



קשר KESHER

Friday 26 June 2026
י"א תמוז תשפ"ו

פרשת חקת בלק

Eleven weeks of learning and achievement

Shula Lazar, Principal

Eleven weeks! Yes, we had Shavuot in the middle, which was completely lovely, but still – eleven weeks of learning and achievement, and it has been a big one.

This is the term I do exit interviews with Year 12s, and if there is a better way to spend 30 minutes (each), I haven't found it. Each student comes in and we talk honestly – about highlights, about teachers who changed something in them, about VCE, about what we, as a school, could be doing better. I ask where they're headed next year (Israel, Israel, and more Israel, and we are so proud we could burst!), and I ask the ones who might one day find themselves back in Melbourne whether they'd send their own kids to Yavneh. Many of them say 'If I'm here, then definitely! But I'll probably still be in Israel'.

When I ask about the highlights, almost all of them come back to the same things: Zio camps, big days like Purim and Yom Haatzmaut, and most importantly, the people. The friendships that they made in the classroom, the musical and in Area E that will last a lifetime. I hear this and my heart is full. These friendships were forged over twelve or fourteen years, and I have watched that journey; the beautiful parts and the harder ones too. That it ends here, with these kids describing each other as lifelong friends, is something I don't take for granted.

It is the result of years of parent partnership, of families who trusted the process and stayed in it with us, and I am more grateful for that than I can say.

But there are some students and families who start the Yavneh journey, but leave before it ends. Often, and even more so lately, it is because the family is making aliyah, and we celebrate every single one of those departures. We are the aliyah capital of Australia! We have a mission that actively works against our own enrolment numbers, and we are proudly magnificent at it!

פרשת חקת בלק

Shabbat Times



Light candles 4:51pm

Shabbat ends 5:54pm

Mora Shula's message, continued...

Rarely, but still heartbreakingly, sometimes a student leaves for a different reason. Because he or she never quite found their footing inside the community, never felt the warmth that our Year 12s describe to me so readily. And that is a loss. A real one. One that didn't have to happen.

So as we enter into 2 weeks of holiday bliss, I wanted to write about the importance of inclusion.

Here's the thing about Yavneh: inclusion isn't a value we aspire to. It's a responsibility we all carry. That's not true at every school. It is true at Yavneh.

What does inclusion look like in practice? It looks like inviting the whole class to a birthday party. It looks like a group of kids making plans for Chadstone or a movie at the Classic and someone saying, "who else would love to join? Let's text them and see if they are free?" It looks like a parent checking an invitation list and adding names. It looks like reaching out to the kid who lives forty minutes away and won't make it to the oneg unless someone invites them to stay for Shabbat. Does inclusion mean always? Maybe. But if not, then definitely enough of the time so that no one falls through the cracks.

This week's parsha has Bilaam looking out at the Jewish people and saying עַם לְבָדֵד יֵשֶׁן (Bamidbar 23:9) - a nation that dwells alone. Commentators have argued for centuries about whether that's a blessing or a curse. And it's probably both and neither at different times. But notice what Bilaam calls us first, before he destines us to solitude. Am. A people. We are a people, a family, and that changes everything. And from that belonging and peoplehood we are able to also rise, עַם כְּלִבְיֵא יִקוּם (Bamidbar 23:24) - a people that rises like a lion. Our strength comes from solidifying our Am, ensuring that all our people are in the goodness of our tents. So as we head into two weeks of school holidays, I am asking every parent reading this to use that time to nudge their kids about inclusion. Ask who they're seeing. Ask who might be sitting at home. Make it normal in your house to think about those a little outside their immediate circle. I know that this is already common practice in many, if not most of our homes. For which I am both proud and eternally grateful.

The nachas I get from those Year 12 exit interviews doesn't belong to the school alone. It belongs to the families who did that work for twelve years, consistently, without fanfare. We are partners in this, and we need each other. When a Year 12 student looks at me and says Yavneh shaped who I am, and I'm grateful - that's what it's all about. That's what we're all here for. Let's make sure we're building that for every single kid in this school, together.

Shabbat Shalom and have a wonderful break,
Morah Shula

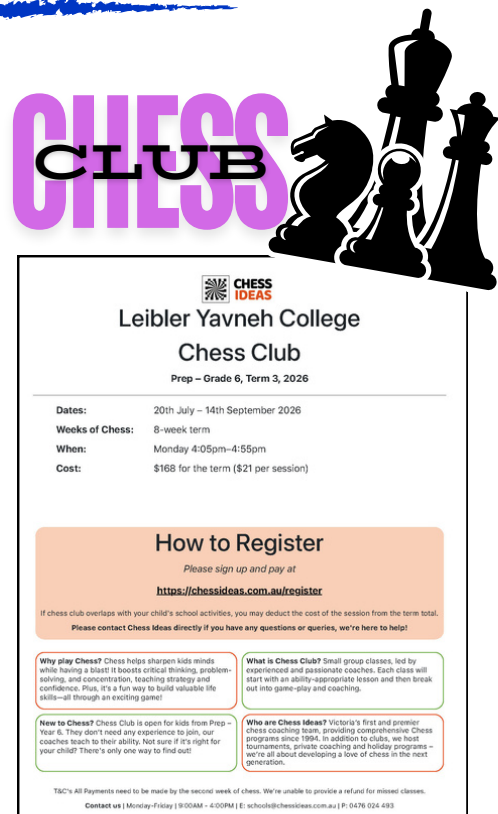


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CHESS CLUB

Leibler Yavneh College Chess Club

Prep - Grade 6, Term 3, 2026

Dates: 20th July - 14th September 2026

Weeks of Chess: 8-week term

When: Monday 4:05pm-4:55pm

Cost: \$168 for the term (\$21 per session)

How to Register

Please sign up and pay at
<https://chessideas.com.au/register>

If chess club overlaps with your child's school activities, you may deduct the cost of the session from the term total.
Please contact Chess Ideas directly if you have any questions or queries, we're here to help!

Why play Chess? Chess helps sharpen kids minds while having a blast! It boosts critical thinking, problem-solving, and concentration, teaching strategy and confidence. Plus, it's a fun way to build valuable life skills—all through an exciting game!

What is Chess Club? Small group classes, led by experienced and passionate coaches. Each class will start with an ability-appropriate lesson and then break out into game-play and coaching.

New to Chess? Chess Club is open for kids from Prep - Year 6. They don't need any experience to join, our coaches teach to their ability. Not sure if it's right for your child? There's only one way to find out!

Who are Chess Ideas? Victoria's first and premier chess coaching team, providing comprehensive Chess programs since 1994. In addition to clubs, we host tournaments, private coaching and holiday programs - we're all about developing a love of chess in the next generation.

TSC's All Payments need to be made by the second week of chess. We're unable to provide a refund for missed classes.
Contact us | Monday-Friday | 9:00AM - 4:00PM | E: schools@chessideas.com.au | P: 0476 024 493

Exploring What Makes Us, Us!

Lorena Perl, Yavneh Early Learning Centre

In SKG, we have been deeply engaged in an exciting inquiry into the human body, exploring the incredible systems and structures that work together to help our bodies function.

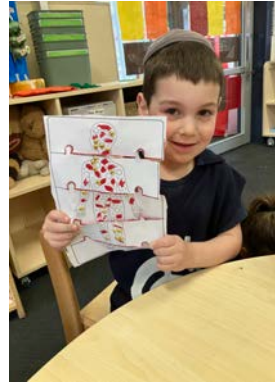
Through hands-on investigations, conversations, creative representations and collaborative learning experiences, the children have explored our skeleton, organs, nervous system, blood and the important roles these systems play in keeping us healthy and active.

As the children uncovered what happens beneath the surface of our bodies, they developed a growing understanding that there is so much more to us than what we can see. They explored how our bones support us, how messages travel through our nervous system, how blood carries oxygen and how our bodies protect and repair themselves. One of the children's favourite discoveries was learning about the white blood cells- our body's 'germ busters' and little superheroes that help fight germs and keep us healthy. This learning naturally connected to discussions about hygiene practices during the colder winter months, including how we can protect our bodies by washing our hands, covering our coughs and caring for ourselves and others.

The children also discovered the incredible role of our brain and learned that different parts of the brain have different jobs- helping us manage emotions, understand what we see, remember, listen, learn and make sense of the world around us. These discoveries have encouraged the children to ask questions, make connections and develop their scientific thinking skills.

Through creating their own body projects, the children have strengthened their communication, creativity, collaboration and ability to represent their learning in meaningful ways. Most importantly, this inquiry has supported children in developing a greater awareness of themselves- understanding how their bodies work and the importance of caring for their health.

Our journey of curiosity has taken us beyond what we can see, revealing the amazing wonders hidden inside our bodies. Through exploring, questioning and discovering, the children have uncovered the incredible things our bodies can do and what makes each of us uniquely wonderful!



Talk for Writing in Prep

Loren Pamensky and Nicky Kapul, *Prep Teachers*

Through the Talk for Writing approach this term, our Prep students have been learning the structure of a "Defeating the Monster" narrative tale using the traditional tale The Three Billy Goats Gruff.

Talk for Writing helps children develop their speaking, listening, reading and writing skills by first learning a story orally. Teachers prepare a story mountain map of the story using hand drawn images and a few words. Students learn the story off by heart using the map as a guide. They enjoyed retelling the story using actions and puppets which helped them become familiar with the sequence of events and key language features.

As their confidence grew, students explored the characters in greater depth. Using rich vocabulary, they described the billy goats and the troll with a variety of interesting adjectives. Through discussion and shared learning experiences, students learnt how authors use descriptive language to help readers create vivid pictures in their minds.

The children also innovated on the original story to make their own. They changed parts of the original story to create their own versions. They experimented with new characters and adjectives showing great creativity and imagination. Puppets and an artistic creation of the setting were used to bring the story to life, encouraging students to practise their oral language skills and confidently share their ideas with others.

It has been wonderful to see our Preps develop their storytelling abilities, expand their vocabulary and grow in confidence as writers. We are very proud of the enthusiasm and creativity they have shown throughout our Talk for Writing journey this term.



Year 1 News: Stepping Stones to Chumash

Sarah Finch, *Music And Primary Jewish Studies*

Our Year 1 classroom has been buzzing with excitement as the children immerse themselves in our Hachana L'Chumash program. It is beautiful to watch our young learners transform into real Hebrew language detectives, building the foundational skills that will unlock the text of the Torah for them. Lately, the children have been tackling some key linguistic concepts and absolutely loving the challenge. They have mastered identifying masculine and feminine words through Zachar and Nekaiva, and they have discovered how words change in their plural forms, Rabim and Rabot.

Building on this progress, the students have been unlocking the secrets of Techiliot, learning how prefixes added to the beginning of a word change its meaning. We have now taken our next big leap into the world of Shorashim, discovering how a single root word can blossom into many different meanings. To bring these abstract grammar concepts to life, our classroom has transformed into a game zone. The children have been enthusiastically playing Memory Match-It games for both techiliot and shorashim. It is wonderful to see them showcasing incredible focus, working together, and cheering each other on as they hunt for matching roots and prefixes.

All of this hard work is paving the way for one of the most monumental milestones of their Primary School journey. This deep linguistic foundation will fully support them next term when they experience the joy of receiving their very first Chumash! We are so incredibly proud of their enthusiasm, curiosity, and growing love for Torah learning





Year 1 pictures....



Primary interschool sports day

Ryan Rothschild, Head of Sports – Primary

Last Friday, all of our Year 5/6s proudly represented Yavneh in interschool sports. It has been so pleasing to hear the positive feedback from students, not only about their on-field feats but also hearing about the enjoyment of competing and playing alongside their classmates.

Our AFL teams all had strong showings, with Yavneh A boys narrowly missing out on playing in the 3rd place playoff on percentage. The girls too on another day could have played off in the Grand Final, with some contentious calls not going their way.

The soccer teams had such a strong sense of camaraderie and continued playing hard and fair the whole day. The boys and girls teams both notching well-earned wins.

The softball team were our surprise packet of the day! Coming away with a record of 2 wins, a draw and 2 losses. They were fortunate to be coached by a Maccabi softball expert and it was fantastic to hear the great stories they had from the day.

The netball girls' team were up against very strong competition. Both teams had plenty of height to contend with! Much like soccer, they came away with a hard-earned win towards the end of the day.

Many thanks to all the teachers and staff who assisted throughout the day and especially to the small amount of Year 4 girls who helped complete our teams!

And finally, with the AFL home and away season now past it's half way point, it is 5B and 6B sharing top spot in the footy tipping competition with 91 correct tips!



Yavneh Joins JNF

Sara Amzalak, Head of Jewish Life and Learning

Last week, Years One to Four students came and decorated Tzedakah boxes during craft club. The Tzedakah boxes were kindly donated by JNF. Students could draw, colour and stick smiley face stickers onto their "Little Mr. JNF Blue Box" Tzedakah boxes. Tzedakah boxes also had a sticker with the saying, "Tnu Tzedakah B'Simcha" – reminding us to give Tzedakah happily.

Since Yom Ha'atzmaut and over many weeks of Term 2, students from Year Prep to Six, eagerly participated in the JNF Passport activity. This week on Tuesday, winners were awarded their prizes by Eden – the JNF education coordinator.

Winners were:

Prep – Lily. G

Year 1: Maya. J

Year 2: Danielle. S

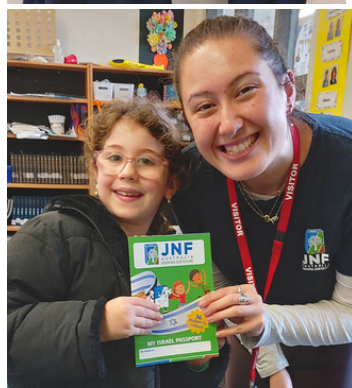
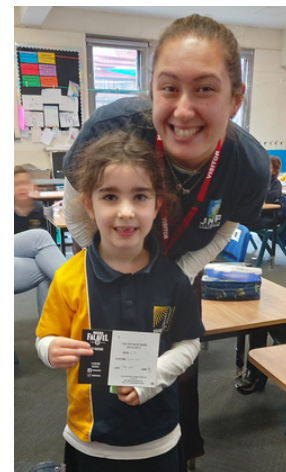
Year 3: Leora. G

Year 4: Ariella. W

Year 5: Eli. K

Year 6: Jacob. K

Well done to our winner and all participants. We look forward to partnering with JNF for more fun and educational activities in the future.





Upcoming Dates 2026

June:

Friday 26: Last Day Term 2

July:

Tuesday 14: First Day Term 3

Mazal Tov

Mazal Tov to **Yagel Ernest** and Family on the occasion of his Barmitzvah

Mazal Tov to **Shai Hachman** and Family on the occasion of his Barmitzvah

Mazal Tov to **Max Grinberg** and Family on the occasion of his Barmitzvah



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Thank You

Thank you to everyone who has donated to our
2026 Giving Campaign.

Your generosity makes a real difference to
our students and our community.

**The campaign page is open until 30 June. There is still time to be part of
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With thanks in advance
The Yavneh Family



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