



קשר

KESHER

Friday 17 April 2026
ל' ניסן תשפ"ו

פרשת תזריע-מצורע

Welcome back to Term 2!

Shula Lazar, Principal

It is always lovely to return to school after a break; the corridors fill up again, the grounds are scenes of ball games and cartwheels, the smell of toast drifts from the common room, and Yavneh comes back to life.

But Term 2 has its own particular character.

Because almost immediately, we enter the season of the Yoms. Yom HaShoah. Yom HaZikaron. Yom HaAtzmaut. Three days, each extraordinary in its own right, arriving one after the other like movements in a symphony; first sombre, then mournful, then soaring. They form a compressed, almost unbearable emotional arc. From the ashes of the crematoria to the miracle of a sovereign state.

These days are not only about the history. They are about also about heroes.

Yom HaShoah gives us the kedoshim, the 6 million who were murdered and died al Kiddush Hashem, who sanctified God's name not by choosing death, but by refusing to let death take their dignity, their faith, or their humanity.

They were teachers, mothers, rabbis, children. Ordinary people confronted by radical evil, who remained, in the face of the unimaginable, human tragedy. And there were the heroes of survivors who rebuilt, who refused to let the story end in destruction. They chose life, they chose continuity, and they built everything we stand on today. Our schools, our shules, our community. All of it is their legacy.

Yom HaZikaron we remember our hero Chayalim, the Magash HaKeseef on which our State was served. The silver platter forged from nerves of steel, hearts of gold, and a spirit as unbreakable as iron.

על במותיך חלל איך נפלו גבורים

פרשת תזריע-מצרע

Shabbat Times 

Light candles 5:32pm

Shabbat ends 6:29pm

Welcome back to Term 2! contd...

Shula Lazar, Principal

This year, as in recent years, that silver platter has been reddened again. We are still davening that our soldiers are safe and that the citizens of Israel are living without the threat of missiles.

Yom HaAtzmaut gives us our אַנְשֵׁי הַיָּזוּן, hero visionaries. Ben Gurion, who stood up in Tel Aviv on a Friday afternoon in May 1948 and declared the Jewish State into existence through sheer force of will and an unshakeable belief in miracles. Menachem Begin, who carried his Torah values with unshakable conviction, never wavering in principle, never compromising in belief in the Jewish people's right to their land. The pioneers who drained swamps and planted forests and built cities out of sand and stubbornness.

But the line of visionaries didn't end with that generation. It runs all the way to today, to the young families who are drawn to Israel by love, by belonging, by the pull of living a full Jewish life in the only place on earth where that is possible in all its richness and colour. Many of them are our own. Yavneh families. Yavneh alumni. People we know and love, who have chosen to plant their lives in the centre of Jewish history, to be part of the most extraordinary national story of our time. That, too, is vision. That, too, is heroism.

After October 7, a song swept through Israel and through Jewish communities around the world: Giborei AI, Superheroes. It became an anthem for a people who needed one. Its message was simple and profound: the people of Israel are superheroes. Not because of capes or powers, but because when history demanded something of ordinary people, they met the moment with commitment to something greater than themselves. The farmer who picked up a weapon. The grandmother who shielded her grandchildren. The young soldier who ran towards the fire. Superheroes, giborei ai, in jeans and sneakers and too-big army boots.

Ordinary people. Doing extraordinary things.

That is the message I want our students to carry into this term and into their lives.

The heroes of these three Yoms were not born different from us. They became who they were because of what they chose to do when it mattered. But you do not have to wait for extraordinary circumstances to become extraordinary.

אַנְחֵנוּ עִם שֵׁל גְבוּרֵי עַל
מוֹכְנֵי לְהַצִּיל אֶת הָעוֹלָם
We're a nation of superheroes
Ready to save the world

This week our community lost a hero. Mr Harvey Teller, obm, was both a hero and a tzaddik. Modest in stature, boundless in spirit. He lived a life defined by giving.

He would gather his sons and grandchildren to help prepare food packages, always without names, protecting the dignity of those who would receive them. And almost every day, he would personally deliver them, bringing sustenance where it was needed most.

But Mr Teller did not only tend to people's physical needs, he saw their inner world as well. He met others with warmth and respect and a deep sense of privilege in being able to help. Through founding the Melbourne Jewish Charity Fund, he built something enduring, a structure of care that continues to reach those in need with compassion and discretion. He was a true and living example of chessed.

The day of his levaya, it rained heavily, as though the angels themselves were crying alongside his family and our community. Three of his grandchildren, Raph, Mia and Noah, are part of our Yavneh family, and we know that they will carry forward his legacy of kindness and giving. Mr Teller's example is a reminder to our students, to all of us, that one person, through generosity and love, can make a profound and lasting impact on the world.

We wish Mrs Lea Teller and the entire Teller family long life, and may they know only simchas.

Giborei AI. Am Yisrael. May these days of memory and celebration fill our students with pride and with the desire to live up to the extraordinary people whose shoulders we stand on.

Wishing the Yavneh family a meaningful and moving season of the Yoms.

Shabbat Shalom,
Morah Shula

Yom HaShoah

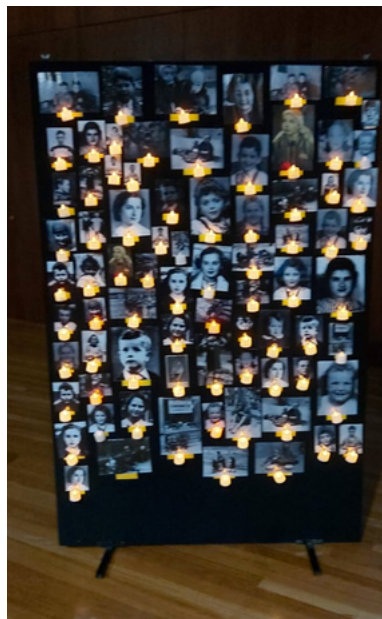
Sara Amzalak, Head of Jewish Life and Learning

On Tuesday, Years 3-6 came together to mark Yom HaShoah – Holocaust Memorial Day.

Students entered the hall with an electric tea light and placed it under a picture of a child who perished in the Holocaust, creating a backdrop to the assembly.

6 candles were lit by students, each candle representing one million of the 6 million Jews who were murdered. As each candle was lit, a statement of remembrance by Holocaust survivor Norbert Freidman was read.

Students stood for a minute of silence, watched a video, "Daniel's Story – A boy's Life during the Holocaust" and heard the special Yizkor Tefillah, sang Ani Ma'amin and Hatikvah.



Learning Milestone: Our Children Begin Writing in Hebrew Script!

Sue Ash, *Primary Jewish Studies*

We are so proud to share an exciting update from our Prep classrooms!

After successfully learning to recognise most Alef Bet letters, our students are now taking the next step in their Hebrew journey—developing their writing skills. They began this process in Term 1 using whiteboards, and this term they are continuing with their very own Ketivah (writing) books.

Each student is learning to carefully form the letters by hand, building confidence while strengthening their fine motor skills. With patience, creativity, and plenty of enthusiasm, the children are discovering the beauty of each letter they learn.

Their joy and sense of accomplishment shine through as they proudly share their work—we couldn't be prouder! Thank you to our wonderful parents for your continued support at home. Your encouragement helps reinforce learning and makes these milestones even more meaningful.



Students in the Maccabi Athletics Championships

Ariella and Charlotte (Year 4) enjoying a fun and competitive day out at the Maccabi Athletics Junior Championships over the holidays.

A big well done to all Yavneh students who competed!



Gifted & Talented - Term 1

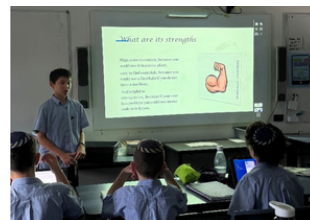
Lina Robertson, *Primary General Studies*

This term, students in the Years 3-6 Gifted & Talented program explored the fascinating unit "The Evolution of Communication." From early cave paintings and stone carvings to carrier pigeons, radios and modern devices, students investigated how humans have communicated ideas across time and distance.

Each student became an "expert" in a pivotal moment in communication history, researching why it was developed, how it worked, its limitations, and the impact it had on people and society. Students then confidently shared their learning through engaging presentations, demonstrating strong research, critical thinking, and communication skills.

Our Year 6 students took their learning a step further through a hands-on STEM challenge, where they built working electrical telegraphs. This project allowed them to explore the science and engineering behind early long-distance communication and make connections between historical innovation and modern technology.

Throughout the term, lessons were enriched with our weekly "Moment in Time" routine, encouraging curiosity and discussion about significant events in history. The enthusiasm, creativity, and depth of thinking shown by students across all year levels has been impressive, and we look forward to continuing this momentum in Term 2.



Year 9 P.A.R.T.Y Excursion to the Alfred

Noah Epstein, *Head of Jewish Life and Co-Curricular*

Year 9 students had the privilege of participating in the P.A.R.T.Y. (Prevention of Alcohol and Risk-Related Trauma in Youth) Program at the Alfred Hospital, where they received incredible access to both professionals and patients.

Students moved between different areas of the emergency and trauma ward, learning about the consequences of risky behaviour and the importance of responsible decision making. It was a memorable day, filled with valuable lessons for adolescence and beyond.



Host our Beit Midrash Tzevet

We warmly encourage all Yavneh College families to take the opportunity to host members of the Hesder Tzevet for a meal. Welcoming them into your home is a meaningful way to show support, build personal connections, and give them a taste of our community's warmth and hospitality. Even a simple meal can make a lasting impact, offering them a chance to relax, recharge, and feel appreciated during their time with us.

Contact Andi 0419 335 748

OUR BEIT MIDRASH TZEVET

Chedva Krengel



Meshamel Tick



Orli Americus



Shaked Carmel



Please contact Andi on 0419 335 749 if you would like to host the Tzevet for Shabbat & Yom Tov Meals








Congratulations

Congratulations to **Orly Mond** for earning 1st place in the young women's division in the prestigious international Jerusalem Science Contest for her project Supernovae. She earned a full four-year tuition scholarship to the Jerusalem College of Technology (Lev Academic Center), a \$1,000 cash prize, and a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Israel. Her research was featured in video highlights at the award ceremony hosted by Walder Science, Chicago.

Registration for next year's contest on the topic of molecular biology is open at walderlab.org/jerusalem.

Upcoming Dates 2026

APRIL:

Tuesday 21: Yom Hazikaron
Wednesday 22: Yom Haatzmaut

May:

Tuesday 5: Lag B'Omer

Mazel Tov

To Belinda and Joe Grant on the birth of a baby boy, brother to Mila

To Julia and Joshua Kestenberg on the birth of a baby boy, brother to Jacob, Abigail and Aria

To Shelly Spilkin on the birth of a granddaughter daughter to Lori and Josh Heine

To Ephraim Shmelkin on his Barmitzva

To Hailey Joubert on her daughter's wedding

To Mai Weinberg on the birth of a son

Condolences

To Family Teller on the passing of Harvey Teller a"h

To Nicky Kapul and Family on the passing of Nicky's Father a"h

To Ettie Spigleman and family on the passing of her Mother in Law a"h

VOLUNTEERS WELCOME

Yavneh Tuckshop is seeking helpers.

Great remuneration!
Healthy food,
big smiles,
happy faces and
lots of thanks from
the staff and kids

Interested in joining us?

Please Contact Glenda:

0412 532 244

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 LaffLaff-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