



קשר KESHER

Friday 13 March 2026
יכ"ד באדר תשפ"ו

פרשת ויקהל-פקודי

How Talking is Transforming Student's Writing.

Hailey Joubert, Head of Primary School

"Often, Melody likes to sing outside, facing the sea."

"At midday, the sun tiptoed in."

"Melody, who hates to lose her voice, ..."

"Layla, who was creative, assertive and smart, ..."

"Alex, who was sporty, athletic and hungry to win, ..."

"Sal, who was sweating a pond, boots shaking and his heart racing, ..."

"Fury, hands clenched on his sword, helmet on tight, heart thumping, ..."

"Wisle who was wise, magical and cruel, sat in his chamber, hands still as water, heart beating like a beat in a party, mind focused as a lion seeing his target."

These are a few examples of the evocative short-burst-writing responses crafted by students in Years 2 to 6, when practicing specific tools from the writer's toolkit in their writing lessons.

As parents, you want your child to grow into a confident, effective communicator, both orally and in writing. We want that for our students too. This year we have fully implemented the Talk for Writing (T4W) approach across Prep to Year 6 and even at this early stage, we are excited to see how students can express creativity, organise ideas, and write with clarity and engagingly, because of the T4W approach. Talk for Writing, developed by educator and poet Pie Corbett, is rooted in how children naturally learn which is through speaking, listening, and role-play. T4W transforms the writing journey into an engaging, explicit and supportive experience. From telling stories aloud to crafting their own written texts, children strengthen their voice and text structure in a way that feels both meaningful and inspiring.

Continues on the next page...

פרשת ויקהל-פקודי

Shabbat Times 

Light candles 7:24pm

Shabbat ends 8:20pm

Welcoming Chief Rabbi Sir Ephraim Mirvis KBE to Leibler Yavneh College.

Tanya Shaltiel, Foundation Executive Director



Last Friday, we had the honour of welcoming Chief Rabbi Sir Ephraim Mirvis KBE to Leibler Yavneh College. After joining our students for a meaningful Shacharit, Chief Rabbi Mirvis was the special guest speaker at the Secondary assembly, also attended by Foundation Members.

After passing through a guard of honour made up of our excited, flag waving primary school students, Chief Rabbi Mirvis opened his address by describing Leibler Yavneh College as "one of the greatest Jewish schools in the world." On his third visit to Yavneh, he shared how inspired he is by our students and the remarkable atmosphere of the school, making special mention of the beautiful and uplifting davening led by our students.

Chief Rabbi Mirvis reflected that Yavneh is a particularly special place for his family. His grandchildren attended the school and his son, Rabbi Danny Mirvis, previously served as the Rav of Mizrahi Shule and taught Gemara at the College. Rav Danny was not able to join his father on this visit as he has been called up for miluim, alongside many brave soldiers, including our Yavneh alumni. During this critical time, we continue to pray for the safety of our chayalim and for all of Am Yisrael.



The Chief Rabbi reflected that perhaps the longest bridge in the world stretches through the skies from Israel to Leibler Yavneh College. At Yavneh, he said, one feels a deep and authentic connection to Israel expressed in our learning, our tefillot and our daily life.

Following his address, the Chief Rabbi joined our Senior Kinder students for their Shabbat Party, a delightful and joyful moment with our youngest learners.

On Sunday, Chief Rabbi Mirvis joined our community as we celebrated the inauguration of Rabbi Daniel and Rebbetzin Ilana Epstein as the Senior Rabbinic couple of Mizrahi. Chief Rabbi Mirvis spoke highly of Rabbi Daniel and Rebbetzin Ilana as leaders and educators, and we are especially thrilled that both teach at Yavneh.

Moments like these remind us how proud we are of our school and, most importantly, of our students. Yavneh students carry a deep sense of Jewish pride, identity and connection to Israel and are the future leaders of our community.



Parshat Vayakhel

Zachary Gomo, Secondary Jewish Studies Teacher



In Parshat Vayakhel, we read how Bezalel designed the Mishkan's components and vessels. We are told that Bezalel was, "filled with G-dly spirit, with wisdom, insight and knowledge." These were intricate, detailed designs with the utmost significance and purpose.

According to the Ramban, the Mishkan was filled with holy vessels in the same way that the Patriarchs and Matriarchs of the Jewish people built homes filled with holiness. The Menorah is particularly noteworthy as a representation of each and every Jew's obligation to spread light beyond themselves. Just as the role of the Menorah is to illuminate the Mishkan – the Jew is tasked with illuminating the world.

Indeed, Bezalel, on the basis of his divine inspiration, designed the Menorah "of pure gold," and replete with the most intricate of cups, branches, flowers, blossoms and more.

This imagery reappeared at a time of great national struggle many generations later.

The Mishkan transitioned to the First Temple after its construction, which was ultimately destroyed by the Babylonian Empire. The Persian Empire subsequently defeated the Jews' Babylonian conquerors in turn. The Persians, first under Cyrus and then reaffirmed by Darius, permitted the Jews to rebuild their Temple in Jerusalem.

Written at the time of the Persian King Darius, the book of my namesake the prophet Zechariah shares an encounter between the prophet and an angel. The angel shows Zechariah an intricate Menorah, constructed of solid gold – but flanked by two olive trees. It is revealed to Zechariah that these trees represent the Cohen Gadol Yehoshua and Zerubavel, a descendant of King David. Zerubavel, like Bezalel, was tasked with building – not the Mishkan, but the Second Temple itself.

Zechariah writes that "The word of H' then came to me saying... For who is scornful on the day of small things? They will rejoice when they see the stone of the plumb line in the hand of Zerubavel." It is clear from both this week's Parsha and the prophecy of Zechariah that G-d cares deeply about the small, individual efforts of each and every human being.

On face value, our obligation to illuminate the world, as the Menorah illuminated the Mishkan and Temple, appears entirely overwhelming and beyond the capacity of an individual person. In reality, the world is fundamentally changed via small, human actions that are entirely accessible to us all.

May we all merit to never be afraid of taking the very human steps required to illuminate the world at large – and participate in the rebuilding of everything that is broken, speedily in our days.

Am Yisrael Chai!



Adar Winners

Sara Amzalak, Head of Jewish Life and Learning

For Parashat Zachor, JLife Primary held a raffle for all those who went to Shule to hear the reading of Zachor. The winner for the Prep and Year 1 raffle was – Eliana L. 1A. For the Year 2-3 raffle, the winner was Eliyat P 2A. and for the years 4-6 raffle, Gavi H. 6A was the winner. Kol HaKavod to all those who went to Shule and returned their form to enter the raffle.

There was also a Mask Making Competition for the month of Adar. In 5th place were Jaimie and Sammy G. In 4th place were Jonah G. 4B and Asher B. 4A. In 3rd place was Elliot G. 3A In 2nd place was Aya N. 3A and equal in first place were Gabe L. 5A and Karni B. 4B. Well done to the winners and every participant. Everyone received a certificate and small prize.

Students were also excitedly finishing off their Gematria Genius pages for the month of Adar this week. A full report next week on winners and celebration.



The Hidden Curriculum of Play: How Children Build Social Worlds at School

Lina and Terry, Primary General Studies

This term in our Talk for Writing program, our Year 5 students have been diving into the world of exciting portal narratives. They have been exploring how ordinary characters can step into extraordinary worlds. The students have enjoyed imagining the adventures that await on the other side of their portals.

As part of our writing toolkit, students have been learning how to name and visualise their main character to help the reader form a clear picture. They have also been practising how to describe their character using three adjectives in one effective sentence, strengthening their ability to create vivid and engaging openings.

Here are examples from 5A and 5B that highlight the creativity and writing skills students have been developing.



Wila, who was smart, kind and brave, curled up in a ball as something rustled in the nearby grass.
Abby

Melody, who was brave, adventurous and nice, froze as something huge ran up the enormous tree in front of her.
Dahlia

Dasher, who was fast, swift and hairy was forced to swerve to the left as something massive sprinted towards him.
Eden

Enzo, who was quick, moody and agile ducked as something huge leapt over him
Amichai

Rex, who was fast, strong and excited, roared as he saw that humans had ruined his home, not knowing that he was now in 'the future!'
Moses

Shellerina, who was kind, brave and clumsy, fell as something huge swam in circles above the magical, underwater world.
Noa

Sparkle, who was kind, caring and glamorous, tried on her new shoes as she looked at herself through her mirror.
Mia

Dash, who was muscular, tough and brave, crouched as something small flew through the dirt city.
Aiden

Archer, who was flexible, strong and brave, charged as the lion pounced through the Roman arena.
Hallel

Shadow, who was irritating, peculiar and clumsy, quickly ran as he saw a reflection of a massive beast about to attack!
Emma

Roller, who was quick and rotund, jumped high as something small swooped over his long legs.
Netta

Chilli, who was rude, bossy and selfish, dodged as someone threw a huge can across the room.
Eden

Dot, who was curious, clumsy and adventurous, froze as something enormous crashed down in the cold, stone land.
Sammy

Lavender, who was sarcastic, athletic and sly, back flipped when something flew past the mystical garden.
Talia

Dash, who was muscular, fast and adventurous, jumped as a beast circled above the dark forest.
Benzi

Jumping for joy!

Ryan Rothschild, Head of Sports - Primary

It has been so enjoyable to see students from all year levels participate in the Jump Rope for Heart Program. Whether they've signed up to the program or are just skipping for fun at school, there has been plenty of smiles and practice, with some amazing improvement! As of writing, we've accumulated over 9 hours of skipping and raised over \$550!! In the last week of Term 1, we will hold our Jump Off Day during a lunchtime play, where students can showcase their skipping talents. Last Thursday was our Footy colours day. The Year 6 service & interact leadership put on fun activities throughout the day including facepainting in the morning and loom band bracelets and footy games at play time. There was plenty to do to get us excited for footy season!

On a very warm Tuesday, all Year 5/6 students participated in the Balaclava District Interschool Sport competition. Notable highlights from around the grounds are as follows:

The girls basketball team fought bravely to capture two wins. Fighting hard all day, the team toughed it out and showed resilience to play right till the end, continuing to push each other all the way.

The boys were up against some extremely tough competition, facing off with other students competing on the representative stage. They enjoyed facing off against each other at the end of the day for some friendly competition.

Eytan E and Boaz L received plaudits from opposition coaches after putting in a team-first performance for Yavneh at the Hockey competition. Other schools noted their strong performance and willingness to compete.

After enjoying a consistent lead in with their coach at Friday morning training sessions, the girls volleyball team battled in a fun day out, coming away with some new volleyball skills too!

Likewise, the girls cricket team had a smile on their face and were motivated to compete strongly. Despite not coming away with a win, they were praised by the coach for giving a completely new sport a go and always having a positive mindset.

The Teeballers enjoyed a day out with their close-knit friendship group. Although not picking up a win, they have the advantage of using their new-found knowledge of the game to push forward should they choose Softball as a winter sport.

And finally, congratulations to the Year 6 cricket team for going back-to-back!! Going through the competition undefeated, the boys comprehensively won their grand final. An incredible achievement to have the same core group of players be involved in winning two in a row, and I'm sure a lifelong Yavneh memory for all of them. They now once again progress to the Division stage in Term 4. A special mention to the second boys cricket team who just narrowly missed out on taking on the Year 6 team in the Grand Final! Coming down to percentage in the end, they had to settle for a 3rd place playoff finish. Many of them will be looking for redemption next year!

Lastly, I wanted to thank all coaches and teachers who assisted throughout the day. A day like this isn't possible without everyone being on board and helping the students succeed on the sporting field.



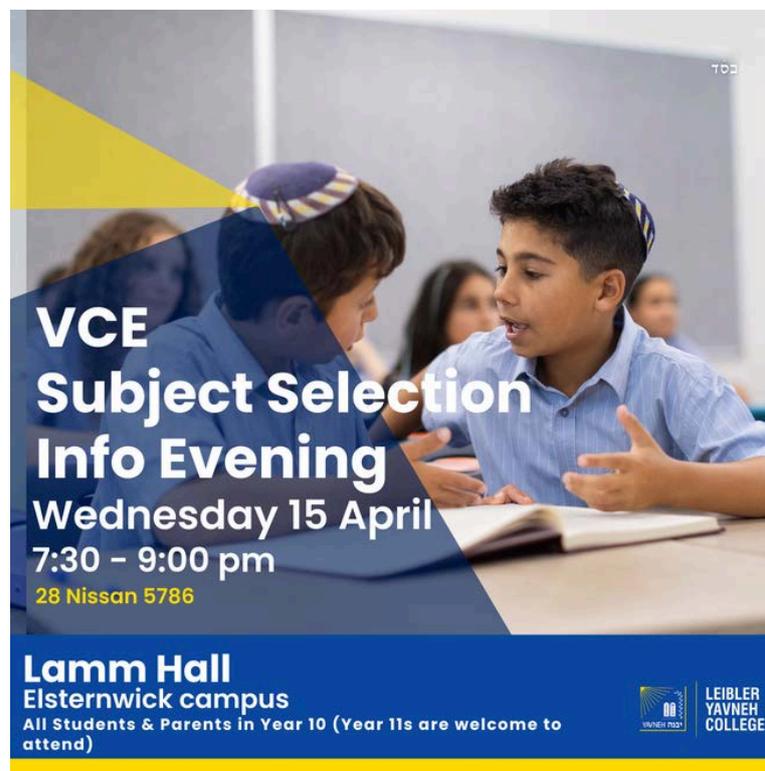
Year 5 Hebrew Language Games

Corinne Caballo Goldberg, Head of Year 7

Learning Hebrew becomes especially meaningful when students engage in games that require active listening, following instructions, and using both spoken and written language. These interactive activities encourage learners to communicate clearly, respond to Hebrew cues, and practise real-time comprehension.

Games that focus on listening and speaking help students build confidence as they follow multi-step instructions, ask questions, and collaborate with their peers. At the same time, reading and writing tasks woven into the games strengthen vocabulary recognition and reinforce key language structures. These activities create an energetic and supportive environment where students learn naturally through movement, communication, and teamwork. Using instruction-based games makes learning Hebrew not only enjoyable but also highly effective.

Here are some photos of our Year 5 students participating in a Hebrew listening and language game as part of their speaking lesson about food.



VCE
Subject Selection
Info Evening
Wednesday 15 April
7:30 – 9:00 pm
28 Nissan 5786

Lamm Hall
Elsternwick campus
All Students & Parents in Year 10 (Year 11s are welcome to attend)

 **LEIBLER YAVNEH COLLEGE**

Physics Day at Luna Park

Hillel Solomon, Head of Science and Secondary Teacher

Last week on Thursday, the year 12 physics class enjoyed an excursion to Luna Park with other physics students from across Melbourne. While there, they had the opportunity to experience first-hand the physics we've been studying in the classroom, observing forces, circular motion, and energy conservation in real-world applications.



TERM 1

LUNCHTIME CLUBS

MONDAY

WEEK 1 and WEEK 2

Jewish Lego Masters Year 2 - 4 Room 31	Israeli Dancing with Orli and Chedva Year 1 - 3 girls Primary Library
--	---

TUESDAY

WEEK 1 and WEEK 2

Primary Choir with Morah Sarah Finch Years 3 - 6 In the Music House

WEDNESDAY

WEEK 1 Craft Club Year 1 - 4 Room 31	WEEK 2 Craft Club : Parasha Quiz w/ Tzevet Year 1 - 4 Room 31	Parasha Quiz w/ Tzevet Year 4-5 In Beit Midrash
---	--	---

THURSDAY

WEEK 1 Parasha Quiz w/ Tzevet Year 4-5 In Beit Midrash	WEEK 2 Jewish stories for Preps in the Prep playground	Jewish stories for Preps in the Prep playground
---	---	---

FRIDAY

WEEK 1 and WEEK 2

Sports Mishmar with Eitan Year 6

Lunch eating/learning in room 23
Lunchtime sport on Blue Courts

LEIBLER YAVNEH COLLEGE

MATHS

HOMWORK CLUB!

Every Thursday Lunchtime
With Mr Smolyar

IN THE RESOURCE CENTRE

ALL STUDENTS WELCOME!

YEARS 7-12

Maths symbols and formulas: $2x+3y=7$, x^2 , π^2 , \sqrt{x} , x^2 , Σ , $F_b = F_7$, $\frac{3}{4}$, $=2+$, $+b+2=$, $\sqrt{x+y}$, x , $+$, \times , $-$, \div , $=$.

From Elsternwick to Iron Dome: 15 Years of Life (and Showers) in Israel

Ben-Zion Hain (*Class of '97*)

Fifteen years ago, I traded the predictable calm of the 67 tram and the familiar corridors of Leibler Yavneh College for a life in Israel. At the time, I thought the biggest challenge would be mastering the Hebrew "r" or figuring out how to merge into Israeli traffic without an apology. Little did I know. Today, Israel is home in every sense—it's where my six kids are growing up, where my career has flourished, and where "family" includes the entire neighborhood. But as we navigate the current "Operation Roaring Lion," I'm reminded that life here comes with a level of intensity that's a bit hard to explain from afar.

Lately, our daily soundtrack has changed. Our lives are punctuated by the rising wail of sirens (and the ear-splitting shrill of the phone with its pre-warning of our impending doom). It's a sound that doesn't care if you're in a high-stakes Zoom meeting, halfway through helping a child find a matching sock, or fast asleep dreaming of an Essendon premiership. We've all developed a new, slightly neurotic superpower: "The Ear." It's that internal radar where a distant motorcycle engine or a neighbor's lawnmower sounds just enough like a siren to make your heart do a double-flip. You freeze, realize it's just a Honda, and go back to what you were doing.

Yet, despite the sirens, the work doesn't stop. There is a saying here that "Israeli Hi-Tech delivers no matter what," and we live that every day. We are still working "as normal"—well, a new kind of normal where you might finish a code review from a reinforced room. Our global clients still expect excellence, and the resilience of the Israeli workforce ensures they get it, sirens or not.



Daily logistics have also... evolved. In Melbourne, you plan your route based on the quickest path home. In Rehovot right now, we plan based on the nearest concrete slab. The shower has become the ultimate high-stakes environment. My kids have essentially turned into a tactical unit; nobody enters the bathroom without a "spotter" standing outside the door, ready to yell if the alert starts. We've even started using a website—bestshowertime.com—to check the "statistical safety" of washing our hair. It's the kind of tech innovation you didn't know you needed until you're contemplating a 30-second rinse-and-run.

The "Safe Room" (Mamad) has also become the world's most awkward social club. When that siren goes off, you never quite know who's joining the party or how long the "party" will last—we have been in the Mamad for as little as 10 minutes and as long as three hours. Last week it was us, a neighbor's kid, and a very confused delivery driver who arrived at the exact wrong—or maybe exactly right—moment. We stood there among the storage boxes and spare mattresses, exchanging nervous jokes, checking WhatsApp, and counting the "booms" while waiting for the message from the Home Front Command that signals the all-clear—and fresh air—for the time being.

Amidst this, life's most beautiful moments still fight to happen, though they look different now. This week, our friends' daughter got married. In a time of "normal" peace, it would have been a massive celebration with hundreds of friends dancing until dawn. Instead, it was a quiet, intimate huddle of only her closest family. Her friends couldn't be there, yet the joy was just as fierce. It was a stark reminder that here, we don't put life on hold; we just hold each other tighter.

One minute we are huddled together in a reinforced room, and ten minutes later, the kids are back to their homework and we are back to our keyboards. Life doesn't just "go on" here; it pushes forward with a defiance that is deeply moving.

One of the most powerful anchors for me during this time has been the "Melbourne Connection." Receiving messages from my old 1997 Yavneh classmates—people I haven't seen in decades but who still feel like family—means more than I can put into words. It's a reminder that whether we're in the 3185 postcode or the Middle East, we are part of one indestructible story.

To my Yavneh family back in Melbourne: thank you for the love. We feel it all the way over here.

Bonus Section: Things to do in the Mamad while waiting for the all-clear (We have done all of these at least once!)

- WhatsApp family updates: Reassure everyone you're fine while receiving 37 messages asking if you're fine.
- Continue work meetings: Because nothing says productivity like "Sorry, I might go on mute if the siren goes off again."
- Board/Card games: Competitive family bonding with absolutely no arguments whatsoever (obviously).
- Clean the Mamad for Pessach: Because if you're stuck there anyway, you might as well search for chametz in places never before imagined.
- Sleep: The classic Israeli survival strategy: "Wake me when it's all-clear."
- Read stories to the kids: Preferably ones where the hero eventually gets to leave the room.
- Play I Spy: The thrilling game of spotting the same three objects in the room for the 17th time.
- Try not to step on each other's toes (or heads): Advanced spatial awareness training in a very small area.

more than **Rehovot** was in a protected space in
14 hours and 38 minutes

mako f X Share:

I jumped in
57 alarms

place
39

On the list of localities with the longest time in a protected area





Mazal Tov

Mazel Tov to **Leo Fineberg** on his Bar Mitzvah

Mazel Tov to **Daniella Hurvitz** on her Bat Mitzvah

Upcoming Dates 2026

MARCH:

Tuesday 17 – Thursday 19:
Spelling Bee Musical 7pm

Friday 27:
Last Day Term 1

APRIL:

Wednesday 1: Erev Pesach

Tuesday 2: Pesach Day one

Wednesday 3: Pesach Day 2

Tuesday 14: First Day Term 2
Yom Hashoah

VCE Subject Selection Info Evening
Wednesday 15 April
 7:30 – 9:00 pm
 28 Nissan 5786

Lamm Hall
 Elsternwick campus
 All Students & Parents in Year 10 (Year 11s are welcome to attend)

LEIBLER YAVNEH COLLEGE

The Yavneh Academy
 תן לי יבנה וחכמיה

We're excited to announce the return of The Yavneh Academy! Join us every Friday morning from 8:20 – 9:00am in the VCE Study Centre at our Elsternwick Campus for inspiring LaLaf-style learning sessions. Stay connected and never miss an update, scan the QR code here to join our WhatsApp group for all upcoming session details!

SCAN HERE

Leibler Yavneh College presents

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee
 the musical

Music & Lyrics by **WILLIAM FINN** Book by **RACHEL SHEINKIN** Conceived by **REBECCA FELDMAN**

Tuesday 17 March – Thursday 19 March 2026

BOOK NOW: WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/DJNOI