



# קשר KESHER

פרשת במדבר

Friday 15 May 2026  
כ"ח אייר תשפ"ו

## From Lag B'Omer to Shavuot

Charlene Orwin, Head of Yavneh Early Learning Centre

The days following Lag B'Omer and leading toward Shavuot are filled with anticipation, joy, and meaningful preparation. With Lag B'Omer now behind us, we now begin turning our focus toward Shavuot, a festival that celebrates the giving of the Torah and the importance of learning, unity, and gratitude. For young children and adults alike, this period offers an opportunity to come together as a community and embrace the blessings of Jewish life.

In our early childhood setting, the excitement of Shavuot can already be felt. Our 9 rooms are filled with songs, storytelling, cooking, and creative activities that help children connect to the meaning of the Chag. Our young learners have begun decorating flowers to remember the beauty of Har Sinai and learning about the tradition of eating dairy foods through baking cheesecake and other dairy products. We are learning about the Aseret Hadibrot and using this as an opportunity to extend number concepts. Through music, art, and play, we give our children the opportunity to understand that Shavuot is a joyful time when we, the Jewish people, received the Torah together.

These experiences are especially meaningful for young children because they teach important values in ways they can understand. Sharing with friends, helping one another, listening respectfully, and celebrating together all become part of their everyday learning. As children participate in communal activities and holiday preparations, they develop a sense of belonging and pride in their Jewish identity.

At the same time, Shavuot is also a deeply meaningful opportunity for adult learning and reflection. One of the most treasured traditions of this Chag is Tikkun Leil, the custom of gathering late into the night to study Torah and engage in meaningful discussion. Communities come together to learn, reflect, and reconnect with Jewish teachings in an atmosphere of warmth and inspiration. This night reminds us that Jewish learning continues throughout every stage of life.

In today's world, these moments of togetherness feel especially important. At a time when the Jewish community is facing pain, uncertainty, and rising challenges around the world, opportunities to celebrate our traditions and gather as a community carry even greater meaning. Shavuot offers a chance to focus on light, learning, unity, and hope. Coming together to celebrate, sing, study, and share meals allows us, as a Kehilla, to strengthen one another and find comfort in Jewish connection and continuity.

The journey from Lag B'Omer to Shavuot reminds us of the resilience and strength of the Jewish people. It encourages us to pause and appreciate the blessings we have – our traditions, our learning, our families, and our community. As Shavuot fast approaches, both children and adults can embrace this special time with joy, gratitude, and a renewed sense of togetherness. As we prepare to celebrate Shavuot, we also hold close our prayers for peace in Israel, for comfort and healing for those in need, and for the safety and protection of our Chayalim. May this festival bring strength, unity, and hope to the entire Jewish people.

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Shabbat Times

Light candles 5:01pm

Shabbat ends 6:00pm



Goldschlager Family School of Jewish Studies  
Leopold and Isabella Abrahamovits  
Yavneh Primary School  
A.S. Leibler Secondary School  
P +61 3 9528 4911

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



LEIBLER  
YAVNEH  
COLLEGE

## A Place With No Reception Bamidbar, learning, and the quiet we need in a distracted world

Rabbi Danny Gold

The fourth book of the Torah is called Bamidbar – “in the desert.” At first, that sounds like a place name. The story continues in the wilderness, as Bnei Yisrael travel from Har Sinai towards Eretz Yisrael.

But the midbar is more than a location. It is also a learning environment.

The Torah was not given in a palace, a marketplace, or a busy city. It was given in the desert – a place without the usual noise of life. No shops. No property. No status. No endless distractions. Just a nation, a journey, and the voice of Hashem guiding them forward.

Perhaps that is part of what the midbar teaches us: sometimes, in order to hear what matters, we first need to quieten everything else.

That message feels especially relevant today. We live in a world filled with constant noise. Phones buzz. Notifications arrive. News updates refresh. Entertainment is always one click away. Even when we are sitting in one place, our attention can be pulled in ten directions at once.

This does not mean technology is bad. Phones help us connect, organise, learn, and communicate. But it does mean that attention has become something we need to protect. Quiet is no longer automatic. We have to create it.

A recent article in Psychology Today discussed research showing that even a small reduction in smartphone use can have surprising effects. In one study, participants blocked mobile internet on their phones for two weeks, while still allowing calls and texts. Their screen time dropped significantly, and researchers found improvements in attention, mental health, and overall wellbeing. Importantly, the benefit did not require completely giving up technology. Even partial breaks made a difference.

That idea connects beautifully to Bamidbar.

Bnei Yisrael did not enter the desert in order to stay there forever. The goal was always to reach Eretz Yisrael and build real lives in the real world. The midbar was a preparation. It was a place where they could learn who they were, what they stood for, and what needed to be at the centre of their camp.

The same is true for us. We are not meant to run away from the world. We are not meant to live without responsibility, connection, or modern tools. But we do need moments of midbar – spaces in our day where the noise is lowered enough for us to think clearly, learn deeply, daven properly, and be present with the people around us.

A “midbar moment” might be a few minutes before learning when the phone is away. It might be a Shabbat table without distraction. It might be walking outside without headphones. It might be giving someone our full attention in conversation. It might be opening a sefer, a siddur, or even our own thoughts, without immediately reaching for a screen.

Bamidbar reminds us that journeys need direction. But direction is hard to find when everything is shouting for our attention.

The challenge is not to live in the desert. The challenge is to carry the lesson of the desert into our lives: to create enough quiet that we can hear what matters, remember where we are going, and make sure that our journey is not just busy – but meaningful.

Shabbat Shalom,  
Rabbi Danny Gold

## From Lag B’Omer to Shavuot (contd...)

Charlene Orwin, Head of Yavneh Early Learning Centre





## Mother's Day Celebration in Nitzanim Room

**Supatcha Pueksaard**, *Nitzanim room leader*

On Monday, the Nitzanim Room warmly welcomed mums and mother figures in our children's lives to join us for a special Mother's Day afternoon at creche. The children were incredibly excited to showcase their room with pride and share this meaningful experience with the people they love most.

We prepared three special activity tables where mums, grandmas, and children could spend quality time together and create beautiful memories. Families enjoyed watercolour painting, decorating photo frames with gems, and making cookies with sprinkles to take home, bake, and enjoy together. We wanted families to continue these beautiful moments beyond the creche and celebrate together at home.

At the end of the afternoon, we gathered together for group time to sing songs and tell our mums how much we love and appreciate everything they do for us. The children expressed themselves verbally and through Key Word Sign, which they are very familiar with as it is part of our daily communication practice in the Nitzanim Room. Using Key Word Sign supports communication skills for children of all abilities and encourages inclusive and meaningful interactions. One of the highlights of the day was watching the children proudly present a special gift bag to their mums. It was truly beautiful to see their confidence, sense of belonging, and joy as they shared love and happiness in such a safe, warm, and nurturing environment. Thank you to everyone who took the time to join us at creche and celebrate Mother's Day together in our Nitzanim Room. We loved sharing this special occasion with you all.



## ELC Kinder Open Day

Ta'am Shel Yavneh



**Pre Shavuot**  
**Wednesday 20 May 2026**  
**ELC Balaclava Campus**  
**9:15am - 10:00am**

Join us as we bring Shavuot to life through our senses!  
 Enjoy the opportunity to create, see, listen and taste all that Shavuot has to offer.  
 Come along to enjoy the Celebrations of receiving our Torah.

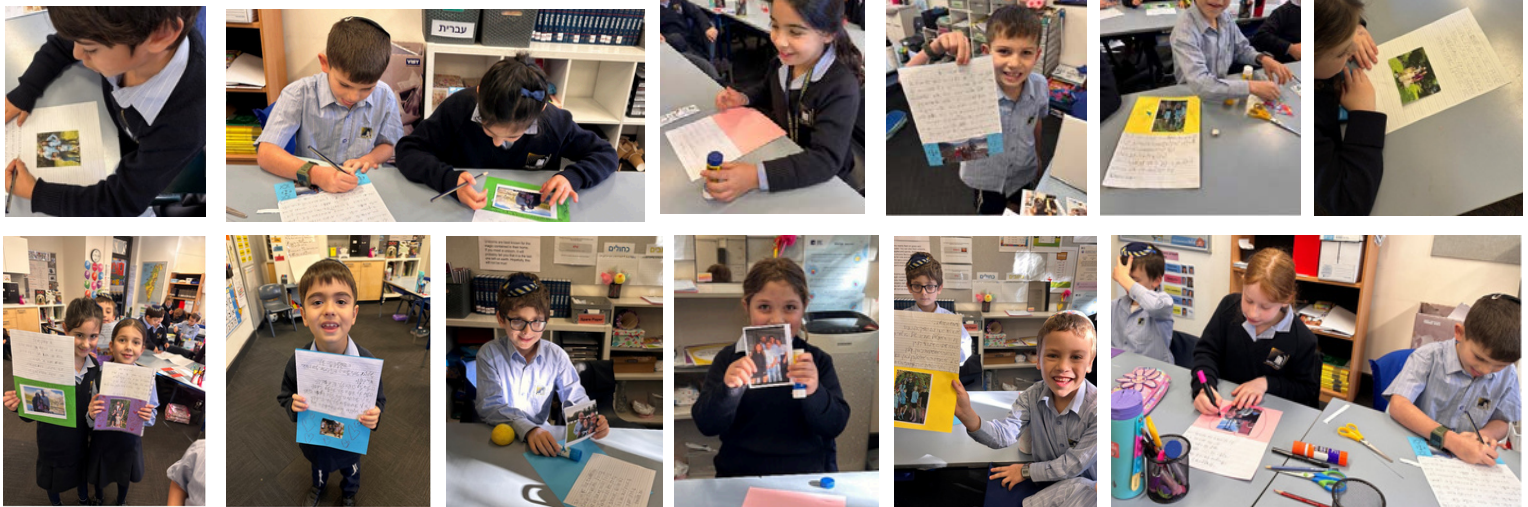
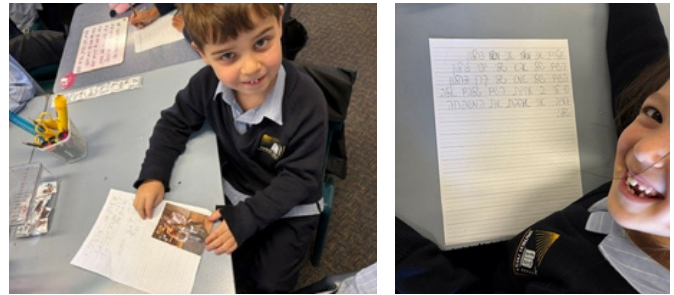
Please RSVP to [enrolments@yavneh.vic.edu.au](mailto:enrolments@yavneh.vic.edu.au)



## Year 2 - 'My Family'

Morah Michal and Morah Shiri, Primary Hebrew

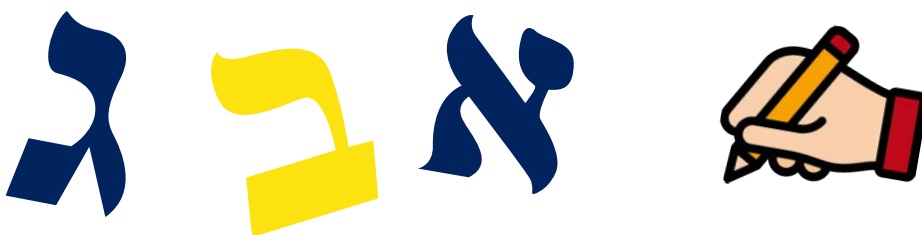
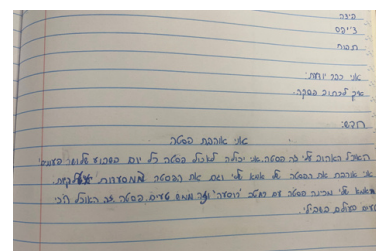
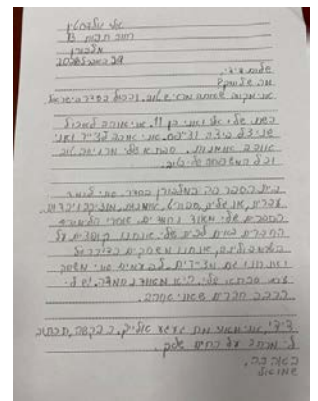
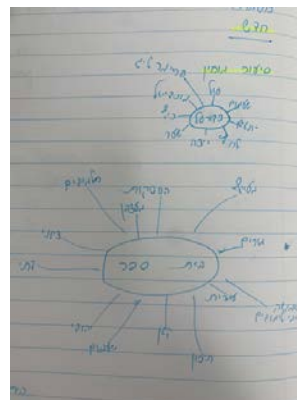
Year 2 students have successfully completed their first Hebrew unit, "My Family." Since the beginning of the year, students have established their Hebrew cursive writing, building a strong foundation for their written work. During this unit, the children thoroughly enjoyed writing about their families and were especially proud to present their work to their classmates. They developed their ability to describe family members in Hebrew, with a focus on using correct grammar, including masculine and feminine forms, while growing in confidence and pride in their learning.



## Writing in Hebrew – Year 5

Corinne Caballo Goldberg

In Hebrew lessons, students learn to write a paragraph using the TEEL model, just as they do in English. They begin with a topic sentence, develop their ideas with examples, and finish with a concluding sentence. Although the writing process can be challenging in any language, learning it through a familiar structure makes it easier and more accessible. In class, students first brainstorm ideas to help them decide what to write about. They then write a paragraph using the TEEL structure and extend it into a personal letter. This structured approach leads to exciting lessons, as students see that when they follow the model, successful writing is achievable.



## Pre-Shavuot girls learning series

**Ruby Alford, Jewish Life and Learning**

This week the Jlife team launched their pre-Shavuot girls learning series for years 10-12. We had our first Shiur with former J-Life educator Sarah Teichtahl in the Mizrahi Beit Midrash. The year 7 boys in the "Barme" program learnt about Tzitzit and got to tie their own pair with Ilan and Raph, while Sivan taught the "Batme" girls about Megillat Rut and made floral art pieces in honour of Shavuot. The Tzevet launched their epic "Level Up" initiative where students learn for 20 minutes each lunchtime with the goal to finish a sefer – either Shoftim or Bava Kama.



## Mother's Day

**Sara Amzalak, Head of Jewish Life and Learning**

Last week on Friday, students in Years 2-4 had the option of coming during lunch recess to make a very special gift for their mothers. While Mother's Day is not Jewish Yom Tov mentioned in the Torah, honouring, and respecting our mothers is definitely a Mitzvah from the Torah! Those who came decorated hearts with lots of buttons – letting their mums know that just like buttons, they hold everything together. What beautiful gifts were created by all those who came.



On Tuesday, students from Year 2 and 3 came to help decorate and write 120 Shavuot cards for the elderly. These were given to Smiles on Seniors who will put the cards with their Shavuot packages to be given out next week. The students who came were thrilled to reach our target of 120 cards – with Yavneh students once again spreading the love and care!



## 10 Art, 11 Psychology and UI Art making and exhibiting excursion

**Kylie Lidgerwood**, Senior Visual Arts Teacher  
**Julie Staunton**, Senior Psychology Teacher

On Thursday, 30 April 2026, students from the Art and Psychology Departments participated in an enriching joint excursion to the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) and The DAX Centre.

At NGV Australia, students viewed TOP ARTS, an exhibition showcasing high-achieving VCE student work. This provided valuable insight into how creative ideas can be developed into sophisticated and resolved artworks. Students also explored the Indigenous Collection, gaining a deeper understanding of Australia's First Nations cultures, histories and enduring connections to Country through powerful visual storytelling.

The excursion continued at The DAX Centre, located within the University of Melbourne Medical Precinct. Here, students engaged with the current exhibition, Weight, which explores the intersection of art, mental health, science and society. This experience encouraged students to consider how art can communicate complex emotional and psychological themes within broader public and professional contexts.

Overall, the excursion offered students meaningful opportunities to connect with the wider arts and medical communities, strengthening their critical and creative thinking. Students were encouraged to reflect on their own art-making practices while also considering potential future study and career pathways.



## Visit to The Timberyard

**Brent Goldstein**, Head of Year 9 and 10

As part of the Torah V'Kemach program, Year 9 students were fortunate to hear from former alumni Joshua Paneth, Asher and Gid Luber, owners of The Timberyard in Port Melbourne. The presenters shared the story of their journey in building The Timberyard, describing how a chance meeting evolved into the creation of one of Melbourne's largest and most successful event spaces. They spoke candidly about the challenges they faced, including leaving secure jobs, investing their own money, and undertaking much of the physical labour themselves to transform an empty lot into a thriving venue. Their perseverance and vision ultimately led to hosting incredible events for major organisations such as the AFL, Ferrari, and the NBA, inspiring students with a powerful message about hard work, risk taking, and resilience.



## Torah V'Kemach program

**Shoshi Vorchheimer**, Director of Teaching and Learning

As part of the Torah V'Kemach program, our Year 9 students were privileged to hear from Becky Brygel Moshinski shortly before her return to Israel.

A graduate of Leibler Yavneh College and the founder and former CEO of Surgimate, Becky shared the remarkable journey of building a company that streamlines and coordinates surgical scheduling for surgeons and medical teams. She spoke candidly about the determination and resilience that carried her from cold-calling doctors in New York to leading a thriving business with more than 200 employees.

Students were particularly inspired by Becky's reflections on the values instilled in her by her parents, and by the importance of protecting family time and Shabbat, even during the intense demands of growing an international business.

Becky encouraged our students to pursue their ideas with courage, persevere through challenges, and, most importantly, recognise and embrace their own potential. Her presentation was both empowering and deeply inspiring, demonstrating how strong female leadership not only creates success, but also uplifts and empowers those around them.





Make sure you're following us on socials! @yavneh\_official

## Upcoming Dates 2026

**May:**  
 Thursday 21: Erev Shavuot College Closed  
 Friday 22: Shavuot Day 1 College Closed  
 Saturday 23: Shavuot Day 2

**June:**  
 Monday 8: Kings Birthday  
 College Closed / ELC Early Dismissal

## Mazal Tov

To Yoni Bzezinski on his Barmitzvah

**MAY 11 - JUNE 5**

# LEVEL UP

**20 MINUTES. EVERY DAY.**

**THE BEIT MIDRASH LUNCH TIME**

CHIPS  
FOOD + SNACKS

1 ATTENDANCE = 1 TICKET

WEEKLY GIVEAWAYS

**2 LEARNING TRACKS - YOU CHOOSE!**

**BAVA KAMMA MISHNAH** OR **SHOFTIM**

WEEK 1: JBL SPEAKER  
 WEEK 2: MYSTERY PRIZE  
 WEEK 3: MYSTERY PRIZE  
 WEEK 4: GIFT CARD FINALE!

**SIYUM EVENT**  
 FOR WHOEVER FINISHES A SEFER

**TERM 2**

## LUNCHTIME CLUBS

**Monday**  
 Craft Club: Years 1 - 4 in Room 31  
 Israeli Dancing with Orli and Chedva: Years 1 - 3 girls in the Primary Library

**Tuesday**  
 Primary Choir with Morah Sarah Finch: Years 3 - 6 in the Music House

**Wednesday**  
 Jewish Lego Masters: Years 2 - 4 in Room 31

**Thursday**  
 Jewish stories: Preps in the Prep Playground  
 Parasha Quiz w/ the Tzevet: Years 4 - 5 in the Beit Midrash

**Friday**  
 Sports Mishmar with Eitan: Year 6  
 Lunch eating/learning in Room 23  
 Lunchtime sport on Blue Courts

**The Yavneh Academy**

## ADULT LEARNING

for Our Community

ENGAGE. EXPLORE. GROW TOGETHER.

TWO FORMATS, ALTERNATING WEEKLY

**FRIDAYS LAFLAF SESSIONS**  
 LaLaf Parsha Circle (Coffee & Cake Edition)

**MONDAYS GUEST SPEAKERS**  
 All sessions at 7:30pm (First session is Wednesday)

WEDNESDAY SESSION 1	6 MAY	Starstruck: Science, Space, and Judaism
Orly M, Deena E and Jacob S Facilitated by Mr. Hillel Solomon (Head of Science) and Rabbi Dr. Chaim Crown (Head of Jewish Studies)		
MONDAY SESSION 2	18 MAY	Tragedy, Turnall and Rebbitz: Rabbi Akiva and Sefirat HaOmer
Rabbi Sammy Brygel		
MONDAY SESSION 3	1 JUNE	From One Pasuk to Two Sponges: The Evolution of Kashrut
Rebbetzin Ilana Epstein (Rebbetzin of Miravitz)		
MONDAY SESSION 4	15 JUNE	The Voluntary Jews of Communist East Germany: The Greatest Story Never Told
Rabbi Zach Gomo (Head of Education Support)		
FRIDAY LAFLAF	1, 15, 29 MAY 12 JUNE	LaLaf Parsha Circle (Coffee & Cake Edition)

**JOIN THE YAVNEH ACADEMY WHATSAPP GROUP TO RSVP AND RECEIVE UPDATES & INFORMATION**

**MINIMUM ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS**

- Monday Sessions: Minimum of 10 confirmed responses
- Friday LaLaf: Minimum of 5 confirmed responses

Learning together. Strengthening our community.

**School Photo Information**

Are you ready for 2026 school photos?

Leibler Yavneh College Tuesday 26th (Secondary) & Thursday 28th (Primary) May 2026

There's no need to do anything before photo day

Further details will be provided when portrait and group images are ready

Student access codes and order details will be provided to you when images are ready to view and purchase online

Sibling/Family Photos will also be taken at your school

If you would like your children to be photographed together, go online BEFORE photo day to request a sibling/family photograph

- Grab your phone and go to - <https://airphotos.typeform.com/07TK4-DXG>
- Enter the name and class of the eldest sibling
- Enter the names and classes of all other siblings to be included in the photo

Please NOTE - Sibling Photograph requests close at midnight the night BEFORE photo day

Author: Read Photos Pty. Ltd.  
 4 Stirling Street, Melbourne  
 Telephone: 03 9424 4266  
 100ARP  
 Artist and Photographer

## Niche Player of the Week

by Noah G

Patrick Retschko is a small midfeilder for Richmond.

Retschko got 22 disposals vs the Crom with 81 disposal efficiency as well.

Retschko got 72 points in supercoach and 71 in fantasy.

Retschko was trade by Geelong to the tigers in the summer.