



Olam Chessed Yibaneh

Sara Amzalak, Head of Jewish Life and Learning (Primary)

The Hebrew phrase, Olam Chessed Yibaneh – the world is built on kindness, comes from Tehillim 89:3. Today, the phrase is globally famous, not only due to popular songs, but also as it is closely tied to the Jewish concept of Tikun Olam – repairing the world. It is our job to improve the world through tangible acts of kindness, empathy and community support.

Here at Yavneh, in JLife Primary, we try to avail the students with as many opportunities to do tangible acts of Chessed for the wider Jewish community, and the month of Elul always sees us very busy.

Many students volunteered their time decorating bags for Smiles on Seniors with Rosh Hashanah themes. In total we decorated 320 bags which will be used for packing Rosh Hashanah items and distributed to the seniors around the Melbourne Jewish community. In conjunction with this, Year 6 JLife Leaders spent time writing cards to the seniors, that will be placed inside the bags we decorated.

We have also been collecting honey to donate to CCare to be distributed to the community. This year students have once again decorated and written cards for CCare to give out with the honey and we also packed the sweet honey with apples.

פרשת כי-תבוא

קשר KESHER

Friday 28 August 2026
ט"ו אלול תשפ"ו

As sweetness and apples are a popular theme associated with Rosh Hashanah, our Year 6 JLife Leaders decided to run an apple and lolly guessing competition for a gold coin donation. All money raised will go to the Mizrahi Charity Fund, to help provide Yom Tov essentials for those who require.

In the month of Elul, we are also encouraging students to bring in more Tzedakah, with a raffle ticket given for every day a coin is given. We are also running a Just Do It Mitzvah campaign – to help increase in Mitzvot at home.

As they say, Chessed and Tzedakah start at home, so please encourage your child/ren to get involved, and together, may we indeed see an Olam built on Chessed.

פרשת כי-תבוא

Shabbat Times



Light candles 5:37pm

Shabbat ends 6:35pm



JNF Education

Design a tzedakah box.

Show us your creativity as we enter the month of Elul and reflect on giving.

SUBMISSION DETAILS

- Include:
 - Full name
 - Mobile
- Submission deadline: Submit your design by 9th October 2026
- Submit to: education@jnf.org.au

Prize

WINNING DESIGNS WILL RECEIVE THEIR VERY OWN SPECIALISED BLUE BOX WITH THEIR DESIGN.

Bringing
KINDNESS, GENEROSITY AND COMPASSION INTO THE WORLD

JNF AUSTRALIA 125 YEARS

C CARE

HELP US SWEETEN THE NEW YEAR FOR OUR COMMUNITY!

Please bring in a jar of Kosher Honey by
Tuesday, 1st September

Honey will be distributed to vulnerable members of our community through C Care in their 'Rosh Hashanah gift bags', ensuring that everyone in our community has the opportunity to celebrate the Jewish New Year.

C Care supports individuals and families experiencing food insecurity and social isolation through personalised, dignified food relief and meaningful connection programs.

Ki Tavo: What Hashem Can Do For Us

Raphael Eppel, Jewish Life Educator

Picture the scene: You're a farmer, and you've been working hard all winter with your new crops. You plowed, planted, watered, and monitored them the entire journey. Finally, after months of hard work, the verdant sapling of an apple begins to sprout. You are jubilant at the sight. Your livelihood is coming to fruition right before your very own eyes. You can finally make enough money to pay off all the debts you incurred, and provide for your family independently.

But then you remember the Halacha in Parshat Ki Tavo. At the start of our Parsha (Devarim 26:1-19), we are instructed to take our first fruits to the Kohen in Jerusalem and dedicate them to Hashem. In the process, there is a specific declaration you must say about everything Hashem has done for us over the years. Instead of enjoying the fruits of your labour, you must donate the fruit to Hashem.

But why? What's the point of Bikkurim? The obvious answer is gratitude. After working hard in the field, we're recognising that the land itself belongs to Hashem, who has given it to us as a gift. Even more than that, it is from Hashem Himself the ability to grow food and make decisions for ourselves. Even though we worked hard to grow those fruits, ultimately, we recognise that it all comes from Hashem.

But I think there's actually a deeper message here, and we can see it from two interesting things that Rashi comments on Passuk 15. At the end of the declaration, where we praise Hashem for saving us from Egypt and declare our faithfulness in bringing the fruit, the verse reads:

הַשְׁקִיפָה מִמַּעַן קִדְשֶׁךָ מִן־הַשָּׁמַיִם וּבֵרַךְ אֶת־עַמְּךָ אֶת־יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאֶת־הָאֲדָמָה אֲשֶׁר נָתַתָּה לָנוּ כְּאֲשֶׁר נִשְׁבַּעְתָּ לְאַבְתֵּינוּ אֶרֶץ זָבֶת חֶלֶב וְדָבָשׁ: {ס}

Look down the holy above, from heaven, and bless Your people Israel and the soil You have given us, a land flowing with milk and honey, as You swore to our fathers."

On this, Rashi picks up on the word Hashkifa and explains that we have done what You have asked, now You Hashem do what you've promised.

Essentially, we're imploring Hashem: Look at what we've done. We've done our part, now it's your turn. But this sounds quite presumptuous. How can we bargain with Hashem like this? How can we augment our behavior and compare that to Hashem's?

Our answer can come from a later Rashi on Passuk 17. He picks up on the word הַאֲמָרָה, which sounds like אמר, to say, but according to Rashi has no proof of meaning elsewhere in the Torah. He explains that this word describes the unique relationship between Hashem and Bnei Yisrael, who has separated us from other nation to be his עַם סְגוּלָה - national treasure.

The idiosyncrasy to have the chutzpah to negotiate with Hashem comes down to our special connection with Him. Our relationship is different from any other relationship. Hashem has expectations of us, to keep Torah and mitzvot, to daven, to learn, to do the right thing. But because we have this deep relationship with Hashem, we can also have reciprocal standards of Him. This is ultimately what the Bikkurim declaration is demonstrating. We've done what we can. We've planted the tree. We've worked the land. We've brought the fruits. We've followed what Hashem asked us to do. And now we can turn to Hashem and say: Hashkifah! Look down from Heaven! We are working hard for you, help us!

This is especially meaningful for the time we are going through right now. We have been through 2 and a half years of difficult war and tribulations internally. We have fought bravely, said tehillim, volunteered, and become prouder Jews. And so, analogous to the farmer bringing his Bikkurim, we can turn to Hashem and say, now it's your turn. There are still diplomatic hurdles to overcome to bring peace. May Hashem continue to protect and nurture his nation through all its challenges.

Shabbat Shalom.



The Yavneh Academy
תלמידינו וחכמיה

Fortnightly Laflaf Sessions

A parsha focus that is personal and meaningful

Join us Friday mornings!



Fridays, fortnightly
Starting 14 Aug
Through to end of Term 3 (18 Sept)



8:20-9:00am



VCE Study Centre
Yavneh Elsternwick Campus



Coffee & cake provided

Join the Yavneh Academy WhatsApp group

We'll run a weekly poll there. Sessions run only if a minimum of 5 people sign up.



Year 4B Celebrates a Meaningful Parashat Vayera Siyum

Ettie Spigelman, *Primary Jewish Studies*

Year 4B recently celebrated a beautiful and inspiring Siyum on Parashat Vayera together with their grandparents and special friends. The event marked the culmination of months of learning, reflection, and growth as the students completed their in-depth study of this important parashah.

Each student received a special Parashat Vayera Review Booklet, which helped them revisit the many lessons they had learned throughout the year, including hachnasat orchim, tefillah, emunah, chesed, zerizut, and the powerful message of "Hineni".

One of the highlights of the Siyum was hearing every single student confidently deliver a personal reflection Dvar Torah. The students shared their favourite stories from the parashah and reflected on the middot they hope to strengthen in their own lives. Their words demonstrated thoughtful learning and a genuine connection to the teachings of Avraham, Sarah, and Yitzchak.

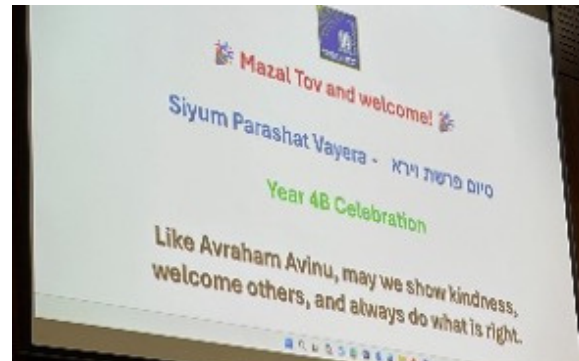
We were honoured by the presence of Rabbi Epstein from Mizrahi, who addressed the students and encouraged them to continue their Torah learning journey with enthusiasm and pride.

The students were privileged to hear the sound of Rabbi Cowen's shofar, which added a special and memorable dimension to the celebration and Morah Shula who shared her immense nachat and pride in the students' achievements.

The hall looked beautiful. The tables were elegantly decorated with tablecloths, flowers, place cards, and candles, creating a warm and festive atmosphere for all.

After the speeches, the students participated in an exciting Bamboozle quiz game. They truly shone as they demonstrated their impressive knowledge of Parashat Vayera and eagerly answered questions based on their learning. The game highlighted not only how much they had learned, but also how much they had enjoyed the experience. It was wonderful to see the growth, confidence, and Torah knowledge that each child displayed throughout the event.

Mazal Tov to all the students of Year 4B on this wonderful accomplishment. May they continue to grow in Torah, mitzvot, and good middot, and may this Siyum be just one of many learning milestones to come. Yasher Koach!

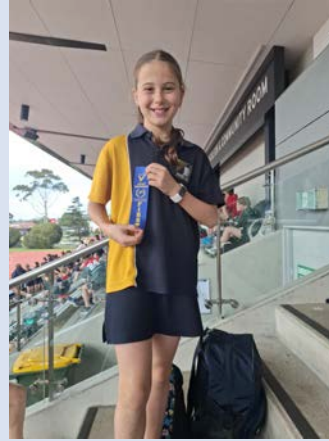


District Athletics!

Ryan Rothschild, Head of Sports – Primary

Congratulations to all primary students who proudly represented Yavneh at the Balaclava District Athletics Carnival this week. It was great to see the students so motivated to firstly be selected for their event, and to then have the desire to train and improve in the weeks leading up. We had some great results, with students receiving ribbons for a top 3 finish!

A special mention to Ariella W and Shilo B who will progress to the Beachside Division stage to compete in their respective events, as a result of their top 2 placings. Well done!



Unit of Inquiry: Exploring Physical Science Through Hands-On Challenges

Sue Crother & Sonia Layton, Year 2 Teachers

Our Year 2 students have been investigating how materials can change physically as part of their Unit of Inquiry, Physical Science. Through a range of engaging activities, students explored how materials can be folded, stretched, torn and reshaped.

One challenge involved transforming a single sheet of A4 paper using only their hands. Students experimented with folding and tearing techniques to create an opening large enough to fit over their heads. This activity encouraged creative thinking and problem-solving as they discovered how changing a material's shape can affect its properties.

In another investigation, students worked with a partner to explore stretching and force. Using three rubber bands of different sizes, students stretched each rubber band from their thumbs and released it to see how far it would travel. They measured and compared the distances, then discussed the factors that may have influenced the results, including the size and shape of the rubber band and the amount of force applied.

These hands-on experiences helped students develop their understanding of physical changes while encouraging curiosity, collaboration and scientific thinking.

Year 7 Barmi/Batmi Shabbatonim

Noah Epstein, Head of Jewish Life and Co-Curricular

Last week, our Year 7 students and parents went away for a special Bar/Bat Mitzvah Shabbaton. Facilitated by the JLife team, the Shabbaton provided a wonderful opportunity for fathers and sons, and mothers and daughters, to connect, grow and share a meaningful Shabbat together. It also created a unique environment for students and families to strengthen their connections and for the cohort to bond as a whole.

Both the Barmi and Batmi Shabbatonim were filled with meaningful tochniot, inspiring Divrei Torah and some fiercely contested intergenerational competitions! Thank you to all the students and parents who attended and embraced the experience, and to the JLife team for their tremendous efforts in ensuring that the Shabbatonim were smooth, successful and enriching for all involved.



PE update

Aaron Fetter, Head of Sports – Secondary

Gate of Origin Glory

The 2026 instalment of 'Gate of Origin', Yavneh's time-honoured sporting tradition saw Front Gate reign supreme with a 2-0 victory in the Girls game and a tense 3-2 triumph in the Boys clash. Best on ground: Ruby J & Asher F

Yavneh's Snow Season Stars

Four Yavneh students braved challenging wintery conditions to represent our school at the annual ABL Australian Jewish Schools Snowsport Championships at Mt Buller.

Facing a highly complex course, Ari A (Primary), Heath K, Selah R, and Gidi G showed great skill, determination, and grace in the Giant Slalom and Panel Slalom events. A special mention to Gidi, who excelled in the Panel Slalom and earned a well-deserved spot on the podium.

The snow action didn't stop there with Year 10 student Heath K going on to represent Yavneh at the Victorian Interschools Snowsport Championships. Heath had the immense honour of proudly carrying the Yavneh banner during the opening ceremony before performing strongly in both the Alpine and Ski Cross events.

Kol HaKavod to our dedicated winter sports athletes for representing our school with pride and skill on the snow.





Upcoming Dates 2026

September:

Friday 11 – Erev Rosh Hashana (early dismissal) 1pm

Mazal Tov

to **Isi Avayu Duenas** (JKB teacher) on her engagement to Ian.

Condolences

To the **Eppel Family** on the passing of their Grandfather





Rosh Hashana Boxes 5787/2026

What's in the box?










Emunah provides a range of life-changing programs that support Israel's most vulnerable children, women and families helping them break cycles of dysfunction and build stable, fulfilling lives.



Australian Friends of
Shaare Zedek Inc.

WHEN THE NEED NEVER STOPS, *Neither Can We*





GIVING WEEK
23rd – 30th
AUGUST 2026



Every gift
saves lives.

LAUNCH DAY
SUNDAY 23RD AUGUST 2026

Join us to kick off Giving Week by making calls together and helping save lives.

TIME: 10:30AM – 5:30PM

BE PART OF THE TEAM
Your calls make a real impact.

CALLING HUB
At the home of the Gecelter family

For more information email: marketing@shaarezedeck.org.au

READY TO HELP?

Scan the QR code to register and join the Launch Day Calling Hub.



Together,
WE SAVE LIVES.

or call 0490 477 949

www.shaarezedeckgivingday.com.au

AN EVENT FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

ת"ב

Songs FOR THE SOUL



SINGING TOGETHER IN SOLIDARITY
SATURDAY 5 SEPTEMBER

COMMUNAL HAVDALAH 7.45PM
COMMUNAL SINGING 8.00PM

**CHARITY
PARTNER**



SLICHOT OPTIONS
CAULFIELD SHULE 9.30PM
DAMINYAN 12.15AM
MIZRACHI 12.00AM



FREE ENTRY - CAULFIELD SHULE - BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL
[EVENTS.HUMANITIX.COM/SONGS-FOR-THE-SOUL2026](https://events.humanitix.com/songs-for-the-soul2026)

DaMinyan



ELWOOD SHULE
INSPIRE · CONNECT · BELONG

