

בס"ד

קשר KESHER

Friday 6 November 2026
כ"ו חשון תשפ"ז

פרשת חיי שרה

The Lost Art of Manners: Small Words, Lasting Impact

Hailey Joubert, *Head of Primary School*

Why teaching our children courtesy, consideration and respect matters more than ever. There are moments in school leadership (many) that bring enormous joy, and others that give us reason to pause and reflect. Recently, I have found myself reflecting on something that may seem small, but which I believe has significant implications for our children and the community we are raising them to become part of.

The way children speak to adults is changing.
Increasingly, I am noticing interactions with teachers, education assistants and other adults in which simple courtesies are missing. A greeting is replaced by an immediate request. "Please" and "thank you" are forgotten. Adults are interrupted mid-conversation, and requests are sometimes delivered as demands rather than polite questions.

I do not believe this necessarily reflects a lack of kindness in our children. Nor do I believe previous generations were always better mannered. Children today are growing up in a world that is faster, more immediate and increasingly transactional.

Information, entertainment and services are available at the touch of a button. We have become accustomed to instant responses and immediate gratification.
But somewhere along the way, I worry that we are losing something profoundly important: the art of recognising the person on the other side of an interaction.

Manners are not about rules. They are about relationships. When a child walks into a room and says, "Good morning," they are communicating something far more meaningful than a greeting. They are saying, I see you. I acknowledge your presence.

When they say, "please", they recognise that another person is giving their time, attention or assistance. When they say, "thank you", they acknowledge that someone's effort has value.

When they wait patiently than interrupting, they demonstrate that another person's thoughts and time matter too. These are not outdated social conventions. They are small, everyday acts of empathy, gratitude and respect.

פרשת חיי שרה

Shabbat Times

Light candles	**7:41pm**
Shabbat ends	**8:44pm**

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LEIBLER YAVNEH COLLEGE

The Lost Art of Manners: Small Words, Lasting Impact, continued...

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks in “The Dignity of Difference” wrote that genuine respect involves "paying attention to the other". What a powerful reminder that the way we communicate reflects the value we place on another human being. In our Jewish tradition, derech eretz (respectful, considerate behaviour towards others) is fundamental to how we live our values. It is not simply about knowing what is right, but about demonstrating it in our everyday interactions.

What happens when interactions become transactions?
Consider the difference between a child approaching an adult and saying, "I need a pencil," and saying, "Excuse me, could you please help me find a pencil?"

Both communicate the same need. Both can be expressed in seconds.
But the second creates an opportunity for connection. The adult feels acknowledged rather than simply required to provide something. The child experiences a positive interaction, often receiving warmth, appreciation and kindness in return.

These exchanges matter. A smile, a greeting, a moment of eye contact or a genuine expression of thanks can leave both people feeling seen and valued. Over time, these experiences strengthen relationships, build belonging and contribute to our sense of self-worth.

Additionally and importantly, children who learn to communicate respectfully develop confidence in navigating the world. They learn how to approach unfamiliar adults, ask for assistance, express their needs, advocate for themselves and engage positively with others.
Good manners do not diminish a child's voice. They give that voice greater confidence, consideration and effectiveness.

The benefits extend far beyond school including, grandparents, sporting coaches, shop assistants, neighbours, hospitality staff and every person our children encounter.

When we lose these small moments of human connection, our communities become a little less warm, a little less personal and a little less connected.

It begins at home
Dr Becky Kennedy's parenting philosophy reminds us that we can validate children's feelings while maintaining clear behavioural boundaries. Children can be tired, frustrated or disappointed, and we can still expect them to speak respectfully.

These expectations are not contradictory. They are part of raising emotionally healthy, socially capable children.

As educators, we model, teach and reinforce respectful communication every day. However, the foundations of manners and courtesy must be established and consistently practised at home. This is a responsibility that belongs first and foremost to parents and the adults raising our children.

Children are not born knowing how to greet someone, wait their turn, express gratitude or respectfully interrupt a conversation. These are learned habits, developed through modelling, repetition, gentle reminders and consistent expectations.





The Lost Art of Manners: Small Words, Lasting Impact, continued...

And like all habits, they become more natural with practice. Imagine the impact if every family made a conscious effort to reinforce just a few everyday expectations:

- Greet adults when arriving and leaving.
- Say "please" when asking and "thank you" when receiving.
- Wait for a pause in conversation or say "excuse me" when needing someone's attention.
- Ask for help politely rather than demanding it.
- Acknowledge people who assist us, whether at home, school, in shops or in the community.
- Speak respectfully, even when frustrated or disappointed.

Not through lectures or punishment, but through consistent modelling and gentle correction: "Let's try asking that again." "How might you say that more kindly?" "Did you remember to thank her?"

Parents and grandparents have enormous influence here. Children watch how we speak to the waiter, greet the security guard, thank the cashier, address their teachers and respond when someone inconveniences us.
The manners we model become the manners our children learn.

Small habits. Stronger communities.
Adam Grant's work on generosity reminds us of the importance of looking beyond our own immediate needs and considering the contribution we make to others.This is precisely what manners encourage children to practise. They shift the focus from What do I want? to How do I communicate my needs while respecting someone else?

And perhaps that is the greatest gift of teaching manners. We are not simply raising children who know when to say "please" and "thank you". We are raising children who understand that the world does not revolve around them, that other people's feelings matter and that kindness and consideration are strengths.

At Yavneh, we speak often about raising menschen, namely, young people of integrity, compassion, humility and responsibility. These values are not demonstrated only through grand gestures or significant acts of kindness. They are revealed in the smallest moments of everyday life.

In how we greet someone. In how we ask for help. In how we respond when the answer is no. In how we treat someone from whom we need absolutely nothing.

My invitation to every parent, grandparent and adult in our community is simple: let us bring manners back into the centre of family life.

Not because we want children to be obedient or unquestioning, but because we want them to grow into confident, thoughtful and compassionate people who recognise the dignity and worth of others.
Let us give our children the gift of knowing how to make another person feel seen, respected and appreciated. Because when we teach a child to say, "good morning", "please", "thank you" or "excuse me", we are doing far more than teaching polite words.

We are teaching them that every person matters.
And that is how we build not only better relationships, but a kinder, more connected and more caring community.







Year 3 Movie Night

Ms Waller and Mr Roncon, *Primary General Studies*







The Year 3 Movie Night was a resounding success! An evening filled with fun, friends, cozy pyjamas, and delicious food was always destined to be a thrill.

The excitement began as students arrived dressed in their most comfortable clothes and pyjamas at Lamm Hall. We kicked off the festivities by capturing the moment with a wonderful group photo, bringing all our students together to celebrate.

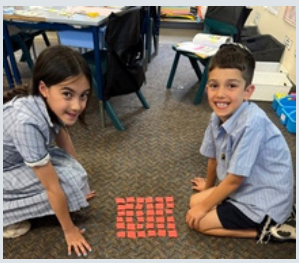
Following the photo, the students gathered closely to listen to an engaging story told by Morah Ettie, with eager hands raised as they participated in the interactive session. This was followed by an amazing, hands-on craft and design activity led by Morah Ettie and Morah Michelle, where students carefully decorated and personalised their own keepsakes using markers and colourful stickers.

All that creativity worked up an appetite, and it was soon time for our amazing pizza dinner. As the students happily agreed, the pizza was "so yummy!!!" After filling our bellies, everyone got themselves comfortably ready for the main event, settling down to watch the movie, Minions. Of course, no movie night is complete without snacks, and the children thoroughly enjoyed munching on their popcorn while watching the film. An enormous thank you to all the teachers who contributed to making the Year 3 Movie Night such a huge success, including Morah Ettie, Morah Michelle, Mr Roncon, Mrs Adelist, and Ms Waller, for planning and running such wonderful activities. The Year 3 students and teachers are grateful for all the effort and support from the entire Year 3 team.

Students chose feeling safe, happy, calm, and included as their priority for the evening, and this was evident throughout every activity. The students and their families should be very proud of the wonderful behaviour and conduct the students displayed as they supported each other and the staff during the event.

Play, Learn, Speak: Hebrew Comes Alive in Year 2

Michal Avitan, *Primary Hebrew Teacher*













Our Year 2 students have been busy creating their own Hebrew memory games as part of their vocabulary and spelling program. This hands-on activity allows students to practise new Hebrew words while developing important literacy skills.

The students carefully cut, write, and spell each word correctly as they prepared their game cards. This process helped reinforce both vocabulary and accurate spelling in a meaningful and memorable way.

Playing the memory game is a fun and engaging way to learn Hebrew. As students match the cards, they practise reading and saying the words aloud, encouraging them to use their new vocabulary in conversations with their classmates. This helps build confidence and strengthens their speaking skills.

An added benefit is that students can take their games home and continue practising with family members, extending their learning beyond the classroom.
By combining creativity, hands-on learning, and play, our Year 2 students are discovering that learning Hebrew can be both enjoyable and effective.

Shabbat shalom!
Morah Michal Avitan

Celebrating Our Heritage: A Journey Through Our Family Stories

Haya Epstein, *Primary Jewish Studies*

Yitzhak Ben-Zvi, the second President of the State of Israel, had a deep appreciation for the rich diversity of the Jewish people. Born in Ukraine, Ben-Zvi immigrated to Eretz Yisrael in 1907, dedicating much of his life to the Jewish people and the land of Israel. When he became President in 1952, he chose to live in a modest wooden home in Jerusalem rather than a grand presidential residence, reflecting his humility and commitment to his people.

One of Ben-Zvi's greatest interests was exploring the many different cultures, customs and traditions that make up the Jewish nation. He understood that although Jews had been scattered across the world throughout history, each community had preserved its own unique identity, language, traditions and way of life. Ashkenazi and Sephardi communities, Jews from Africa, Europe, the Middle East and beyond - every community had its own special story to tell.

Yet, despite these differences, we are all connected by our shared history, faith and heritage, as descendants of Avraham and Sarah. Ben-Zvi regularly welcomed representatives from different Jewish communities, as well as other minority groups, into his home. He invited them to share their community's history, customs, rituals and traditions. Many brought special objects and gifts that represented their culture and told a story about their past. Ben-Zvi treasured these items, proudly displaying them in his home. Inspired by Ben-Zvi's curiosity, respect and love for Jewish diversity, our Year 5 students embarked on their own journey of discovery.

We explored where our families came from, learning about the different countries, communities and traditions that make up our class. Students were invited to bring in a special object from home that represented their family heritage and to share its story. For those with an object too precious, delicate or meaningful to bring to school, sharing a photograph or writing about it was just as special. Some objects reminded students of grandparents and great-grandparents, others had travelled across continents, and some had been carefully passed down through generations. Every item offered a glimpse into a family's journey, its traditions and the people who came before us. Through listening to one another, students discovered that even the smallest object can hold a lifetime of memories, history and meaning.

What made this experience particularly meaningful was recognising both our differences and our connections. Our families may have originated in different parts of the world, spoken different languages and celebrated traditions in different ways, but we share something incredibly powerful: our Jewish identity. Each family story adds another thread to the rich and colourful tapestry of the Jewish people.

Most importantly, this experience reminded us that Jewish pride comes from knowing who we are, understanding where we come from and feeling connected to generations of Jews who came before us. Wherever our families came from, we are all part of one people.

A few highlights from our students:

"I shared a dentistry tool that belonged to my grandfather who I sadly never met"

"Talking about the towel made me feel connected to my great grandpa and his brother"

"Presenting the medals of my Great Grandfather Sir Zelman Cowen made me feel happy that he received such a rare honour"

"Bringing the magnet from 1947 made me feel connected to my great grandparents' story"

"The Chumash connects me to my great grandfather Dr Rabbi Harry Friedman who wrote the commentary"

"Bringing my great grandfather's Talit was special as I am of Sephardic background and most of the class is Ashkenazi"

"Bringing my mother's necklace made me feel connected to my whole family who loved my great grandfather"

"Bringing my great grandfather's book made me feel proud to sharing his story, and I feel I can do anything since he spent his childhood in the Holocaust"

"Bringing my book made me feel connected to my family although I had never met them"

"The camera reminds me of my grandma, as she gave it to me"

"Bringing my father's ring makes me feel connected to my family and the tradition of it being passed down to the next generation"

Prep–3 Carnival

Ryan Rothschild, *Head of Sports - Primary*

What a fantastic day we had on Tuesday! After heavy rainfall washed out last year's event, the BOM's bleak forecast wasn't going to stop us this year!

The Prep to Year 3 students have been fantastic throughout the term, practising for Sports Day and preparing to take on eight different activities, each with its own unique challenges and complexities.

For the first time, our Year 2 and 3 students got a taste of the shot put and discus events, with the top three placegetters in each event taking home ribbons for their impressive throws. It was also fantastic to watch all the students run their hearts out in the sprint heats. Every student should be incredibly proud of their efforts in completing the 100m sprint with such great spirit, while enthusiastically cheering on their fellow competitors.

The Prep and Year 1 students participated with incredible enthusiasm! From throwing and zigzagging to balancing and jumping, every event was completed with confidence and excitement, as if they had done it 100 times before (and they would certainly tell me it feels like they have!).

Kol hakavod to all our P/1 students for completing their very first Yavneh Sports Day!

Not to be forgotten, it was also fantastic to watch our Years 4–6 students get straight into the action ahead of the P–3 Carnival. Congratulations to all the placegetters and to everyone who participated in another fantastic Yavneh sporting tradition.

A massive thank you to the many Yavneh staff members who made this event possible and ensured everything ran so smoothly. Our leadership team, maintenance team, classroom teachers, education support staff, first aid team, security and tuckshop staff were all incredible in taking on the roles required and chipping in at short notice. Thank you again!

Primary Sport isn't finished for the year just yet! Please see below for some important upcoming dates:

- Year 5/6 Interschool Sport: Friday 13 November
- Year 4 Maccabi Cup (selected students only): Wednesday 18 November
- Prep–Year 3 Swim Week: Monday 30 November – Thursday 3 December and Monday 7 December














FIRST




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Parashat Chayei Sara - The Life of Sara – together with JLife Primary



Sara Amzalak, *Head of Jewish Life and Learning*

This week in JLife Primary Craft Club, students were very excited to get creative in making a model of Sara's Tent that displayed the three special miracles that occurred in her lifetime. Students used cardboard, cotton wool and particularly enjoyed using the plasticine to create the Shabbat Candle Sticks and Challah. Some even molded Sara herself and some extra features around her tent.

































Real Life Halacha

Raphael Eppel, *Jewish Life Educator*

In their Halacha classes, Year 7A have had the opportunity to bring their Halacha knowledge to life through a range of creative and practical activities.

At the end of term 2, after completing our Experience of Shabbat unit, the students participated in a mock Shabbat meal, putting their knowledge of Hadlakat Nerot, Kiddush and Hamotzi into practice.

They explored the four dimensions of Shabbat: Zachor, Shamor, Kavod and Oneg, and connected these concepts to the mitzvot associated with a Shabbat meal. The experience was thoroughly enjoyed by all, particularly when it came to the delicious food!
This semester, our focus has shifted to the Melachot. While these can be more technical in nature, we have continued to find ways to make the learning practical, engaging and relevant. After learning about the Melachot involved in the process of making bread, we had the opportunity to experience them firsthand through a dough-making session with Maaryasha Werdiger from Zelda!

The students were provided with wheat seeds and worked through several stages of the bread-making process. They began with Tochen (grinding), transforming the wheat into flour, before performing Meraked (sifting) to separate and obtain finer flour. They then practised Lash (kneading), combining the ingredients to create dough, which they took home to do Bishul (cothemselves. Once again, the students loved the opportunity to put their theoretical knowledge into practice!

As I approach the end of my first year of teaching, one of my key goals has been to make the Halacha we learn as relevant and tangible as possible for students. This approach was inspired by advice from one of my Rabbeim in Yeshiva, Rav Tzvi Kaye, who encouraged me to incorporate as many practical activities as possible into my teaching.

In today's world, Halacha can sometimes feel distant from students. It is a system that has developed over centuries, with intricate laws, principles and structures. However, one of the most important things we can teach our students is that Halacha is not simply something that was relevant generations ago. It remains deeply relevant to every aspect of our lives today.

Halacha provides the framework through which we can build a rich and meaningful Jewish experience. We are incredibly fortunate to be part of a school like Leibler Yavneh College, which places such an emphasis on these values and on bringing Jewish learning to life.











Australian History Competition

Samuel Brygel, *Head Of Humanities and Social Sciences*

In first Semester all Year 7-10 students participated in the Australian History Competition in their HASS classes.

The Australian History Competition is a nationwide assessment for secondary students to demonstrate their historical knowledge, critical thinking, and source analysis skills. Aligned with the national Australian History Curriculum, students complete a 45-minute timed paper consisting of 50 multiple-choice questions. Our award winners were presented with their certificates at assembly and the first prize winners of each year level received a history book from the Avenue Bookstore!

Mazel tov to the following students who were acknowledged for their excellence in the Competition results.

Year 7:
Ravid B, Gabe M, Mikaela S, Leo F, Ella G
First Prize: Gideon K (High Distinction)

Year 8:
Ozi D, Adir M, Lili E
Joint First Prize: Elai M, Gidon G (Distinction)

Year 9:
Ella I, Zev K, Razya S, Alon, Salvador G, Eli M, Liat P, Hadyn G
First Prize: Gavriel N (High Distinction)

Year 10: Garfield G, Liam Z, Judah W, Atalia S, Jacob Smith, Raphael E
First Prize: Kezia G (High Distinction)











JCCV Event: Honouring Jews from Arab Lands and Iran

Following the wonderful response to last year's inaugural Victorian community-wide commemoration, the JCCV will once again bring our community together to honour the history, heritage and resilience of Jews from Arab Lands and Iran, and to remember the experiences of persecution, departure and expulsion that changed these communities forever.

This year's program will feature an exclusive interview with Lyn Julius, a leading commentator and expert on the history and experiences of Jews from Arab countries and Iran, alongside music and stories from Yuval Ashkar, whose performances bring the rich musical heritage of Iraqi Jewry to life, and more.

We look forward to building on last year's gathering and continuing to give these important histories the recognition they deserve.

https://events.humanitix.com/honouring-jews-from-arab-lands-and-iran

Yavneh sizzles on Sports Day!

Aaron Fetter, *Head of Sports - Secondary*

Yavneh's time-honoured Sports Day Carnival tradition returned on Tuesday with a bang! Students, staff and the Yavneh family flocked to Duncan Mackinnon Reserve with a sea of green (Efrat), red (Ofra), yellow (Rosh Tzurim) and blue (Magshimim) colouring the track, while the trademark Yavneh Ruach/Spirit was seen and heard, LOUDLY!

Houses were primed for a big day of healthy rivalry and competition following a wonderful Spirit week organised and run by incoming captains: Ruby Jotkowitz (Ofra), Zac Ash (Rosh Tzurim), Yael Goldbandi (Efrat), Seth Segal (Magshimim). Following the opening ceremony, students across all year levels put months of preparation to the ultimate test with outstanding results achieved across the following track and field events: 100 meters, 200 meters, long jump, triple jump, shot put, tug of war and the reintroduction of the House 4x100m relay.

The dedicated and astute scoring team were busy crunching the numbers throughout the day. After much anticipation, Principal Shula Lazar announced the final leaderboard, with Rosh Tzurim claiming back-to-back Michael Cohen Premier House Cups, under the passionate leadership of new House/Spirit Captain, Zac Ash.

On behalf of the Primary and Secondary PE Departments, a massive thank you to staff, students and families for playing their part in what was a memorable and successful 2026 Leibler Yavneh College Sports Day!







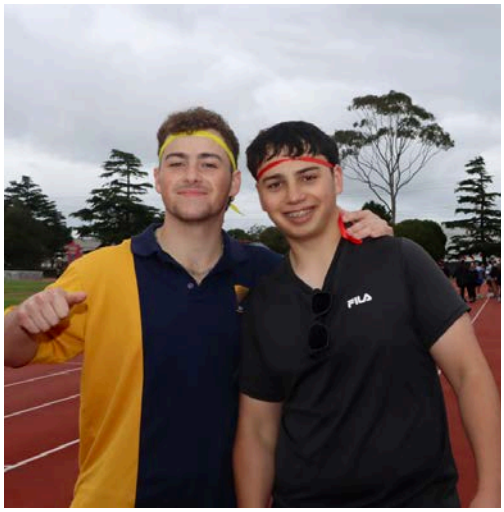





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Secondary Jewish Life

Raphael Eppel, *Jewish Life Educator*

This past week in Secondary Jewish Life has been jam-packed with initiatives, ruach and growth!

First up, our Year 10 Manhigut (Leadership) students ran their very first initiative. In honour of World Teachers' Day, they decided to raise money for The Giving Closet, a local charity that sources clothing for people in need. The students put together a fantastic initiative, kicking things off with an entertaining activity at assembly.

Combining the two themes, they organised a department dress-up competition, much to the delight of students, who were treated to the hilarious sight of their teachers strutting their stuff on the catwalk!
At lunchtime, the students took the initiative a step further, selling icy poles and cans to raise additional funds. All up, they managed to raise over $250 for The Giving Closet!

Upon hearing about the initiative, a representative from the charity shared:
"I'm so overwhelmed with your generosity. We are so proud and touched that the students of Leibler Yavneh College would think of us. Thank you."

Lana from The Giving Closet also joined us at assembly this week to share more about the charity and the impact that this support makes. Kol hakavod to our Manhigut students Aviel, Jacob, Levy, Eden, Kezia and Becky for bringing this initiative to life!

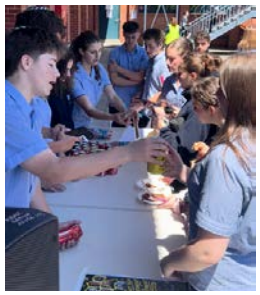
Moving on, we carried the fantastic momentum from Spirit Week straight into Sports Day! It was a wonderful day filled with ruach, friendly competition and plenty of school spirit, all led by our fantastic new Spirit Captains: Zac, Seth, Ruby and Yael.

Alongside all of this, we continued our regular Barmi and Batmi programming and have begun finalising our Derech Eretz initiatives with Year 8.

Looking forward to all that the rest of the term has in store!


















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

Mazal Tov

Mazal Tov to the **Charif family** on the birth of a baby boy.



