



קשר KESHER

פרשת וירא

Friday 30 October 2026
י"ט חשוון תשפ"ז

Holding On

Chaim Cowen, Deputy Principal, Head of Jewish Studies

In Parashat Vayera, Avraham engages in a remarkable discussion with Hashem about the fate of Sodom and its surrounds. He pleads on behalf of their inhabitants, asking whether the cities might be spared for the sake of fifty righteous people. Then forty-five, forty, thirty, twenty, and finally ten. Again and again, he looks for a reason to save them.

At the conclusion of this exchange, in which Avraham fails to save the cities, the Torah tells us: "ואברהם שב למקומו", "And Avraham returned to his place."

Rabbeinu Bachya offers a beautiful explanation of these words. Avraham returned to his "place": his characteristic middah of chesed, going back to seek further opportunities to welcome guests and care for others.

To me, there is something deeply significant in this. Avraham had pleaded for compassion, but Sodom and its surrounds would ultimately be destroyed. Even after that impassioned exchange with the Judge of the world, he remained Avraham. His compassion had not disappeared simply because his pleas had failed to achieve the outcome he sought. He returned to being a giver.

That ability to hold on to what is good within us, even when things become difficult, is one of the most important qualities we can develop as educators, as students and as human beings.

One of the marvellous things about working in a school is spending time with young people who are curious and idealistic. There is so much they want to understand, so much they believe can be achieved. Nothing seems too difficult; no question is beyond asking.

From time to time, though, we see that brightness begin to fade. Someone encounters disappointment, struggles with something that once seemed straightforward, or gives of themselves and receives little appreciation in return.

פרשת וירא

Shabbat Times



Light candles 7:26pm

Shabbat ends 8:35pm

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



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Holding On, continued...

Gradually, they become jaded. They stop asking, stop trying, or stop believing that their contribution can make a difference.

To me, that is one of the great tragedies in education. When we become fixed in our thinking, when we lose our curiosity and our willingness to grow, we close the very door that education is meant to open.

The same is true of giving. It is easy to think: "I have done so much for this person, and they have been ungrateful. I am no longer going to make the effort." We may feel that we are teaching the other person a lesson. Yet we can overlook what we are doing to ourselves. We have taken a beautiful quality, our generosity, and allowed someone else's response to diminish it.

Avraham's example challenges us to preserve that quality. We can learn from an experience, reconsider our approach, and still remain people who care.

I have been thinking about this a great deal while marking Texts and Traditions practice papers as our Year 12 students prepare for their examinations. Some of the most impressive work I see comes from students whose skills have developed through sheer persistence. They produce practice essay after practice essay. They take on feedback, revisit an interpretation, strengthen an argument, and then try again.

The hours they invest, and the determination they bring to that process, are quite remarkable. Their progress is often incremental. A clearer paragraph here, a more thoughtful explanation there. Over time, those small improvements amount to substantial growth.

As a teacher, it is deeply rewarding to witness. We see what becomes possible when students remain willing to work, to listen and to keep moving forward.

As our Year 12 students begin their exam period, we wish them every success. Their example also offers something for all of us: the encouragement to remain curious, to keep giving, and to persist when progress takes longer than we had hoped.

"V'Avraham shav limkomo." Avraham returned to his place. May we, too, hold on to the qualities that make us who we aspire to be, and keep bringing them to the work that lies ahead.

Shabbat Shalom,
Chaim

Keeping Our Children Safe: Staff Undertake New PROTECT Training

David Fisher, *Head of Administration*

At Leibler Yavneh College, the safety and wellbeing of every child is our highest priority. As part of our ongoing child safety responsibilities, all staff are currently undertaking the new PROTECT Child Safety eLearn.

This refreshed training reflects updated guidance for schools on preventing, identifying and responding to child abuse, including grooming. It ensures that everyone who works with our students, from teachers to administration and support staff, shares the same up-to-date understanding of their obligations.

The eLearn provides an overview of:

- the Child Safe Standards
- child safety frameworks and other legal obligations
- how to identify and respond to abuse
- wellbeing support for school staff.

Completing the training strengthens our staff's understanding of their child safety responsibilities. Just as importantly, it equips them to recognise the signs of abuse, respond appropriately, and help students and families access the right support at the right time. Child safety is a shared responsibility, and this training is one part of a broader commitment across our whole College community. We are proud of our staff for taking part, and we thank them for their dedication to creating a safe, nurturing and respectful environment where every child can learn and thrive.

If you have any questions about child safety at the College, or would like to read our child safety policies, please contact me.

David Fisher



CHILD SAFETY AT LEIBLER YAVNEH COLLEGE

Keeping Our Children Safe

All staff are completing the new PROTECT Child Safety training.

- ✓ Child Safe Standards
- ✓ Identifying and responding
- ✓ Legal obligations
- ✓ Staff wellbeing support

A Week of Transitions at Yavneh!

It's been an exciting week as we welcomed our future Junior Kinder and Prep students for their 2027 transition sessions!

On Tuesday, our incoming Junior Kinder children enjoyed a fun-filled Mitzvah Makers morning as part of Taam Shel Yavneh. Exploring both Kinder rooms, the children enjoyed playdough, tzedakah fine motor activities and decorating their very own mezuzah cases.

On Thursday, it was our future Prep students' turn! The children had the opportunity to explore the Prep classrooms, where Morah Chavi and Morah Sue shared a beautiful story about a mitzvah tree. Inspired by the story, the children then created their own mitzvah trees.

It was wonderful to see our newest students settling in, making connections, and getting a taste of what awaits them at Yavneh in 2027!



Chesed in Action

Michelle Sharp, *Primary Jewish Studies*

Over the recent school holidays, Ayelet Kornhauser in Year 5 took the initiative to organise a tzedakah project in support of Keren Tov, a local, community-based charity that helps ease the financial burden on families facing illness.

Aware that the chagim can be an especially expensive time of year, Ayelet wanted to do something to help families in need. She spent several days collecting unused craft kits, trinkets and clothes, pricing the items for sale, and organising games and a raffle to raise additional funds.

After creating and sharing a poster on WhatsApp, Ayelet was delighted to welcome many girls from her grade, along with generous neighbours, who came to support her fundraiser. She was thrilled to raise \$130 for Keren Tov, making a meaningful contribution to the organisation's important work supporting families in our community.

Kol hakavod, Ayelet! What a wonderful act of chesed. May you go from strength to strength!



Year 2's learning Chumash

Tarryn Hersh, *Primary Jewish Studies*

Our Year 2 students have been enjoying learning Chumash and exploring Parshat Lech Lecha. Through our learning, we have been discovering the story of Avraham Avinu and Hashem's special promise to him.

The students have been developing their Chumash skills while learning about the parsha, building their understanding of the story and becoming more familiar with the language and structure of the Chumash.

We have been discussing the important lessons we can learn from Avraham Avinu, including his strong faith in Hashem, his courage to follow Hashem's instructions, and his kindness towards others.

It has been wonderful to see the students' enthusiasm, curiosity and growing confidence as they engage with the text and share their ideas. We are so proud of their efforts and look forward to continuing our Chumash journey together!



Delivering Cards of Support for Israeli Soldiers: A Meaningful Experience for the New Family

Michelle Sharp, Primary Jewish Studies

Each time one of our classmates visit Israel, we try to send cards of support to Israeli soldiers. Recently, Aya New visited Israel and had the opportunity to perform a very special mitzvah with her family when delivering our class cards. Aya's mother, Moran, sent me the following description about their moving experience:

I wanted to give you an update on the beautiful cards Aya's classmates wrote for the soldiers.

While we were in Israel, we had the opportunity to give the cards to a commander from the Gideon Brigade in the Armoured Corps. He told us that they were about to meet with their soldiers and promised that each soldier would receive one of the cards.

We delivered the cards while visiting the Ami-Chai Soldiers' Refreshment Station in the Gaza Envelope, just a few kilometres from the Gaza border. While we were there, we also spent time helping to make sandwiches for soldiers, and I've attached a few photos from the experience.

The station has been operating since 12 October 2023 and provides soldiers serving in and around Gaza with hot meals, soup, sandwiches, fruit, snacks, drinks, coffee and tea. They have also created showers and a laundry service for soldiers, and their main tent is open all day, every day.

What was especially moving for us was learning that while almost all of the refreshment stations that opened after October 7 have since closed, Ami-Chai is still operating and has even expanded its support. Their commitment is that as long as soldiers are serving in Gaza, they will continue to be there for them.

The station was founded and is run by Uriah Attias and is named in memory of his brother, Amichai Attias z"l. Amichai was someone who always saw the good in people and worked tirelessly to help others, and this incredible project continues that spirit in his memory.

We also loved meeting the volunteer team behind it. The volunteers come from all parts of Israeli society, religious and secular, Ashkenazi and Sephardi, from different political backgrounds and from all over the country, all working side by side for the same purpose. It was genuinely inspiring for me and for the children to see.



It was such a meaningful experience, both meeting soldiers from different units and seeing first-hand the incredible generosity and community that still surrounds them nearly three years after October 7.

Most importantly, it made the cards from Aya's classmates feel even more special knowing that their messages of support were going directly into the hands of soldiers.

Our class felt very proud that our cards of support were hand delivered to soldiers. Although we are geographically far away from our "brothers in arms", we are with them in spirit! We truly are "Am Echad B'lev Achad", one nation with one heart. Am Yisrael Chai!!!

Year 2 Grandparents and Special Friends Morning

Sonia Layton and Sue Crothers, *Primary General Studies*

What a beautiful morning it was celebrating our Year 2 Grandparents and Special Friends! It was a delight to see our students proudly sharing this special occasion with their grandparents, parents and special friends. Following a meaningful davening session, the hall was filled with smiles, laughter and wonderful moments of connection.

There was so much naches in hearing our students daven with such pride and enthusiasm. A highlight of the morning was watching the children come together to sing as a group, filling the hall with heartfelt voices and creating a truly special atmosphere. The students also loved sharing their activities with their special guests, providing a lovely opportunity to spend quality time together, share stories and create precious memories.

Our Grandparents and Special Friends Morning was a heart-warming reminder of the important role that family and special friendships play in our lives and in our school community. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make the morning so memorable.



Mosaic Crafting

Sara Amzalak, Head of Jewish Life and Learning

This week in JLife Primary craft club, students from Years One to Three were very excited to try their hand at mosaicking. Students were very creative with different patterns and designs inside their Chamsa and the results were spectacular.



Remembering Science Week

Hillel Solomon, *Head of Science and Secondary Teacher*

At the end of Term 3, Yavneh celebrated National Science Week in style, with daily lunchtime activities, a visit from kinder and some fantastic prizes. Following the national theme, 'Seeds of Science: Nurturing Knowledge for All', we kicked off the week with a terrarium-making activity. I'm pleased to report that, almost two months later, the main terrarium we kept at school is still going strong!

The week continued with students making crystals on Tuesday, designing and launching rockets on Wednesday, and exploring optical illusions on Thursday.

Science Week culminated in a quiz on Friday, which ended in a thrilling tie-breaker in which a Year 7 team narrowly defeated their Year 11 competition, winning a trip to a space-themed VR experience in the city.

Well done to everyone who participated, to the teachers who organised the activities, and to the winners of the quiz and raffle. As our senior students now have their heads buried in books preparing for their VCE exams, it's lovely to look back on a week that celebrated the fun, curiosity and excitement of learning science!



Spirit Week

Judah Goldfarb, *Jewish Life Educator*

There has been an influx of energy and excitement at the Elsternwick campus. Our House and Spirit Captains launched 'Spirit Week' in the lead up to Sports Day. This fiesta of fun has ignited a wave of passion and ruach that has run through the corridors and hallways. Ofra triumphed in the inter-house kickball tournament on Monday, continuing their sporting success this year. Tuesday saw the 'Spirit Carnival', a joyous event replete with apple bobbing, spike ball and other events of entertaining excitement. It was a battle for the ages on Thursday as the teachers took on the students in a good-natured dodgeball game. In anticipation for Sports Day, students concluded Spirit Week on Friday with House poster making. Shkoyach to the Spirit Captains and Mr Fetter for the hard work that went into it!

Year 9 continued their 'Torah and Kemach' programming with a session focusing on Maaser Kessafim. They explored three reasons why to give: The Halachic case, the Moral case and the Reciprocal case.

Shabbat Shalom!



Security Corner: Keeping Our School Safe Together

Hisham Jabbar, ESS Guard

Everyday habits make a meaningful difference to school safety. This week, we encourage all families, staff and visitors to take extra care when entering and leaving the school.

Please use designated pedestrian entrances and crossings, and keep vehicle access areas clear. During busy drop-off and pick-up periods, slow down, remain alert, and follow directions from security staff.

When using an access-controlled gate, please avoid allowing another person or vehicle to follow you through without being checked. Allow gates to close securely, keep clear of moving gates, and never prop them open.

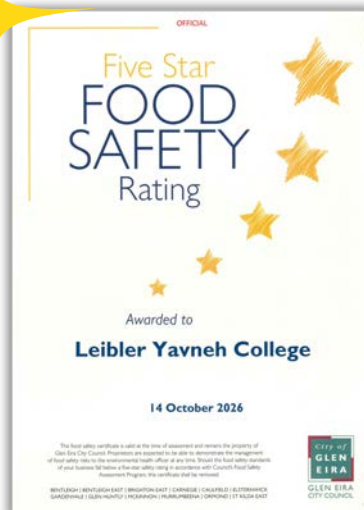
Visitors and contractors should report to the designated sign-in point before proceeding onto school grounds. Even familiar faces should follow the school's entry procedures.

If you notice an unsecured gate, an unfamiliar person seeking access, or anything else that concerns you, please notify security promptly rather than assuming someone else has reported it.

Thank you for helping to keep our students, staff, and wider school community safe.

Mazal Tov

Glenda and Lisa
and team in the
Tuck Shop!



ונשמרתם מאד לנפשותיכם
TAKE GREAT CARE OF YOUR LIVES · DEVARIM 4:15

We take the safety of every child seriously

- 01 Our staff and volunteers are checked and screened**
Every adult who works with our children is screened, checked and trained in child safety.
- 02 We listen to children and act on their concerns**
Every child has a voice. If something feels wrong, tell a teacher you trust – we will listen and respond.
- 03 We keep children safe together, as a kehilla**
Children, parents, carers and our wider community help shape our child safety policies and practices.
- 04 Our policies and Code of Conduct are up to date**
They are reviewed regularly so they always reflect best practice and the Child Safe Standards.

Need to talk to someone?
Speak to any teacher, or our Child Safety Team

Leibler Yavneh College
כל ישראל ערבים זה לזה

MULTI-SPORTS COACHING

SOCCER | BASKETBALL

LEIBLER YAVNEH COLLEGE

THURSDAY AFTERNOONS
4.00 pm – 4.35 pm
15 October – 3 December

COMMENCING SOON

\$200 for an 8 Week Term

CONTACT
0422 728 938
yavnehsportscoaching@gmail.com



Upcoming Dates 2026

November:

Sunday 22 – Year 12 Graduation

December:

Thursday 3 Speech Night (early dismissal 3.15pm)

Friday 11 Last day for students K-11

Condolences

Condolences to the family on the passing of
Mr Robert Fixler a"h (Past President of Mizrahi)

Mazal Tov

Mazal Tov to **Andrea Cohen and Tony Zhang** on the birth of a baby girl. Sister to Max (SKG) and Izzy.

Mazal Tov to **Mali Eckstein** and family on her Batmitzvah.

Mazal Tov to **Rubenstein Family** on the birth of a daughter. (Sister to Ariel in JK)

