accompanied us on the bus on the way to the Alexandra Adventure Resort and stayed with us through camp with lots of singing and dancing.

On the first night of camp, students teamed up in their Houses to battle it out for the most House Points. Students couldn't resist pushing the light up, noise making buzzers to answer Jewish and Israeli General Knowledge questions. Along the way, some team building exercises help teams earn bonus points. Tzviki and Jude did a sterling job in their roles as comparses and, in the end, the winning house was Ofra!

The second night students donned blue and white and Israeli Flags and participated in a station rotation all about various aspects of Israel. From mapping to coding, to Gaga Ball and Israeli inventions, students learned new information and had a lot of fun.

We also gathered around the bon-fire for more Jewish/Israeli music with Tzviki leading us on the guitar. The roasted marshmallows were a delicious treat devoured by all and a great way to end the last night of camp.

Coco Club at 7 AM—learning about fast days with Tzviki over hot Milo



The 3 Weeks this year starts in the school holidays. JLife Primary is encouraging your child/ren to try and take on more Mitzvot during this time. Students will be coming home with a booklet to help keep track of their Mitzvot performed and it will be due back at the conclusion of The 3 Weeks. Prizes will be awarded to the class with the most participants as well as individual participants.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

OPERATION CHUP-A-MITZVAH

DURING THE 3 WEEKS

SUNDAY 13TH JULY י"ז תמוז
TO SUNDAY 3RD AUGUST ט' אב

Year 2 Chumash Learning – What a Journey!

Rabbi Yossi Smoller, Primary Jewish Studies

Our Year 2 children have embarked on a truly inspiring journey in their Chumash learning this term. They have blossomed into remarkable Chumash detectives, developing the skills to decode the pesukim with increasing confidence and accuracy in understanding of shorashim, techillot, and sofot in Perek Yud Bet has been truly impressive.

Together, we explored the incredible story of Avraham Avinu, who, at the age of 75, packed up his life and set out for Eretz Canaan with complete emunah in Hashem—despite not knowing his final destination. This led to a meaningful discussion where the children reflected on what they would take with them if they too were moving to a new land. Using their collaboration skills, they thoughtfully chose the most important items in their lives, sparking meaningful conversations about values, priorities, and trust.

We are so proud of their dedication, curiosity, and growing love for Torah learning!



Year 5 Music

Sarah Finch, Music & Primary Jewish Studies

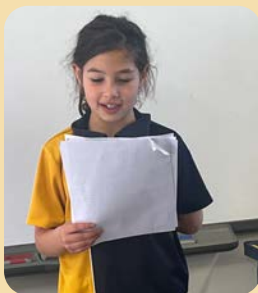
This semester, our Year 5 students embarked on an exciting musical journey as they were introduced to the ukulele. As beginners to the instrument, they have made impressive progress, learning several basic chords and correct fingering techniques. These foundational skills have enabled them to play a diverse selection of songs, from classic nursery rhymes to more contemporary tunes. In addition to individual instrumental practice, students have enjoyed performing as part of a full class ensemble, combining their ukulele playing with hand percussion instruments to create vibrant group performances. Their enthusiasm and enjoyment have been evident throughout, making this a joyful and enriching experience. Next term, we look forward to continuing their practical musical development as they shift focus to the keyboard, further expanding their appreciation, skills, knowledge and application of music.



Year 2 Speak Up!

Sonia Layton & Sue Crothers, Primary General Studies

The Year Twos have been hard at work preparing their very own oral presentations to share with their peers. Each student selected a unique topic to explore at home, and the results have been outstanding! From original ideas to fantastic preparation and confident presenting, the creativity and effort shown have truly impressed us all. Well done, Year Twos!



100 Days of Prep!

We are so excited to be celebrating 100 days in Prep on **Monday 28th of July**. During our General Studies and Jewish Studies sessions our focus will be on the number 100 with learning and activities that will be both engaging, fun, and suitably challenging.

We invite all Prep children to dress up for the day with 100 as the theme. We look forward to sharing this special day.

Have you Thanked Hashem today?

LEIBLER YAVNEH COLLEGE



Bar/BatMe Program

Sarah Teichtahl, Jewish Life Educator



On Wednesday, Year 7 students participated in a finale event to mark the end of the Bar/BatMe Program. The program started with a joint Tefillah followed by a special Dvar Torah by Jobe, Zohar and Lili who spoke about what they had learnt throughout the Me Program and a message from the Parsha. The students were then given breakfast and participated in a learning program run by J-Life. During the learning, topics such as fellowship, personal identity and self-esteem were discussed in meaningful conversations. At the end of the event, students were given a token to bring home - a personalized tefillin card for the boys and a candle-lighting card and poem for the girls. We are so proud of everything the year 7 students have achieved throughout the Me Program!



Smile on Seniors

Challah Bake with Year 7



Year 10 Holocaust Seminar

Sonia Slonim, Head Of Humanities and Social Sciences

Last Friday, the Year 10s spent the day exploring different themes of the Shoah. They heard from Mr Daskalu about how the Shoah is depicted in films. Mrs Wonder discussed different attitudes to faith after the Shoah and Rabbi Gomo presented on the history of Jews in Poland before and after the Shoah. We were honoured to host Mrs Nina Bassat OAM who shared with us her story of survival, immigration to Australia and life as a migrant child survivor as well as her community work in various Jewish organizations.



Bar and Batmitzva ME PROGRAM

2025-2026

- ✓ In-Class Lessons
- ✓ Mitzvah Workshops
- ✓ Parent-Child Learning Events
- ✓ Volunteering Opportunities
- ✓ Extend Your Learning in the Beit Midrash
- ✓ Tefillah Program
- ✓ Shabbaton

The 'ME' program for our Bar and Bat Mitzvah students begins in the middle of Year 6 and concludes halfway through Year 7. During the year, they explore fundamental ideas and skills in preparation for Jewish adulthood.

Throughout the course, students learn about themes such as Responsibility, Tefillah, Chessed, Talmud Torah and the meaning of becoming a Bar/Bat Mitzvah, as well as relevant Mitzvot and Jewish leaders from throughout history.

Students who wish to take their learning beyond the classroom will have a tailor-made program built for them to be delivered in the Beit Midrash.

Throughout the year-long course, students are given the opportunity to volunteer with community organisations, interact with engaging guests and create tangible Jewish items to take home.

The Bar/BatME Shabbaton is always a highlight, with inter-generational bonding, creating lifelong memories towards the end of the program.

We look forward to watching your children thrive and grow within the ME program!



B'NAI B'RITH 30TH JEWISH YOUTH ART COMPETITION EXHIBITION



THURSDAY 26 JUNE - SUNDAY 20 JULY

Featuring a showcase of art by the Centre of Jewish Artists (COJA)

AWARDS CEREMONY: SUNDAY 20 JULY, 3PM

Glen Eira Town Hall Gallery

Vote for your favourite artwork with the People's Choice Award



9523 0888 | artcomp@bbvic.org.au | www.bnaibirth.org.au/victoria



Year 9 City Week

Sonia Slonim, Head Of Humanities and Social Sciences

Year 9 students spent a busy five days in the city, learning about its history, exploring careers, visiting historic sites, and discovering some of the issues that challenge people in the CBD.



Elite Energy

Jaimee Krongold, Secondary VCE PE Teacher

On Friday last week our VCE Physical Education students took part in an excursion to St Kilda Football Club for a day focused on leadership, culture, and values within elite sporting environments. Students participated in activities that built communication, confidence, resilience, and teamwork. They were encouraged to recognise and utilise their unique strengths to amplify their voice in group settings.

A key part of the experience was learning about the powerful connection between the mind and body. Students took part in guided meditation and breathwork practices, as well as mobility, core, and Pilates-style movement sessions. These activities helped highlight how mental and physical preparation can significantly enhance performance.

To finish off the day, students explored a range of professional recovery methods used to reduce fatigue and support mental and physical recovery. Using the AFL club's first-class recovery facilities, they experienced first-hand how elite athletes manage their overall wellbeing to perform at their best.

It was an enriching experience that offered valuable insights into high-performance living, both on and off the field. We thank the STK Education Department for facilitating this beneficial program for Yavneh students.



Tennis Lessons Melbourne

Tennis Coaching: Secondary Students
Leibler Yavneh College

Thursday: 4.05-4.50pm
July 30th-September 3rd
\$210 for a 6 Week Term
Term 3 Enrolments Open
Contact: 0422 728 938

*If a lesson is cancelled due to wet weather we will run a makeup session on the 10th of September

Tennis Australia Accredited Coaches



What ARE YOU THANKING HASHEM FOR?

Niche Player of the Week

Noah G, Year 8 Student

Max Hall

Max Hall is from Saint Kilda and plays in the forward line. He got 21 touches and 1 goal against Freo last weekend. He also achieved a nice disposal efficiency with 76%. Hall will definitely be a part of Saint Kilda's future planning



Yavneh Buzz

Make sure you're following us on socials!
@yavneh_official



Upcoming Dates 2025:

JULY:

Friday 4: Last day of Term 2.

Sunday 13: Fast day – 17th Tammuz

Tuesday 22: First day of Term 3

שבת שלום

Leibler Yavneh College
2026 Musical

The 25th Annual Putnam County SPELLING BEE

Auditions Open

NOW!

Audition video submissions now open!
Open to all Year 6 – 11 2025!
Videos due by Friday 24th July
Audition Form and Show Information at:
www.LYCspellingbee.weebly.com
Showing March 22 – 24 2026



EMUNAH AUSTRALIA

EMUNAH AUSTRALIA IS EXPANDING JOIN OUR TEAM AS THE NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PART-TIME | CAULFIELD-BASED (HYBRID)

Are you a dynamic, community-minded leader with a passion for Israel and a talent for making things happen?

Emunah Australia is seeking a skilled and motivated Executive Director to drive fundraising, donor engagement, communications, events and strategy – all in support of some of Israel's most vulnerable children and families.

This is a hands-on leadership role within a values-driven, volunteer-led organisation making a real difference.

VIEW THE FULL ROLE DESCRIPTION AND HOW TO APPLY AT:
[HTTPS://EMUNAH.ORG.AU/CAREERS](https://emunah.org.au/careers)

LEARNING WITH GRANDPARENTS AND SPECIAL FRIENDS

YEAR 7 EVENT



23 JULY

The Tzevet

DAVENING FOLLOWED BY
LEARNING
8:15–9:45 AM
AT THE MPR, LEIBLER
YAVNEH COLLEGE

RSVP by 11 July at www.tinyurl.com/gprnts7