



Zach Gomo, *Secondary Jewish Studies*

The Pesach Haggadah famously declares: “And it is this promise that has stood by our ancestors and for us. For not only one enemy has risen up against us to destroy us, but in every generation they rise up to destroy us. But the Holy One, Blessed be He, delivers us from their hands.” The Haggadah immediately follows with words from this week’s parsha: “An Aramean sought to be the destroyer of my forefather. He went down to Egypt and sojourned there with his family, a small number of people, and he became a great, mighty, and populous nation there.” Our ancestors would be mournful of our people’s current suffering, but not shocked. They would understand, as they themselves shout out to us from the pages of our holy texts, what the long, yet ultimately miraculous journey of Jewish history is destined to look like. As it was for our patriarchs and matriarchs, our enemies ultimately destroy themselves upon the altar of their hatred, whilst we—through pain, suffering, death, and loss—emerge stronger in ways incomprehensible to those unfamiliar with our past. So it was in Egypt. We went down few in number yet, after centuries of slavery and murder, emerged “a great,

קשר
KESHER

Friday 12 September 2025
י"ט אלול ה'תשפ"ה

Our parsha itself foretells the terrors of that long exile: "You will go insane from the vision that you will behold before your eyes... You will become an object of astonishment, an archetype of extraordinary misfortune, and a topic of discussion among all the peoples to whose lands G-d will lead you... You will remain few in number instead of being how you once were... You will find no respite among those nations, nor will your foot find any rest. There, G-d will give you a frightened, trembling heart, dashed hopes, and a depressed soul." Yet the Haftorah from Yeshayahu that we read this week responds:

“For behold, darkness shall cover the earth and gross darkness the kingdoms, but the L-rd shall shine upon you, and His glory shall appear over you... Your people, all of them righteous, shall inherit the land forever... The smallest shall become a thousand, the least a

Shabbat Times



Light candles 5:50pm

Shabbat ends 6:48pm

Abeles Liberman Pre-School incorporating
The Gillian and Colin Mandel Family
Yavneh Creche
81 Balaclava Road, Caulfield VIC 3161
P +613 8317 2510



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mighty nation; I am the L-rd, in its time I will hasten it."

Extraordinarily, in 1948 Israel was home to 800,000 people. Less than one lifetime later, Israel's population has surpassed 10 million and continues to grow rapidly. Our entire history, theology, and sacred texts declare in perfect unison: there will be dark times, but the light will always come—and it will always overcome the darkness.

Consider this: as of Yom Hazikaron 2025, the IDF records 25,417 people who have fallen in defence of Israel since the first modern Jewish neighbourhoods were rebuilt outside Jerusalem's walls in 1860. By contrast, in just two days at Babyn Yar outside Kiev in 1941, 33,771 Jews were slaughtered. Every life lost is infinite and the destruction of an entire world—but the contrast reminds us that the cost resulting from 165 years of rebuilding our homeland does not equal the cost in lives of 48 hours of exile. Moreover, unlike in exile, those who rise to destroy us now find us not defenceless, but ready and able to defend ourselves with a determination unparalleled in the history of nations.

This week, in reference to the Israeli strike on Hamas's leadership in Qatar, the Prime Minister of Israel Binyamin Netanyahu declared: "Our enemies must know one thing—since the creation of the State of Israel, the blood of Jews is not free!"

This is the most trying moment of our generation, but we are rising to that challenge. We must do everything in our power to bring our hostages home and honour our fallen with dignity. We must comfort those in pain. And yes, we must fight with all our strength so that those who have murdered Jews—or who would—can never, ever rise up to destroy us again. Remember, we know how this will ultimately end. The promises of our Torah, our prophets, and our ancestors stand as unwavering witnesses to our eternal story. As Yeshayahu assures us in the Haftorah: "Violence shall no longer be heard in your land, neither robbery nor destruction within your borders, and you shall call salvation your walls and your gates praise." It is surely no coincidence that the Hebrew word for "violence" in this verse is none other than "Hamas." May we soon see this prophecy fulfilled and may true and everlasting peace reign forever.

Am Yisrael Chai!

Shabbat
Shalom

The
Yavneh
Academy
תל ליבנה וחכמיה

Term 3
Adult Learning Series
Weekly Evening Sessions
VCE Study Centre
2 Nagle Ave, Elsternwick

Last Session of Term!

MONDAY
15 September
כ"ב אלול
7:30pm

Open Your Machzor:
Insights & Inspiration
from Rosh Hashana
Prayers
with
Mrs Avigail Wonder



**Strengthen your connection
to Torah & Community**

Join us!

RSVP: tinyurl.com/lycacademy



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Every Student is a World

Chaim Cowen, Deputy Principal, Head of Jewish Studies

At Yavneh, we strive to notice each and every child. Not only to know them by name, but to know them by character and to appreciate their personal strengths and growth areas.

The impossible task of a teacher is to teach twenty lessons in every single lesson, providing a separate layer of learning pitched at the needs of each student who sits before them. Broadly referred to as 'differentiation', our teachers work tirelessly to craft lessons that speak to the multiple intelligences that form their class. Often however, this is not enough. For students who require further, individualised support, we have an amazing team known as 'JYes' made up of dedicated young people, many of whom are alumni of the College, who work 1:1 and in small groups with students filling gaps and consolidating their prior knowledge. The value of the sessions is not just that they bring students 'up to speed' with the class, but also in reminding them that they are noticed, that we care for their success and to provide them a role model to emulate.



Our Scholar in Residence Rabb Professor Samuel Lebens




Rabbi David Debow



Professor Chaim Sukenik

In addition to supporting students, we recognise the importance of challenging our academically gifted students, by exposing them to more complex texts and ideas than those that feature in the classroom. Top performing students are identified and form part of the 'JS Scholars' cohort who are provided with 1:1 and small group chavrutas with the members of the Israeli Tzevet, where they explore a Sefer of their choosing, studying it in its original language and exploring the rich themes that emerge. Additionally, the JS Scholars are granted opportunities to join specialised sessions by visiting experts to the College. This year we have had Professor Chaim Sukenik from Machon Lev, former principal Rabbi David Debow, scholar in residence Rabbi Professor Sam Lebens as well as (just this Friday) Rachel Danzinger Sharanski, who have presented to this cohort.


Every student is an entire world, and our goal at Yavneh is for them to feel that in our eyes this is not an empty statement but a lived mantra. Whether it is in the form of a well-differentiated lesson, the patient support of our JYes staff, or the enrichment program for JS Scholars, we aim to provide every one of our students with the opportunity to discover their unique place in the world of Torah.


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THE COUNTS GIG '25

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 16
DOORS OPEN AT 7PM // SHOW 7:30PM TO 9:30PM

**A concert of musical excellence showcasing our
senior ensembles & VCE Music students**



BOOK TICKETS NOW!



The Counts Gig!

The Counts Gig '25 is a unique opportunity for our senior music students and our VCE Music students to test out and perform their final music performance exam repertoire before exams occur in October/November. The Counts is a professional music venue that is located at Monash University next to the Alexander Theater and regularly features some of the best Australian and International musicians throughout the year. Tuesday night will be a concert featuring Yavneh's musical excellence showcasing our senior ensembles and our 2025 VCE Music students. Book your tickets now!

Jewish Life Educators Primary & Secondary

We are seeking dynamic and engaging educators to join our Jewish Life Teams in Primary and Secondary for 2026. The roles will involve actively engaging with a broad range of students across the school, delivering experiential and extra-curricular programs, running events that promote the values and ideals of the College and playing an integral role in school camps and shabbatons. Candidates will be self-motivated, have proven abilities in engaging with and inspiring students, demonstrate strong collaborative skills and model the Religious Zionist ethos of the College.

Please email your application to hr@yavneh.vic.edu.au by Friday 10 October 2025



To apply visit www.yavneh.vic.edu.au/careers



Celebrating the Special Role Models in our Young Childrens' World

Charlene Orwin, Head of Yavneh Early Learning Centre

Father's Day was a heartfelt opportunity for us to honour and celebrate the important role that special male role models—whether fathers, grandfathers, uncles, or other important figures—play in the lives of our young children. At Yavneh ELC, all of our 9 rooms, had the chance to express their love and appreciation for these role models in their lives. Through meaningful activities, hand-made gifts, and meaningful morning Tefillah, we were able to show gratitude for the strong, positive male figures who guide them, support them, and nurture their growth. These moments of connection were a reminder of the love and care that these role models provide, helping children develop a sense of belonging and emotional security. We all appreciate and understand that the role of male figures in a child's life is one of deep responsibility, guiding not only through actions but through the values they impart. While Father's Day is traditionally a time to celebrate fathers, at our ELC, we embraced the opportunity to recognize all the important men who shape a child's life. Whether through teaching and role-modelling Jewish values and traditions, spending quality time



together or simply being there when needed, these male role models play a crucial role in nurturing the emotional and spiritual growth of children. Our celebration of this day was a reflection of these values, bringing children together to honour the positive, lasting impact of the special men in their lives, no matter their title or relationship. It was a reminder that family is not just about biology, but about the love, support, and guidance we give each other, in all its forms.



Thank you to all those who attended our morning or afternoon celebrations, supporting the connections and partnerships between our families, children and teachers. We look forward to many more celebrations together.



Grandparent & Special Friend Rosh Hashana Challah Bake!

The Elsternwick Campus was filled with warmth and joy as our Senior Kinders welcomed grandparents and special friends for a heartwarming Rosh Hashana Challah Bake, beautifully organised by Jewish Studies Coordinator Yael Lewis.

The morning began with a moving moment of reflection and connection: the sounding of the shofar, heartfelt Tehillim for Israel, and a touching speech from our 2026 School Captain, Mitty P, who shared:

"It feels like just yesterday when we were in Yavneh Kinder, baking Challot every Friday morning with our Morot, and now we are Year 11 students at this amazing school, wishing to be back at Kinder shaping Challot every Friday morning."

Guests rotated through three engaging activities:

- Round challah making – a sweet tradition symbolising the cycle of the year.
- Challah board decorating – adding a personal touch to the festive table.
- Time capsule creation – complete with Polaroid photos to capture the moment and preserve memories.

The event was not only a celebration of Rosh Hashana, but also a beautiful bonding experience, filled with laughter, creativity, and shared tradition. It reminded us that the connections between generations are as sweet as honey.

A heartfelt thank you to all who joined us, and to Morah Carol, whose inspiring words (attached below) added depth and meaning to this special morning. Shana Tova U'Metuka to all!



It's a true delight to stand here and share a few words about what it's like to be a Safta of a child attending not just any kinder but Yavneh kinder.

For me, it is pure joy and naches layered with both nostalgia and pride. Not only did our 3 sons attend Yavneh but having our 2 granddaughters Lielle and Noa starting their education here feels even more special.

There's a unique sweetness to being a grandparent. We get to witness and be part of all the milestones with a quieter and calmer perspective—one shaped by years of experience as a parent but with the luxury of time and patience to enjoy every conversation, time to answer every question, time to snuggle up together to read stories and time to help these special people navigate the world around them.

There is always such pride in seeing our grandchildren develop and learn new skills at kinder, to swing across the monkey bars for the first time, to complete a difficult kinder puzzle, to problem solve, to make friends etc but what is so special here at Yavneh is that they are also learning what it is to be proud Jewish children with a love of Eretz Yisrael. There is an excitement in learning about Shabbat and Chaggim, they are immersed in Ivrit, tefilla and brachot are part and parcel of everyday learning. And as Grandparents how much naches do we get listening to them as they share their knowledge with us by actively participating in a seder together, by saying the brachot whilst lighting Shabbat candles and making kiddush together or by identifying all the letters they have learnt already in the aleph bet.

I do stand here in a very unique position, having been a teacher in the kinder here for quite a number of years, I know exactly what goes on from the other side and all the hard work put in by the staff.

Thank you to all of you for your hard work. Our grandchildren are thriving. Thank you for creating a warm and welcoming environment for them, a place where they feel safe and valued, a place where they love to come each and every day, and a place filled with fun, energy, and learning.

- Morah Carol Shapiro



Primary J-Life Update: Chessed is in the Air!



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

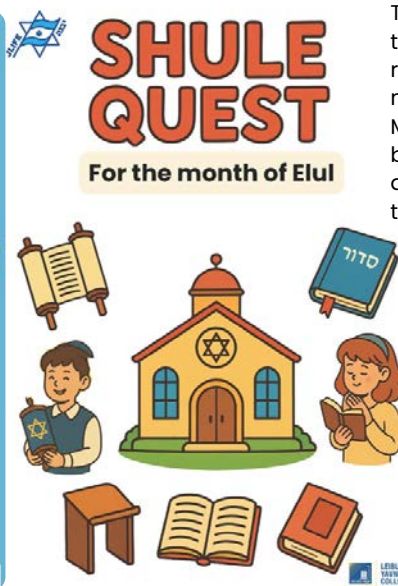
Many students in Years 2, 3 and 4 enjoyed coming at lunch recess times to do some Chessed over the past few weeks. They have now coloured 100 cards and decorated 320 bags for Smiles on Seniors, for their Rosh Hashana packages. I am positive that every senior member of our Melbourne Jewish Community will be thrilled when they receive their package and see our student's decorative work. The students who volunteered their own recess time to take on this chessed all displayed teamwork and Achrayut (responsibility) and were rewarded with Achrayut Tokens.

Donated honey and cards the students made for CCare, have now been collected with our box being filled up and received with thanks and appreciation from CCare.



Final orders for the Pre Rosh Hashana Sweet Treats have come in, with many students wishing the last day of term was already here, so they can receive their treats. An initiative of the Year 6 JLife Leaders – a total of \$560 was raised for the Mizrachi Charity Fund. Another great chessed in our Primary School.

This week the Shule Quest continues, with many students already taking the second test about People and Roles in a Shule. Prizes have been well received and when I walk down the corridors, I have been greeted by many enthusiastic students letting me know they are ready to be tested. Monday is the last day for Tzedakah Boxes to be handed in – winners will be announced at the final assembly for Term 3. From the looks of things already, it is going to be tough to decide on the top 3 winners – stay tuned!



Some Tzedakah Box Entries!



Our Year 6 JLife Leaders!

Year 4 Siyum Celebration

Ettie Spigelman & Pnina Landau, Primary Jewish Studies

Year 4 celebrated a very special Siyum as we completed Parashat Vayera, Perakim 20 and 21. The students marked this milestone with great joy and energy.

We began with a delicious treat of pizza and chips, which everyone enjoyed together. Afterwards, the excitement continued with a lively Baamboozle game, where students showed their enthusiasm and deep knowledge. They eagerly answered both general knowledge and grammar questions, often searching through the Chumash to find the correct answers.

The atmosphere was full of excitement and pride as the students celebrated their hard work and learning achievements. It was truly a memorable way to mark this stage of our Chumash journey.





Celebrating Diversity in Israeli Society

Haya Epstein, *Primary Jewish Studies*

In our Tziyonut lessons this term, Year 5 students have been exploring the richness and diversity of the Jewish people. We've been learning how Israel is a truly unique place—where Jews from around the world have come together after centuries of exile. From Ashkenazi to Sephardi, Mizrahi to Ethiopian, Yemenite, Bukharan, Indian and more, each community brings its own traditions, music, food, customs, and clothing styles.

The challenge and the beauty are learning how to honour these differences while building a shared identity.



We can think of Israeli Jewry as a woven tapestry. When each thread is put together, they form one vibrant cloth. If we tried to make all the threads the same, we would lose the pattern. But by respecting each strand and weaving them together thoughtfully, we create something stronger and more beautiful.

What unites us is one story: the return to our homeland, and the dream of being One People in our own Land.

In class we have created models of some of the different clothing styles of the different peoples who live in Israel.

Am Yisrael is not one note, but a symphony. And when we play in harmony, we carry the dream forward together. ביחד ננצח and Am Yisrael Chai!



Matter That Matters: Year 3 Gets Messy with Oobleck!

Mel Adelstein & Leigh Roncon *Primary General Studies*

In Year 3, we have been learning about States of Matter as part of our Science unit. We are exploring how a change of state between solid and liquid can be caused by adding or removing heat energy. Students explored how materials can behave in different ways. To investigate, we made Oobleck and tested whether it was a solid or a liquid. Following the scientific method, students wrote a procedure text that included a hypothesis, steps, observations, and results. The class discovered that Oobleck is in fact a Non-Newtonian, which means it behaves like both a solid and a liquid depending on how it is handled. The children thoroughly enjoyed this messy, hands-on experiment and developed a deeper understanding of matter through a fun approach to learning.



Secondary J-Life Update:

Sarah Teichtahl, Jewish Life Educator


Jlife has been busy with Elul programming, learning and extra-curricular events this week.

The Elul Learn and Return initiative is going full steam ahead, with learning every recess and lunchtime, as well as charity and exciting extra-curricular events. Students have the opportunity to win prizes based on their involvement with J-life learning and events, with a big raffle happening at the end of term!

Ahead of the Yamim Noraim, J-life is running sessions for each year level in the highschool, with a special workshop dedicated to the concept of Teshuva. Students have the opportunity to reflect on their lives and goals after learning about the true meaning of teshuva, and engaging in interesting discussions on Judaism's view of the Self.

Also, J-life is collecting pickle-jars for Chag in a Box! These cans will be going to people in need for use over the chaggim, and Yavneh's contributions are already making a big difference.



	 Elul Learn and Return					בסד
	ELUL LEARNING PROGRAM Week 3: 15-19 September					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
RECESS	929	HALACHA CLUB	HALACHA CLUB	HALACHA CLUB	929	
LUNCH	MORAH SHULA	TATSI + 929	MRS WONDER + NEW YEARS RESOLUTIONS	ROUND CHALLAH BAKE + 929	GOMO	
AFTER SCHOOL			7-8 SPORTS MISHMAR 9-12 TISCH			



Elul

Learn and Return

תפילה
Learning

- Daily lunchtime learning (1 ticket)
- After school opportunities (3 tickets)

תשובה
Middot

- Screen time challenge: reduce your screen time by 25% (5 tickets)

צדקה
Chessed

Prizes

5 tickets:
Exclusive J-Life tote bag

10 tickets:
Exclusive J-Life dry-fit T-Shirt

Overall Raffle:
 1st Prize: \$100 Chadstone Voucher
 2nd Prize: \$50 Mama Felafel Voucher
 3rd Prize: \$20 Tuckshop Voucher




CHAG IN A BOX FOOD DRIVE

We're collecting cans of kosher **PICKLES** for Chag in a Box - a community initiative that delivers food boxes to families in need for Jewish holidays.

Bring a can (or two!) to school and be part of something meaningful. Your donation will go into beautifully packed boxes delivered before Rosh Hashanah to help others celebrate with pride.

Please bring to Hamakom
FINAL DAY TO DELIVER: SEPTEMBER 15TH 2025



Check us out at www.chaginabox.org or @chaginabox on Instagram



SPORTS MISHMAR

Raffle tickets

Years 7+8



Delicious food, backboard footy, and an unreal Shteig

ON AREA E

Wednesday 17th Sep 4:20-5:45 pm



ELUL TISCH

Featuring Benji Jones

WEDNESDAY 17 SEP

7:30 PM



FOOD | SINGING | ELUL

Join us this Wednesday night, September 17th, at 7:30 for an inspiring Elul-themed tisch!

Years 9-12
Epstein household

Year 8 Chaverim Program at Jewish Care Carnegie

Continuing our Chaverim Program with Jewish care, our Year 8 students travelled to Jewish Care Carnegie on Wednesday to celebrate the upcoming Chag of Rosh Hashana. Sweet conversations between students and residents were had, honey jars were decorated and music was enjoyed by all. We had so much Nachat seeing our students get involved and demonstrate their Menschlichkeit!



Guest Speaker: Zara Cooper 'ClammyFraud'

Y10 and 11 students attended a workshop on online safety and activism with Zara Cooper - CEO of Digital Defence aka ClammyFraud.

Zara showed the students the impact of misinformation and online bullying and trolling. More importantly, she showed the students what they can do to fight antisemitism and hate online and the importance of reporting all antisemitic and hateful comments they see online. The students were so engaged during this impactful workshop and we thank Zara for all her advocacy in the online safety space.



Niche Player of the Week

Noah G, Year 8 Student

JAXON SMITH-NJIGBA

Jaxon Smith-Njigba is plays NFL for the Seattle Seahawks.

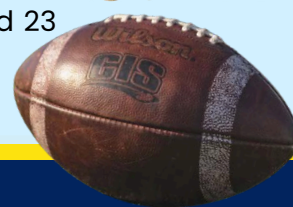
He is a wide receiver.

Smith-Njigba got 124 rushing yards against the 49ers last weekend.

He also got 9 catches.

Smith-Njigba was pick 20 form Ohio state in 2023.

This week he earned 25 NFL fantasy points and 23 Supercoach points.





Yavneh Buzz

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



Upcoming Dates 2025:

SEPTEMBER:

Friday 19: Last Day term 3.

Mazal Tovs

Mazal Tov Ella **Smolarski** and family on the occasion of her Batmitzvah.

SHABBAT SHALOM

Multi-sports Coaching



Tennis | Soccer | Basketball

Leibler Yavneh College
Thursday Afternoon: 4.00-4.35pm

Thursday October 16th– December 4th
\$200 for an 8 Week Term

Contact: 0422 728 938
Email: miketlm4tennis@gmail.com



Jewish Life Educators Primary & Secondary

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Apply Now!

To apply visit

www.yavneh.vic.edu.au/careers



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ROSH HASHANA GIFT BOXES 2025

All proceeds going to support the
Emunah Therapeutic kitchen in
Sderot and therapy sessions for
children and families

\$60 per box

trybooking.com/DFAVR



ELC Kinder Open Day

Ta'am Shel Yavneh



Simcha & Song

Thursday 30 October תשפ"ה
9:15am - 10:00am

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

RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/simchansong>

