



קשר KESHER

פרשת דברים

Friday 17 July 2026
ג' אב תשפ"ו

Learning More, Connecting More, Becoming More

Hailey Joubert, Head of Primary School

As we begin Term 3, there is a wonderful sense of excitement and optimism across our Primary School. After a well-earned break, our classrooms and playgrounds are once again filled with energy, curiosity and the joyful sounds of learning, socialising and playing.

We feel incredibly blessed to have such an exceptional team of teachers, admin and support staff. Their dedication, care and professionalism are evident in every interaction with our students. They invest not only in children's academic growth, but also in their social, emotional and spiritual development, helping each child feel known, valued and supported. We are equally fortunate to work with a community of hardworking, motivated and curious learners. Throughout Semester One, our students embraced challenges, celebrated successes, developed new skills and demonstrated growth in countless ways. We are excited to continue this learning journey with every child as we build on the strong foundations established earlier this year.

Term 3 provides an opportunity to deepen learning, strengthen friendships and continue developing the personal qualities that help children thrive. Alongside academic growth, we will continue to focus on increasing resilience, encouraging students to persevere through challenges, learn

from mistakes and develop confidence in their ability to navigate both success and setback. As always, we will seek to weave enjoyment into every day, recognising that meaningful learning flourishes when children feel connected, engaged and inspired.

Our staff are equally committed to their own growth as educators. Throughout the term, teachers will continue to engage in reflective practice, professional learning and collaboration with colleagues. By continually refining our craft and learning from one another, we ensure that our students benefit from the highest quality teaching across all areas of the curriculum.

As partners in education, we thank our families for your ongoing support and trust. Together, we create the conditions that allow children to flourish academically, socially, emotionally and spiritually.

We look forward to a term filled with learning, growth, connection and many moments of joy. Here's to a wonderful Term 3 ahead.

פרשת דברים

Shabbat Times



Light candles 5:02pm

Shabbat ends 6:04pm

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LEARN AN INSTRUMENT

LEIBLER YAVNEH COLLEGE

Want to learn an instrument at school?

email: music@yavneh.vic.edu.au
today!



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!

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!

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.

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.

TBC'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: school@chessideas.com.au | P: 0476 034 493



Samuel Brygel, Head Of Humanities and Social Sciences

"I've missed more than 9,000 shots in my career. I've lost almost 300 games. Twenty-six times, I've been trusted to take the game-winning shot and missed. I've failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed."

– Michael Jordan

In many ways, coming back to school after the mid-year break feels strange. While teachers and students adjust back to our school routines; waking up again in the dark light of winter, ugg boots and puffer jackets of winter holidays replaced with uniform and school shoes, we also return to school right amid the 'Three Weeks'. The Three Weeks of mourning from the 17th of Tammuz – 9th of Av that commemorates the painful journey of destruction and loss for Am Yisrael that ultimately resulted in the tragic Destruction of the First and Second Beit Hamikdash on Tisha B' Av.

Similarly strange, at least on the surface, is a constant theme in Sefer Devarim, which we begin reading this Shabbat. Sefer Devarim effectively consists of Moshe Rabbeinu's last will and testament to Bnei Yisrael before his death. Yet what do we find in much of this week's parasha? Moshe frequently rebuking and reminding Bnei Yisrael of their failures and sins. One might think as they read these pessukim, surely Moshe in his last opportunity to speak to his people should be offering a more hopeful and positive message!

Many AFL fans would have followed a fascinating story that emerged from last week's round. After their seventh-straight loss, Gold Coast Suns coach Damien Hardwick stated after the game when asked about his team's finals chances, "This year is effectively gone... The way we're playing, we don't deserve to make it." I immediately thought of the reaction of his team (who can still make finals) to these comments. No doubt frustrated and upset after yet another loss, their own coach seemingly has given up on them and accepted their failure.

Returning to our parasha, it is noteworthy that Sefer Devarim is also often referred to as the 'Mishneh Torah' by the Chachamim due to Moshe's repetition and review of the Torah's laws to Bnei Yisrael. However, Moshe does not remind Bnei Yisrael about their failures because he has given up on them. In his final days, he is urging Bnei Yisrael to learn from their past failures, reminding them about their unlimited potential as a people possessing an eternal brit with Hashem.

This Shabbat, the Shabbat preceding Tisha B'Av is also referred to as Shabbat 'Chazon' as we also read the Haftarah outlining Yeshayahu's vision from Hashem, admonishing Bnei Yisrael for their sins and refusing to change their ways. However, Rabbi Levi Yitzchak of Berdichev relays a different teaching of the Haftarah. He shares that Shabbat 'Chazon' refers not to Yeshayahu's vision but is instead a reference that this Shabbat, the Shabbat before Tisha B'Av – the worst day in our calendar, every Jew receives a vision of the Third Beit Mikdash.

As we start Semester Two, some students may feel they are carrying some 'failings' from Semester One. Perhaps there were some moments where you fell short of your expectations or did not quite achieve your goals. Shabbat Chazon and Sefer Devarim are a wonderful reminder that now is the time to learn from your mistakes in Semester One and to now create a vision for this coming semester with your new goals and aspirations. And thankfully at Leibler Yavneh College, our teachers unlike Damien Hardwick, will never give up on you!

Guarding Our Speech – A Lesson for the Three Weeks

Pnina Landau, Primary Jewish Studies

We are currently in a very meaningful time in the Jewish calendar – Three Weeks between the 17th of Tammuz and the 9th of Av. This period, also called "Bein HaMetzarim" (between the straits), marks a time of national mourning. During these weeks, and especially during the more intense Nine Days leading up to Tisha B'Av, we remember the destruction of both Batei Mikdash and many other tragic events in Jewish history.

Our sages teach that the Second Beit HaMikdash was destroyed not because of physical weakness, but because of a spiritual illness – sinat chinam, baseless hatred between Jews. One of the ways this hatred often showed itself was through the way people spoke to and about each other.

This connects beautifully to the pitgam we are learning at school:

"נִצֹּר לְשׁוֹנְךָ מִרָע וּשְׂפִיתֶיךָ מִדִּבֵּר מְרָמָה"

"Guard your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit." (Tehillim 34:14)

This reminds us that our words matter. It reminds us that what we say – how we speak to others, how we speak about others – can have a massive impact. Words can hurt, exclude, and destroy... or they can heal, support, and uplift.

Interestingly, last week's double parasha, Matot-Masei, also connects beautifully to this message. Parashat Matot opens with the laws of nedarim – vows and promises. It teaches us just how serious words are in the eyes of the Torah. Our words have weight, and we are responsible for keeping them. This reminds us again that speech isn't just "talk" – it's action.

As we reflect during these weeks of national sadness, let's not just think about what we've lost – let's think about what we can build. Every time we choose not to gossip, speak harshly, or spread negativity – and every time we use our words to encourage and uplift – we are helping to rebuild the Beit HaMikdash through love and unity.

May we all take the message of this pitgam to heart and use our words to bring blessing and peace into our community.

Chodesh Av

Sara Amzalak, Head of Jewish Life and Learning

JLife Primary started Chodesh Av, second day of Term 3, with Tzedakah at the gate.

For the month of Av, JLife Primary is running a competition and a learning campaign, with many students already enthusiastically handing in learning booklets and models. See flyers for details. Certificates and prizes awarded to all who participate.

Term 3 clubs will be starting Week 3 – stay tuned for more details and flyer.



Welcoming Our Scholars in Residence

Chaim Cowen, Deputy Principal, Head of Jewish Studies

We are delighted to welcome Rabbi Professor Levi Cooper and Mrs Sara Cooper to Leibler Yavneh College as our Scholars in Residence from 28 July – 3 August.

Throughout the week, students from Years 6–12 will have the opportunity to learn from two outstanding educators whose lives combine Torah scholarship, educational leadership and a deep commitment to Jewish values.

Rabbi Professor Levi Cooper is a Professor of Law at Bar-Ilan University and the Rabbi of the Tzur Hadassa community in Israel, an internationally respected Torah scholar, author and speaker who is known for bringing Torah to life through his engaging down-to-earth manner and scholarly insights.

Mrs Sara Cooper is the Principal of a girls' school in Beit Shemesh, which she founded and built from the ground up. A highly regarded educator and inspirational leader, she brings a wealth of experience in Jewish education, school leadership and student development.

Across the week, students will participate in special lessons, shiurim, workshops and conversations designed to deepen their Torah learning, strengthen their Jewish identity and inspire them to make a meaningful impact in their communities.

We look forward to an exceptional week of learning and warmly welcome the Coopers to the Yavneh community.

Quench Your Soul – Introducing צמאה (Tzamah)

Chaim Cowen, Deputy Principal, Head of Jewish Studies

This term, our Secondary Jewish Studies students are invited to take part in an exciting new initiative: צמאה (Tzamah) – Quench Your Soul.

Tzamah is designed to encourage students to develop a daily habit of learning Chumash with Rashi. Each week, students will receive a beautifully designed booklet containing the relevant section of the weekly parashah together with a small number of comprehension questions. By engaging in just a few minutes of Torah learning each day, students will steadily complete the booklet over the course of the week.

To make the journey even more engaging, every completed booklet will earn students a surprise reward, while each completed booklet will also count as one raffle ticket towards the campaign's major prize: a trip to Israel. The more consistently students participate, the greater their chances of winning.

Students who wish to participate should register with Sivan or Rabbi Cowen by Friday to receive their sign-up gift and collect their first booklet. In order for the major prize raffle to proceed, we require a minimum of 40 student registrations, so we encourage all eligible students to get involved from the outset.

Beyond the prizes, the true goal of Tzamah is to inspire students to experience the joy and consistency of daily Torah learning. We hope that, by the end of the term, many students will have developed a meaningful learning habit that continues well beyond the campaign itself.

We extend our sincere gratitude to Josh and Robyn Goldhirsch, whose generous sponsorship has made this initiative possible. Their commitment to strengthening Torah learning within our school community is deeply appreciated, and we thank them for investing in the spiritual growth of our students.

We look forward to seeing our students quench their spiritual thirst for Torah throughout the term.

צמאה
T : T
quench your soul

DAILY CHUMASH. WEEKLY PRIZES. GROW FOREVER.

WEEKLY PRIZES

RAFFLE TO ISRAEL AT THE END!

EVERY DAY. EVERY PARSHA. EVERY STEP.

APPROACH SIVAN OR RABBI COWEN TO REGISTER!

ONE BOOKLET COMPLETED = ONE RAFFLE TICKET!

LEARN. GROW. CONNECT. WIN.



Upcoming Dates 2026

July:

Wednesday 22: Erev Tisha B'Av
ELC early dismissal 12:45pm
College Early dismissal 1:00pm

Thursday 23: Tisha B'Av (Tuckshop Closed)

Mazal Tov

Mazaltov to **Gabriella and Saul Maserow** on the birth of a baby girl, Rachel Nitza, sister to Amelia.

Mazaltov to **Ariella and Yanki Hoffmann** on the birth of a baby son, Zohar Zvi, brother to Shimi and Ayelet.

The poster for Melbourne Jewish Book Week '26 Connections features a large grid of 60 author portraits at the top. Below the grid, the text 'Melbourne Jewish Book Week '26 August 1-4' is on the left, and 'Connections' is on the right with a starburst graphic. The bottom section contains a QR code, a description of the event, the theme 'Connections', and logos of supporting organizations.

Melbourne Jewish Book Week '26
August 1-4

Connections

Melbourne Jewish Book Week 2026 brings together an extraordinary gathering of Australian and international writers across four days of interviews, panels, poetry, performance, and a schools incursion program.

This year's theme, 'Connections', threads through every session: untold family histories, genre fiction from romance to satire, standing up for truth in a post-truth era, the AI conundrum, and the full spectrum of Jewish literary life today.

Discover the full program
Browse the program and book sessions at mjbw.com.au

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