



קשר KESHER

Friday 5 June 2026
כ' סיון תשפ"ו

פרשת בהעלתך

Eli Beer, founder of United Hatzalah visits Yavneh


Chaim Cowen, Deputy Principal, Head of Jewish Studies

This week, our Year 9 and 10 students had the privilege of hearing from Eli Beer, founder of United Hatzalah. Starting this life-saving mission at just 16 and a half, Eli shared his extraordinary journey with us. Motivated by a traumatic terrorist attack, he set out with a simple goal: to save lives. Today, United Hatzalah has over 10,000 volunteers across Israel, having provided aid to more than 8.5 million people.

The students were engaged and inspired, asking thoughtful questions about becoming Hatzalah members, exploring Eli's motivations, and learning how a small idea can grow into a massive, world-changing initiative. Eli's passion was palpable, and the students left the session not only informed but truly inspired by the power of one person's vision. It was a remarkable encounter that will stick with them for a long time.



פרשת בהעלתך

Shabbat Times 
Light candles 4:49pm
Shabbat ends 5:51pm

Growing, Discovering, and Learning in JKB

Isi Avayu Duenas, JKB teacher

Over the past few weeks, the children in JKB have been busy exploring two fascinating topics: farm animals and the plant life cycle.

Alongside our learning about Shavuot, the children began an exciting journey into the world of farm animals. They learned the names of different animals, the sounds they make, their unique characteristics, interesting facts about each one, and the important roles they play on a farm. We also explored different types of farms and discovered how products travel from the farm to our local shops.

To support this learning, the children participated in a variety of hands-on experiences that encouraged active engagement and meaningful learning. One of the highlights was exploring the journey of farm products through interactive learning stations.

Using sheep's wool as an example, the children first "sheared" a sheep by carefully cutting wool from a model sheep. They then collected the wool and transformed it into a jumper by creating their own wool-themed craft. Finally, they engaged in dramatic play, taking turns being shop assistants and customers while buying and selling wool products.

The children also explored the journey of milk from cow to consumer. They began by "milking" a cow using a glove filled with imitation milk attached to a cow display. Next, they participated in a simple science experiment to turn cream into butter. To conclude the experience, they engaged in dramatic play by selling and buying a variety of dairy products.

Following our farm animal investigations, the children moved on to learning about the plant life cycle. They explored the different parts of a plant, including the roots, stem, leaves, and flower, and learned about the important role each part plays in helping a plant grow. The children were also introduced to photosynthesis and plant dormancy, helping them understand how plants change throughout the seasons and preparing them for our new learning focus on winter.

New vocabulary and concepts were introduced through stories, songs, games, discussions, and hands-on experiments. One of the children's favourite experiences was a flower absorption experiment. White flowers were placed in jars containing water mixed with different food colourings. The following day, the children were amazed to discover that the petals had changed colour. This provided a wonderful opportunity to discuss how water travels through the stem and reaches the flower, reinforcing the scientific concepts explored throughout the week.

Through these learning experiences, the children developed their scientific thinking, expanded their vocabulary, strengthened their problem-solving skills, and deepened their understanding of the world around them.

As we conclude these investigations, we are excited to begin our next unit: Winter. Through play-based learning, creative experiences, and hands-on exploration, the children will continue to discover, question, and make meaningful connections with the world around them.



Footy clean sweep!

Ryan Rothschild, *Head of Sports - Primary*

This past Tuesday, our girls and footy teams triumphed in the AFL Jewish Schools Cup. Competing against other Jewish schools in the area, both teams progressed through to the grand final undefeated. The boys had a comprehensive win in the grand final while the girls tasted similar success and celebrated in style.

All participants were fortunate to have a Q&A with North Melbourne star (and one of our own), Harry Sheezel. Photo and autograph opportunities followed which they were eagerly awaiting. As a reward for winning, Yavneh took home the prized possession of a North Melbourne jumper signed by Harry! Well done to all competitors for proudly representing Yavneh. A shout out to Libby G and Asher L for winning the best on ground award in their respective competitions!



Pre-Chumash Learning in Year 1

Yossi Smoller, *Primary Jewish Studies*

Our Year 1 students have made a wonderful start to their Chumash learning journey. They have become enthusiastic Chumash detectives, developing their skills as they learn to navigate the Chumash with growing confidence. Students are learning to identify prefixes and suffixes, recognise singular and plural forms, and distinguish between shreshim and related vocabulary.

Through a variety of interactive Chumash games, including Techilliet Fishing and other word-solving challenges, students are strengthening their Chumash skills while having fun along the way. It has been a delight to watch their excitement, curiosity, and determination grow as they become increasingly independent and confident learners.



JLife Primary Happenings

Sara Amzalak, Head of Jewish Life and Learning

Last week we drew the raffle for going to Shule on Shavuot and hearing the Aseret HaDibrot. The winners were: Lielle. S Prep B, Netanya. M 2A and Asher. H 5B. Kol HaKavod to everyone who went to Shule to hear the Aseret HaDibrot.

This week, in art club we made Magen David sun catchers and in Lego club we worked together to create all the letters of the Alef Bet.

Year 6 JLife Leaders launched their Tzedakah campaign for Friendship Circle, with the Brownies going to be ready for the second day of Rosh Chodesh Tammuz – 16th of June. Can't wait to taste these yummy treats made by Uncle T's Pantry.



Strong thinking and strong expression

Karouna Muddapah, Head of English

It was not a coincidence that the English department chose the 'Grammar Police' as their costume for Purim; it was a deliberate and purposeful reminder of what we value. While we celebrate creativity and ideas, our core responsibility is to ensure that students develop precision in their use of language. Strong thinking must be matched with strong expression, and this begins with attention to the details. In Years 7 to 9, students build the foundations that will shape their success in English in the later years of schooling. At this stage, it is not just about generating ideas, but about learning to express those ideas clearly, accurately and purposefully. The small details matter. Grammar, sentence structure, spelling and punctuation are not minor concerns; they are essential tools that allow students to communicate meaning effectively.

As Adam Grant notes, "Writing is where we do our best thinking." Clarity does not happen by accident; it develops through careful attention to how sentences are constructed and a willingness to revise and improve. Students should move away from the habit of assuming errors can be fixed later or only focusing on corrections highlighted by the teacher. Instead, they should actively reflect on their writing and identify patterns in their mistakes. Learning when to avoid contractions in formal writing, choosing precise vocabulary, and structuring sentences clearly are all skills that will make a significant difference.

From my experience as a VCAA assessor, what often separates a strong piece of writing from an excellent one is control of language. Even when ideas are thoughtful and well-developed, it is the precision of expression, the accuracy of grammar, and the care taken with language that elevate a response. These are not skills to leave until the end; they must be developed deliberately and consistently. Paying close attention to how you write, not just what you write, is what ultimately allows your ideas to be understood and valued.




Yavneh Academy

Chaim Cowen, Deputy Principal, Head of Jewish Studies

On Monday evening, Yavneh Academy welcomed Rebbetzin Ilana Epstein, who presented "Exodus 1947: The Ship That Launched a Nation." Rebbetzin Epstein took participants on a fascinating historical journey, exploring the dramatic story of the Exodus and its profound impact on the establishment of the State of Israel. Attendees gained a deeper appreciation of the courage, resilience and determination of those involved, while engaging with an important chapter of modern Jewish history. It was particularly meaningful to see students and adults learning together and connecting with one of our outstanding Year 11 teachers.

Yavneh Academy continues with its popular fortnightly Laflaf learning sessions, held every second Friday, alongside our regular Monday evening presentations. Our next Yavneh Academy evening event will take place on Monday 15 June at 7:30pm, when Rabbi Zach Gomo will present "The Voluntary Jews of Communist East Germany: The Greatest Story Never Told."

To receive details of upcoming programs and join the Yavneh Academy WhatsApp group, please sign up via the QR code!



J Life Update

Raphael Eppel, Jewish Life Educator

Being well into Term 2, J Life activities have continued with strong momentum and enthusiasm.

The Bar Mitzvah and Bat Mitzvah programs have been a particular highlight. In the boys' program, students have explored the key mitzvot that they become obligated in upon reaching Bar Mitzvah age, including Tefillin, Tzitzit, and Torah learning. The girls have recently completed a unit on female role models, developing personal scrapbooks that reflect their learning and insights.

Some reflections on the importance of Torah learning included:

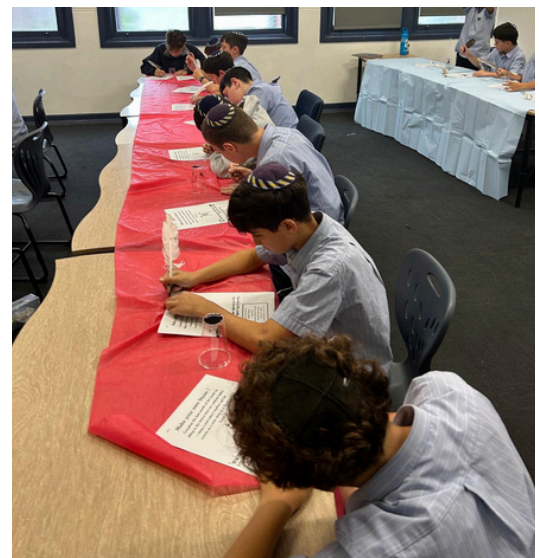
- "Torah is important to me because it allows me to deeply connect with the generations before me" - David C
- "Because it teaches me about life" - Rami G
- "Because I can connect to Hashem" - Max G
- "So I become a good person"
- "To put learning into action"

With the Year 9 cohort, we ran an engaging Torah and Kemach session, helping students explore how Jewish values can be integrated with their business studies and entrepreneurial thinking.

Through the Olam Malei program, we have also continued meeting with students one-on-one, providing opportunities for meaningful check-ins, personal growth, learning, and mentorship within the school environment.

Meanwhile, preparations for Zio Camp are well underway. With Year 12 Camp fast approaching, we have been working intensively on program development and ensuring all logistical and technical elements are in place.

We are excited for all that lies ahead and look forward to a busy and meaningful remainder of the term!





Upcoming Dates 2026

June:

Monday 8: Kings Birthday
College Closed / ELC Early Dismissal

Mazal Tov

To Lilly Goldberg on her Batmitzvah.

To Morah Prina Landau on the birth of a Granddaughter.

To Ilana and Laurence Miller on the birth of baby boy. Mazaltov to big sister Paige (creche Shorashim room)

To Shira and Leah Lazarus on the birth of a baby boy. Mazaltov to big brother Lior (creche Garinim room)



TERM 2

T03

LUNCHTIME CLUBS

Monday **Craft Club** Israeli Dancing with Orli and Chedva
Years 1 - 4 In Room 31
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** **Parasha Quiz w/ the Tzevet**
Preps In the Prep Playground
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

Invest in **Jewish** education Strengthen our **community**

Giving Appeal 2026



OUR STUDENTS - OUR FUTURE - OUR RESPONSIBILITY

Support Yavneh Support the Jewish future

Jewish education is one of the greatest gifts we can give our children and our community.

Now, more than ever, our students need the solid foundation of a proud Jewish and Zionist education; a Yavneh education!

Every day, Yavneh students grow in knowledge, in values, and in confidence deeply connected to the Jewish people, to Eretz Yisrael, and to their heritage. At Yavneh, students don't just learn about Judaism, they live it and love it. This happens because there is a community behind them. It happens because of people like you.



**LEIBLER
YAVNEH
COLLEGE**



Donate at:

www.yavneh.vic.edu.au/2026appeal

For further information please contact 9528 4911
foundation@yavneh.vic.edu.au