

קשר KESHER

Friday 20 November 2026
י כסלו תשפ"ז

Davening, Tefillah and a connection to Hashem

פרשת ויצא

Sara Amzalak, *Head of Jewish Life and Learning*

Growing up, I always loved walking to Shule on Shabbat with my father. Before my Bat Mitzvah, I used to sit downstairs next to my father in Shule and when I was very young my father had a little siddur with pictures for me. To be honest, I probably spent more time looking at the pictures than davening, but as long as I can remember, I felt it was important to daven.

As I got older, I still walked to Shule with my father but made my way upstairs to sit amongst the ladies and davened from a Siddur without pictures. I can remember wondering how the Chazan could daven each tefillah so fast and felt that I would never be able to keep up. But feeling that davening was something important, I continued to daven each week and like most things, the more we practice and do, the better and more proficient we become.

When I was at Yavneh, in high school, for many years we had a girl' s Tefillah, and I was often chosen to be the Chazanit. Ironically, I can remember a group of girls coming to me at the end of Tefillah one morning, asking me if I could slow down the next time I was Chazanit!

This year I have been given the privilege to take Tefillah in Prep B. For me personally, it has been so amazing to see their progression as we have learned so many new Tefillot together both in meaning and words.

But my journey with these beautiful children didn't start this year. It began when they were in Junior Kinder when I taught them the letters Alef to Tet and then in Senior Kinder the entire Alef Bet. There is something so amazing about witnessing these students' progression from learning their Alef Bet letters to now knowing so many new Tefillot and actually being able to follow along word by word as they Daven.

Until this week, we have been using a "Morah Made Siddur". When we began the year, we didn't even know a quarter of the Tefillot printed in there. And just this week, as we learned together the last two lines of the last Tefillah in the "Siddur" I marveled with the students about how far they have come and that they can feel so proud of themselves.

In fact, this week on Thursday was a true day of Naches for me, all the Prep teachers and parents, as the students performed in their Siddur Concert and received their very own, real, new Siddur.

The children here at Leibler Yavneh College are so privileged to start each morning with designated time to Daven, connect to Hashem and build in their knowledge of the Tefillot of Shacharit.

I am very excited to see Prep B use their new Siddurim and over the years watch their progression as they become more proficient in their Davening.

פרשת ויצא

Shabbat Times

Light candles	7:56pm
Shabbat ends	9:01pm

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

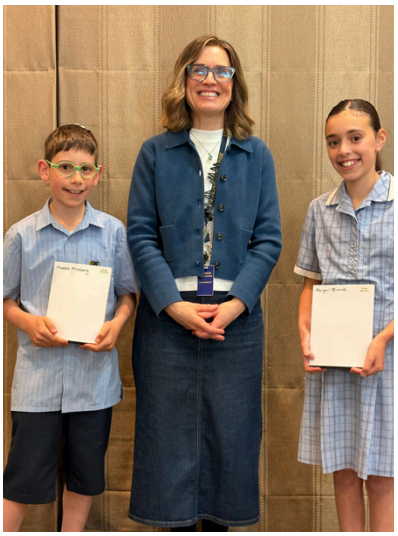
YAVNEH יבנה

LEIBLER YAVNEH COLLEGE

Yavneh

Greg Sher Memorial Awards

Last week, Year 5 students Abigail B and Moses F, along with Year 11 student Michaela N, were presented with the Greg Sher Memorial Award by CSG Victoria.





The award commemorates Private Greg Sher, a dedicated CSG volunteer and member of the 1st Commando Regiment who was tragically killed in Afghanistan in 2009 while serving his country. In his name, the award is given each year to young people who show kindness, humility, resilience, and a genuine commitment to helping others.

Mazel Tov to Abigail, Moses and Michaela. Their example is a reminder that real leadership has little to do with titles and everything to do with the difference we make in the lives of others.

CHILD SAFETY AT YAVNEH

Victoria's 11 Child Safe Standards

Leibler Yavneh College is committed to the safety and wellbeing of every child. Since 1 July 2022, every Victorian school has been required to meet these standards.

1. **Culturally safe for Aboriginal children**
   Their identities and experiences are respected and valued.
2. **Leadership and culture**
   Child safety is built into how the school is led and run.
3. **Children's voices**
   Children know their rights, help make decisions and are taken seriously.
4. **Families and community**
   Families are informed and involved in keeping children safe.
5. **Equity and diversity**
   Every child's needs are respected, whatever their background.
6. **Suitable, supported staff**
   Everyone working with children is screened and supported.
7. **Child-focused complaints**
   Concerns are handled with children at the centre.
8. **Training**
   Staff and volunteers are trained to keep children safe.
9. **Safe spaces, online and off**
   Our physical and online environments minimise the risk of harm.
10. **Review and improve**
    How we meet the standards is regularly reviewed.
11. **Clear policies**
    Our policies and procedures show how we keep children safe.

Have a concern?

Contact our Child Safety Team, LT, HODs and HOYS

The Ladder and the Legion - Parshat Vayetzei

Zachary Gomo, *Secondary Teacher*

In 1917, Lieutenant Colonel John Henry Patterson found himself in an argument with the British War Office. Patterson was an unlikely person to be having this particular argument. An Irish-born British army officer and adventurer, he had become famous years earlier for killing the man-eating lions of Tsavo in East Africa. Yet during the First World War, Patterson became a campaigner for something almost without precedent: the rebirth of a distinctly Jewish fighting force.

Patterson had initially commanded the Zion Mule Corps, which served with distinction at Gallipoli. Its soldiers were Jewish, while Patterson and most of the officers were not. One notable exception was Patterson's second-in-command, Joseph Trumpeldor, later famous for his role at Tel Hai. The Zion Mule Corps, however, was a transport and logistical unit rather than an infantry force. After it was disbanded, Patterson and Jewish Zionist leader Zeev Jabotinsky continued pressing the British government to establish a Jewish combat unit. In 1917, the British finally authorised Jewish infantry battalions within the Royal Fusiliers—the force that became known as the Jewish Legion.

This was not merely a symbolic Jewish unit. The Legion fought as part of the British campaign against the Ottoman Empire in Eretz Yisrael. Among the Legion's other members were men who would become central figures in the future State of Israel. These included Yitzchak Ben-Zvi its second President, Levi Eshkol its third Prime Minister and Yaakov Dori, the first Chief of Staff of the IDF. For them, the significance was difficult to overstate. For the first time in many centuries, an organised Jewish military force was fighting in the land of its ancestors. Indeed, Patterson wanted this Legion of Jews to be genuinely Jewish. The War Office was less enthusiastic. Patterson recorded being summoned by the Adjutant-General and told, in effect, that he was commanding an ordinary British battalion and that there was to be no Kosher food or Shabbat observance. Patterson refused. He told the Adjutant-General that "the only way to make good Jewish soldiers of the men was by first of all treating them as good Jews." He went so far as to submit his resignation.

The War Office backed down. Kosher food was authorised and Shabbat was recognised as the battalion's official day of rest. There is something striking about a non-Jewish officer understanding this so clearly. Patterson did not see Jewish identity as baggage that his soldiers would have to shed. Their Jewishness was not an obstacle to becoming courageous and disciplined soldiers. It was the foundation from which they could become those things.

Of Patterson, Jabotinsky said: "Never in Jewish history has there been in our midst a Christian friend of his understanding and devotion."

Patterson's instinct illuminates one of the central tensions of Parshat Vayetzei. Yaakov begins the parsha leaving the protected world in which he has grown up: "ויצא יעקב מבאר שבע וילך חרנה" — "Yaakov left Be'er Sheva and went toward Charan." Until now, he has been the "איש תם יושב אהלים" — "an innocent man, dwelling in tents."

Now Yaakov is heading toward a world of commerce, competition, manipulation and moral ambiguity. Yaakov will have to become more worldly.

Just before entering that world, he sees the angels ascending and descending a heavenly ladder: "סולם מוצב ארצה וראשו מגיע השמימה" — "A ladder was standing on the earth, and its top reached toward heaven." Rashi notes that the angels first ascend and only afterwards descend the ladder. The angels who had accompanied Yaakov in the Land of Israel ascend, while other angels descend to accompany him outside the Land. Perhaps the implication is that when Yaakov's circumstances change, even the form of the protection accompanying him must change.

The person who can survive Charan cannot function exactly as he did in the tents of Be'er Sheva. Yaakov will need new skills. But Yaakov must remain Yaakov. Indeed, the Ramban sees Yaakov's dream as larger than Yaakov himself. The ladder becomes an image of Jewish history among the nations: kingdoms rise and kingdoms fall, while H' remains above them. Yaakov's journey becomes a prototype for Jewish existence in exile—living inside another civilisation without allowing that civilisation to become the final measure of who we are.
Patterson, a non-Jew, understood that instinctively.
His Jewish soldiers would wear British uniforms. They would submit to British military discipline. They would fight as part of the British Army. They had entered an institution and a world that had not been built around Jewish life. And yet they were not fighting for something entirely foreign to themselves. They were participating in a campaign that would become part of the larger story of renewed Jewish sovereignty.

Patterson refused to accept that success within the modern military world required his soldiers first to become less Jewish. In that sense, his argument with the War Office was almost an argument about Yaakov's ladder. To be "מוצב ארצה" — "standing firmly on the earth" did not require severing "וראשו מגיע השמימה" — "its top reaching toward heaven."

And perhaps that is the real achievement of Yaakov in Vayetzei. He does not survive Charan by hiding. He becomes extraordinarily capable within it. Charan changes him, but it does not get to define him. Twenty years later, when Yaakov leaves, he is still Yaakov.

Patterson remained devoted to the Jewish people for the rest of his life. He continued to work closely with Jabotinsky and befriended Benzion Netanyahu.

Netanyahu's eldest son, Yonatan—Yoni—was named in part in Patterson's honour, and Patterson even attended his brit. Throughout the 1930s and 1940s, Patterson continued to advocate for the Jewish people and for Jewish statehood. He died in the United States in 1947, less than a year before the establishment of the State of Israel, without seeing the Jewish sovereignty for which he had hoped and fought.

Patterson's wish was to be buried in the Land of Israel, alongside the Jewish soldiers with whom his life had become so closely bound. Whilst this did not occur at the time of his passing, in 2014 Patterson was reinterred at Avihayil, the town in Israel founded by veterans of the Jewish Legion. Prime Minister Bibi Netanyahu, brother of Patterson's late namesake Yoni, eulogised him. An extraordinary ending to the story of an extraordinary man. A man who understood that a ladder can only reach heaven if it first stands firmly on solid ground.

Primary sport wrap up

Ryan Rothschild, Head of Sports - Primary

Anything the Brisbane Lions can do; Yavneh can do better!

In the third iteration of the Year 5/6 'small school's' interschool round robin event, we took home the trophy once again. As the saying goes, three times is a chazakah! (Thanks Morah Michelle! 🤣)

Adding up all the accumulative scores from around the grounds, Yavneh finished on 102 points, just ahead of 2nd place on 100 points.

Sport placings below:
Handball – 4th
Rounders – 1st
Sofcrosse – 4th
Touch Rugby – 2nd

Kol Hakavod to those students who opened up their minds to giving new sports a red-hot go and playing with strong team spirit.
As always, thank you to the staff and coaches who assisted and supported our students throughout the day.

Year 4 Maccabi Cup
This past Wednesday, the Year 4s got their first taste of interschool sport competition, competing in the Maccabi Cup. All students played with great spirit!

The girl's netball team showed incredible improvement in each game. Beginning with a 3-1 come from behind victory against Beth Rivkah. They next had a very tight loss to Bialik Blue after the scores were level with one minute to play. Next up against Bialik Yellow – Goldie was our sharpshooter with 5 goals in a 5-2 win! The girls repeated the dose against the same team to make their way to the Grand Final!

In an incredibly nerve-wracking match that could have gone either way, the girls unfortunately came up just short in a 2-1 defeat after double overtime. Congratulations to the girls for an incredible effort; with most of them playing netball for the very first time!

Our boys' basketball team had a more difficult day; most of the time coming up against teams with more height and more experience on the basketball court. The team continued to build on their resilience and fought competitively in all 5 matches. Highlights of the day included Matan's free throw shot on the buzzer and Jonah's amazing full court dribble and lay up!

A big thank you to the expert staff who coached our teams superbly.











JLife at Year 4 Camp

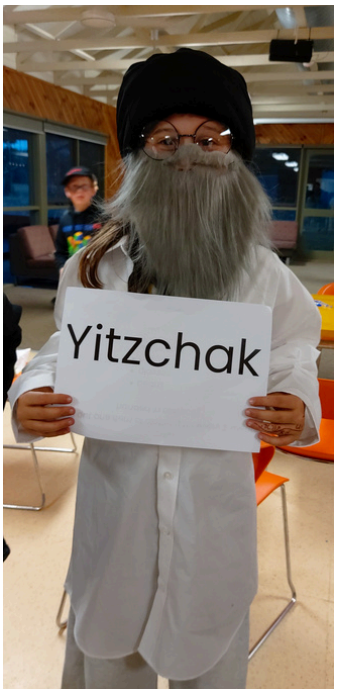
Sara Amzalak, *Head of Jewish Life and Learning (Primary)*

Both nights of camp, Year 4 were treated to some exciting activities from the JLife Primary Team.

On the first night, students, working in their camp teams of Jerusalem, Haifa, Tel Aviv and Eilat, worked their way through a series of activities about Parashat Toldot. As each activity was completed and given the thumbs up by a teacher, the teams were allocated a dress up to represent one of the major personalities in the Parasha. While Rivka was the first to be dressed, Yaakov, Yitzchak and Eisav were not far behind. Once dressed, some family photos were taken.

The second night saw the teams battle it out in a game of Jeopardy, with categories of Chumash, Chagim, Israel and Yeda Klali. While some questions were answered on the first attempt, others took a few rounds to be answered correctly. In the end, team Eilat were victorious.

The team spirit was palpable and a fun, educational and wonderful time was had by all.









Chanukah IS COMING!





Jewish Studies Beyond the Classroom
Year 4 Camp 2026 Reflection

Ettie Spigelman, *Primary Jewish Studies*







At Year 4 Camp, Jewish Studies was not simply a lesson on the timetable. It was part of everything we did. Camp provided students with the opportunity to experience that Torah, Jewish values, and Jewish identity are not something we leave behind when we leave school. They are part of who we are wherever we go.

Throughout the camp, students shared Divrei Torah during mealtimes, reflecting on lessons that connected directly to their camp experience. The Year 4A students explored the values of Kavod (Respect), Chesed (Kindness), Achrayut (Responsibility), Savlanut (Patience), and Hakarat Hatov (Gratitude), while the Year 4B students learned from Parashat Toldot, discussing individuality, making good choices, responsibility, peaceful problem-solving, and trusting in Hashem.

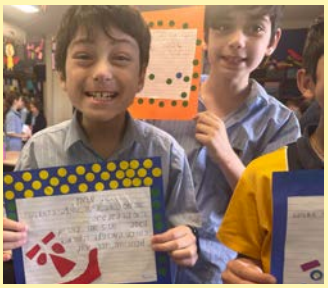
What made these talks so meaningful was seeing the students bring these ideas to life. Whether encouraging a friend, embracing a challenge, showing gratitude, or working together as a community, the values they spoke about were visible throughout camp. Jewish learning moved beyond words and became lived experience.

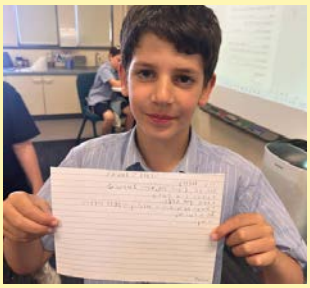
Alongside the Divrei Torah, tefillah, brachot, and shared learning opportunities reminded students that Judaism is not confined to the classroom. It shapes the way we think, act, and connect with Hashem and with one another.

As educators, it was a privilege to watch our students proudly embrace their Jewish identity throughout the week. Camp reinforced an important message: Jewish Studies is far more than a subject area. It is the foundation of our values, our community, and who we are. The lessons the students learned at camp are ones they will continue to carry with them long after the camp has ended.

You're Invited... to Hebrew Learning!

Shiri Peres, *Primary Hebrew Teacher*









Year 3 students have been learning how to write their own party invitations in Hebrew.

As part of this hands-on activity, each student created an 'הזמנה' by choosing the invitees, time, and location of their celebration, before decorating their invitations with creativity and flair.

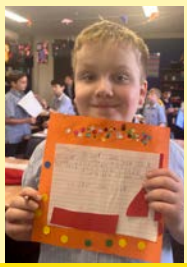
Through this meaningful task, students practised using masculine and feminine forms of Hebrew verbs, adjectives, and nouns while building complete sentences.

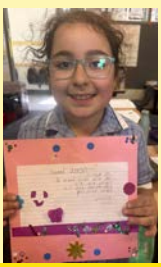
This engaging project gave students the opportunity to use Hebrew in a practical context while expressing their own ideas and personalities.

















Zebras, Ropes, and Campfires: Our Year 4 Camp Adventure!

Natalie Ackerfeld and Jack O'Neill, *Primary General Studies*



What an incredible three days our Year 4 students had last week on their very first school camp at Anglesea Valley Lodge! The adventure began on a high note with a stop at Werribee Open Range Zoo. Treated to gorgeous, warm sunshine, the students loved getting up close to the wildlife and exploring the plains on the open-air safari tour.

From there, we made our way to Anglesea, where the students jumped straight into camp life with big smiles and plenty of enthusiasm. Their days were packed with outdoor challenges ranging from conquering the rock-climbing wall and ropes course to mastering archery, bike riding, and team building challenges. When the sun went down, the fun kept rolling with engaging J-Life sessions that had the hall buzzing, a cosy pyjama movie night, a night bush walk or campfire, followed by the whole group singing our hearts out around the campfire.



Beyond the activities, it was wonderful to see how much the students grew in independence and teamwork. They cheered each other on through tough moments, took real ownership of their mealtime and cleaning rosters, and made the most of their downtime with friendly games of cricket, beach volleyball, table tennis, and board games.

Our Year 4 cohort returned exhausted, happy, and memories that will last a lifetime. They showed tremendous courage, kindness, and resilience throughout the trip, and we are so proud of the way they embraced every single moment of their first Yavneh school camp experience.















Bar and Bat Mitzvah programs & Derech Eretz program

Ilan Davis, *Jewish Life Educator*

This week in J-Life, our Bar and Bat Mitzvah programs continued, with the boys exploring the significance and meaning of Tefillin, while the girls continued their learning about the importance of Jewish names and the role they play in shaping our identities.

Our Year 8 students also continued their Derech Eretz program, and are now putting the finishing touches on their exciting initiatives, which they will soon be running across the Secondary School. We are also looking forward to the girls' sleepover later this week, which promises to be a wonderful opportunity for connection, friendship and meaningful Jewish experiences!









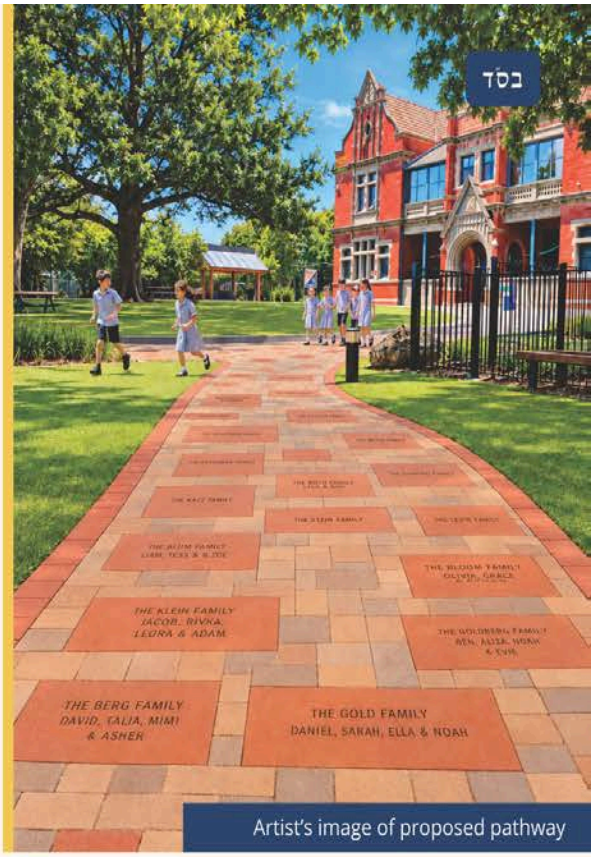
LEIBLER YAVNEH COLLEGE

YAVNEH FOUNDATION

2026 BRICK APPEAL

Pave the Way

Together, let's pave the way for generations to come.



Artist's image of proposed pathway

From the first day at school to friendships that last a lifetime, Yavneh holds a special place in our families' hearts. Dedicate an engraved brick at the entrance to Leibler Yavneh College. Honour your family, remember a loved one or celebrate the generations who have called Yavneh home.

Help the next generation feel the same sense of belonging.

Choose your path:

A lasting connection to Yavneh



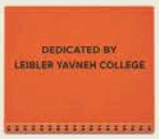
Single paver
$360
Your family name.



Double paver
$720
Your family name and children's names.



Triple paver
$1,800
Room for names across generations



Large paver
$3,600
A prominent paver for your family or a dedication

Dedicate your brick today:

yavneh.vic.edu.au/pavetheway

Contact: Tanya

foundation@yavneh.vic.edu.au | (03) 9528 4911

All donations will receive a tax-deductible receipt.

YAVNEH FOUNDATION



Mazal Tov

Mazaltov to **Brent Goldstein and Toni Pikoos** on the birth of a baby daughter, sister to Archie.

We extend Mazal Tov to the **Getz family** on Shira's Batmitzvah

Condolence

We extend condolence to the Smith Family on the passing of the grandfather. We also extend condolences to the Sperling Family.

Upcoming Dates 2026

November:
Sunday 22 Year 12 Graduation
Thursday 26 SKB Concert

December:
Tuesday 1 JKA Concert
Thursday 3 SKA Concert
Thursday 3 Speech Night
Friday 4 Year 11 Torah U'Maddah
Monday 7 JKB Concert
Monday 7 Shorashim
Tuesday 8 Nitzanim
Thursday 10 Pri Gan
Thursday 10 SKG Concert
Thursday 10 Year 6 Graduation
Friday 11 Last Day term 4
Wednesday 16 Garinim
Wednesday 16 Last Day for staff
Friday 18 Last Day for Creche

JOIN OUR TEAM

Enrolments Officer

Part-time | From January 2027 | Elsternwick

Do you love welcoming new families? We're looking for an organised, personable Enrolments Officer to join our administration team and look after every family's journey, from their first enquiry to their child's first day.

THE ROLE

- Manage enrolment administration: enquiries, applications, offers, records and reporting
- Meet prospective families, and arrange and lead school tours
- Make sure families starting at the school, crèche or kinder have the right information and paperwork
- Support new students and families through a smooth transition
- Work with teaching, early learning and admin staff, and help with open days and events

ABOUT YOU

- Experience in school enrolments, administration or a similar customer-facing role
- Warm, professional and confident with families and visitors
- Highly organised, with strong attention to detail
- Comfortable with databases and school systems
- Discreet with sensitive information, and respectful of the College's Jewish ethos

To apply: send your résumé and a cover letter to **hr@yavneh.vic.edu.au** by **Thursday 26 November 2026.** Applications will be reviewed as they arrive, so please apply early.

Leibler Yavneh College is committed to child safety and wellbeing. The successful applicant will need a current Working with Children Check and must meet all child safety screening requirements.