



Moriah College
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DECEMBER 2009 — KISLEV 5770



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Akiva dancers during their energetic performance

Talent Quest

It's the event that Middle School students look forward to all year – the annual House-based Talent Quest – and this year's event was once again a huge success.

Choreographed, scripted, rehearsed and performed by the students themselves, the event is a tribute to the enthusiasm of all the participants and the appreciative and spirited audience members all cheering for their House!

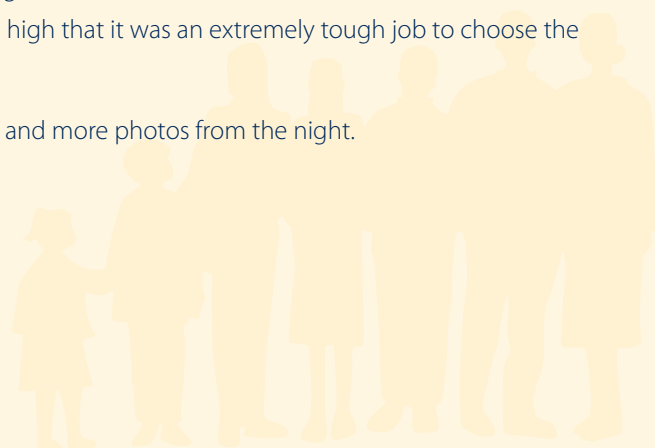
This year there was an added attraction – celebrity guest adjudicator Ilan Kidron – lead singer of the popular 'Potbelleez' band.

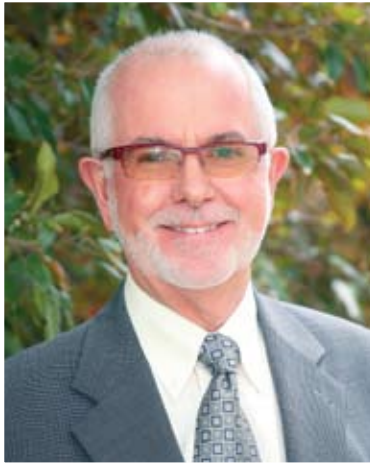
The students competed in four categories – Vocals, Ensemble, Dance and Drama and the quality of each performance was so high that it was an extremely tough job to choose the winners.

Turn to page 11 for the 2009 results and more photos from the night.



Moriah College is a member of
the JCA family of organisations





Message FROM THE COLLEGE PRINCIPAL/CEO

It's really hard to believe that I have just completed my first year as part of the Moriah Family. As with any new member in a family there has been lots of getting to know each other; lots of opportunities to learn and grow in the knowledge and understandings of what makes each of us tick; and lots of naive questions on my part as I seek to fully understand the Moriah way, look for opportunities for us all to improve and most importantly focus on the sustainability of Moriah.

For some in the College community, particularly for those on the staff, there is still some wondering and confusion about the direction that has been signalled by my appointment as College Principal/CEO.

Everyone knows what the College Principal does – or do they? Until 2009 this title has applied to the person who was also the High School Principal, but reported to the Board and had as his main role the educational management, in association with the Primary Principal and Head of Middle School, for the entire College. The Board took the major business responsibility and in many cases the management responsibilities for some other aspects of the College through various sub-committees and responsible Board members, working closely with the College Bursar.

My appointment this year heralded a significant change. My role is twofold – the leadership and management of both the educational as well as the business aspects of the College – hence the Principal and CEO parts of the rather cumbersome title.

In order to make this work there have been several structural changes – we now have a College Executive that works closely with me across the entire College. This consists of the Director of Preschools, the Primary Principal, the Head of Middle School, the Head of Curriculum, the Head of High School, the Head of Corporate Services and soon it will include the Head of Jewish Life – a crucial position that will round off our team that will lead and guide Moriah into a sustainable future.

Together we are responsible to the Board, under my leadership, for the entire College operation. In line with the Board's strategic directions we discuss and develop the educational programs of the College, within the Modern Orthodox Zionist ethos. All of this happens within a business context that must support high quality teaching and learning, enabling every one of our precious students to maximise individual potential.

2009 has been about looking, learning, deciding on some key elements of change and making structural decisions, based on improving educational quality, for implementation in 2010.

I recently had the pleasure of speaking to the new parents coming into Year T and to those entering the Middle School in Year 6. I have promised each of these parents that their children will be experiencing the highest quality of secular and Jewish education that we can possibly provide. I have particularly emphasised to Middle School parents that there are exciting changes that will occur next year with the

new leadership team including a Deputy Head and a team of Teaching and Learning Coordinators (TLCs). This new structure will impact on all of Years 6, 7 and 8.

I have used the term sustainability frequently this year when speaking with parents and staff. Many see this as an economic term but it is much broader. Sustainability is being widely discussed in terms of the environment and the future of the world at large. In our context, particularly my Moriah lexicon, the key focus of sustainability is that of educational quality – the provision of excellent teaching and learning in a supportive environment for all of our students from Preschool to Year 12.

I am aware that many think the CEO in my title is purely a business designation as they understand the term Chief Executive Officer and are concerned that corporatisation of Moriah is around the corner. Let me assure you that for me the CEO means Chief Educational Officer just as much as the business connotation.

I like the dual title, even if it is a mouthful, as it reassures everyone and constantly reminds both me and the Board that a sustainable Moriah, a strengthened and perpetuating Moriah Family, can only occur if educational decisions drive the business, but these decisions must be delivered in a responsible, efficient and effective manner.

That is why I have been appointed. That is the focus of my work. That is why it is such a joy to be a part of the Moriah Family and to play a major role, with the Board, in ensuring the Moriah future.

I look forward to an even more exciting and rewarding year ahead in 2010. I wish you all the very best for a safe, happy and loving holiday period.

Kim Fillingham – College Principal/CEO

New Sheirut Leumi Girls

Baruch Haba to Nesya Bar-Or, Plia Tourjeman, Tzipora Burstein and Hadass Berkovits who are the new Sheirut Leumi girls that have recently arrived from Israel to spend a year at Moriah College.

Through the Sheirut Leumi (National Service) program, the girls will add an Israeli flavour to many of the informal Jewish educational activities in Primary, Middle and High School.

They have settled very quickly into life on campus and are planning a host of fantastic programs for our students.



Silver Pen Awards

Internationally acclaimed Author Joanne Fedler was the Guest of Honour at the 2009 Silver Pen awards. This is an annual competition which recognises the writing talents of students in Years 6 to 10. Congratulations to the winners in each category who were presented with an inscribed silver pen.

Poetry – Daniel Shekhtman, Samantha Khavin, Nicole Flax and Lauren Black

Essay – Liza Moses, Claudia Smith, Aaron Meyer, Jason Gaitz and Gabriella Rudman

Creative – Abigail Kaplan, Joshua Kirsh, Sarah Rubenstein, Leigh Sack and Mark Rapaport

Media – Aidan Nussbaum, Sarah Hirner, Ilana Gottlieb, Jason Gaitz, David Moss, Jake Wakil, Orli Winton and Lisa Cohen



Making Music

It was a musical night to remember when our 2009 Training Band recently made its first public appearance at a concert in the Moshe Triguboff Auditorium.

The debut performance was received with thunderous applause and a standing ovation from the members of our top band – the Symphonic Wind Orchestra – who thoroughly enjoyed hearing some long-time Training Band favourites such as the Peanut Song.

The concert also featured our accomplished Intermediate Band and concluded with the Symphonic Winds playing an entertaining medley of well-known Disney tunes.



Music Camp Dates

2010 – Saturday night, 19 June – Thursday, 24 June 2010 (inclusive) – 2nd last week of Term 2.

2011 – Saturday night, 25 June – Thursday, 30 June 2011 (inclusive) – Last week of Term 2.

Farewell to the Class of 2009

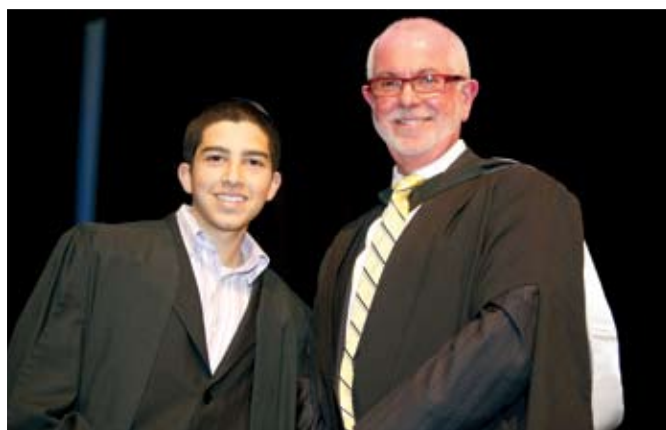
Our Year 12 students enjoyed an action-packed week to celebrate their graduation from High School.

Replacing traditional muck-up activities with a fundraising event, Year 12 hosted a Food Fair which the entire school enjoyed. The money raised went towards their end-of-year Formal.

The following day, the entire Year group was treated to a magnificent cruise on our beautiful Sydney Harbour which included a fabulous picnic on Shark Island.

At the Year 12 Prize Giving, each student was recognised for his or her individual achievements and contributions to Moriah College. College Principal/CEO Kim Fillingham presented each student with their Board of Studies Portfolio; a Graduation Book filled with photographs, memorabilia and good luck messages from staff, families and fellow students; and a bound travellers prayer to have with them on their future endeavours.

Parents, students and staff enjoyed a Moroccan-themed dinner – hosted by Year 11 students – where they reminisced about their years at Moriah College.





Home Room Graduation

Staff, students and family members gathered in our Home Room for a special celebration to mark the graduation, from Year 12, of Pnina Miller and Romi Adler.

The Home Room was established in 2003 to provide individualised educational support for students with special needs. Through this program, both girls were given the opportunity to pursue a keen interest in childcare and earlier this year they were presented with a Certificate of Recognition for having completed 100 hours of early childcare work experience at our John I. Einfeld AM Preschool in Randwick.

Pnina went on to complete the Certificate 3 Childcare qualification which allows her to work as an aide in any Early Childcare Centre.



Dramatic Nights

High School Drama students treated family and friends to a wonderful display of Drama Performances recently.

Our two Year 10 Drama classes each performed a work of Contemporary Australian Theatre. One class choosing *Hotel Sorrento* by Hannie Raison and the other, *Summer of the Aliens* by Louis Nowra.

Year 11 students performed their monologues and group devised work.



Giving Blood

As part of an initiative by the Social Action Committee, the Blood Bank Donormobile visited Moriah, giving High School students, staff and parents the opportunity to donate blood. So enthusiastic was the response to this initiative that there was insufficient time to accommodate all those who wanted to give blood. A huge thank you to the many donors on the day. This is definitely an activity which will be repeated next year!



Jazzing it Up

Moriah's Senior Jazz Band was invited to play at the annual Manly Jazz Festival. Their repertoire included a host of toe tapping favourites including the popular McArthur Park. Here, Sarit Michael accompanies the band with vocals on their rendition of Ella Fitzgerald's 'Ain't Misbehavin'.



IST 2009

Teary farewells marked the departure of our Year 10 IST (Israel Study Tour) group from Sydney Airport, the students bound for a month-long adventure which began in Prague and Poland and culminated in an amazing tour of Israel.

In Eastern Europe the students were taken to Holocaust landmarks including the camps of Birkenau, Auschwitz, Treblinka and Majdanek.

The tour of Israel provided the students with a host of unique experiences which took them from the North to the South and everything in between including camel riding, visits to the Kotel and the remarkable experience of climbing Masada to watch the sun rise.



The 2009 IST group at Sydney Airport



Members of the IST group in Prague

Leadership Induction

The members of our 2010 High School Leadership Team were inducted into their new roles at a recent College Assembly.

The students received and accepted their badges of office and took the pledge of leadership.

Our new College captains made their first formal address to the student body they will be representing and introduced the whole team through a video they had made.

Head of High School, John Hamey addressed the Team, encouraging them to consider the meaning and purpose of their leadership and to ask themselves questions such as: "Is Moriah more than just a school? When I wear my uniform do I just represent the school, or do I represent a post-holocaust community that has struggled and fought over many years to provide me with a Jewish education here today? Do I really understand that what I enjoy today is a privilege afforded to me that the founders and benefactors of this fine school did not have?"

Parents, staff and elected leaders gathered afterwards for a light lunch.

Advocacy Day

Regarded as a culmination to the Year 11 Modern Israel Studies course, Advocacy Day is run by the Jewish Board of Deputies with the help of university students. The idea is to simulate life on a University campus for a graduate of Moriah and arm them with some tools to deal with anti-Israel issues on campus.

The students were exposed to a variety of activities such as attending a lecture where a number of inaccuracies and fallacies about Israel were presented. The facilitators (acting as students in the lecture) asked questions which were skillfully avoided by the lecturer. In groups, the students then discussed the issues which were raised in the lecture in greater detail. There was also a mock University Orientation set up where the students could visit a number of stalls representing different University clubs and societies, some pro and some against Israel.

Finally the students were briefed about the variety of post-school Israel programs available to them. Everyone agreed that it was an extremely worthwhile initiative.



Year 11 students participate in a mock University Orientation during Advocacy Day



Head of Student Welfare High School students at a pre-induction workshop where they discussed their roles and planned activities for 2010



ABW

Our Year 10 students were transformed into Hoteliers during Australian Business Week (ABW). Under the guidance of real-life business mentors, teams of students created their own hotels, came up with marketing strategies, multi-media advertising campaigns and comprehensive reports to 'shareholders'. All of this culminated in a lively and very noisy trade display.

The overall winner was Hotel Esh – the hotel run by Elise Kempler, Joshua Greenstein, Yoni Hochberg, Finley Harris, Keyan Kramer, Gregory Kremer, Samantha Melamdowitz, Sarit Michael, Cara Milwidsky and Daniel Spicer. They also took the prize for best Simulation.

Best Company Report and Best Video Advertisement went to The Oracle, best Trade Display was won by The Access, KAIORA won best Oral Presentation and the award for best Wikispace went to The Parker.



Biology up Close

Year 11 Biology students enjoyed outdoor lessons this term during excursions to give them hands-on experiences.

As part of their studies of Australian Biota, they visited the Australian Museum and the Botanic Gardens. They explored exhibitions of ancient landscapes and fossils of extinct organisms.

The students also studied the mangrove community in a river estuary at Kurnell. As part of their HSC Biology studies, they examined the adaptations that many organisms have made to cope with constant changes of tides, salt and sandy soil.



Songwriting Success

Congratulations to budding songwriter Shawn Mayer (Year 9) for being selected to perform his original composition at a musical showcase for songwriting talent at which representatives from EMI, Sony and Virgin records were scouting for new talent. Organised by the Jaanz Singing School, the event attracted hundreds of hopefuls who auditioned for a chance to perform, and Shawn was selected as one of just 10 finalists.

Mazal Tov also to Primary School student Chloe Wine who achieved Highly Commended in the Primary Schools Best Instrumental Composition category of the Australian Children's Music Foundation National Songwriting Competition with her composition titled 'Shoah'.



MDA Presentation

Magen David Adom representative Allan Bermeister came to a High School Assembly recently to thank Moriah students for their generous donation to MDA. The money was raised through collections held every Friday, and through a Mufti Day.



Caretakers Cheque

Representatives from Caretakers Cottage came to a High School Assembly recently to receive a cheque for \$1000, the money raised during Enterprise Day. Caretakers Cottage is an organisation in Bondi which assists homeless and disadvantaged youth. Pictured here are Angie Bainbridge, Caseworker and Acting Manager for Caretakers Cottage with Year 11 students.



Winning Business Plan

Our Year 10 Commerce students were entered into a state-wide competition run by Economics and Business Educators called 'Plan Your Own Business Enterprise'.

The competition required students to come up with a business idea and write a business plan for it. Alex was named the NSW winner of Division 1, judged by a panel of Chartered Accountants.

Alex's idea was for an on-line service called 'Find-me-a-phone' to help people find the most appropriate mobile phone to meet their needs.

Alex travelled to Brisbane to present his business plan to a National judging panel. There were nine national finalists – one from each state and one from New Zealand. This is an amazing achievement as there were over 700 entrants to this competition and nearly all of them came from Year 11.



Debating Win

Congratulations to our Senior Debating Team comprising Year 11 students, who won the Caplan Trophy at a recent inter-Jewish Schools debating event held at Masada College.

The Caplan Trophy is an annual event contested between Moriah, Masada and Emanuel School.



Exploring Geography *Hands On*

Year 9 Geography students enjoyed a three-day field trip to Myall Lakes recently. The students were involved in a range of indoor and outdoor geographical fieldwork experiences including bush walking, investigating sand dune formation and coastal studies. Primary research data was collected for follow-up activities in the classroom and the students gained valuable report and research skills which will assist them when they undertake the Junior Geography Project (JGP) as an individual assessment for Year 10.

Year 11 Geography students began their final year with a "bang" on an exciting and extremely productive trip to Cape Tribulation in the Tropics of Far North Queensland. Specifically, the students explored case studies on rainforests and coral reefs, investigating the functioning, natural and human impacts and the various management strategies for the Daintree Rainforest and the Great Barrier Reef.

Highlights of the trip included snorkeling on the Great Barrier Reef off Cape Tribulation, rainforest canopy surfing – flying fox style and sea kayaking.



High Resolves

A High Resolves Summit at Sydney University brought to a close a year of seminars and workshops held for all Year 8 students and a committed group of Year 9 and 10 students, who pursued the idea of becoming Global Citizens.

The program gave the students an opportunity to examine their roles as citizens of the world and what they can do to improve the life we lead.

At the summit, the students were encouraged by Prime Minister Rudd, in a video telecast, to continue their important work as leaders of the community. They then participated in workshops on topics including Fighting Poverty, Environmental issues, Technological Influences, Gender Equity, Social Justice and Social Networking.



Duke of *Edinburgh*

Congratulations to the 35 Year 9 Bronze Duke of Edinburgh participants who recently completed a 15 kilometre hike through rain and leaches with much enthusiasm, then camped overnight to enjoy a three-hour canoe in the sunshine! All of them approached the challenge with determination and should be proud of their achievements and how much they learned about campcraft.



Talent Quest

Congratulations to everyone involved in the Talent Quest, from the fabulous MCs, incredible performers, capable backstage crew and supportive staff.

This year's winners were:

Ensemble: Akiva – Gabby Bolel, Claudia Simons, Aaron Lazarus, Jessica Lorge and Jake Bloom

Vocals: Ezra – Daniella Haber

Drama: Herzl – Toby Shabtay, Benjimin Rohald, Michal Kessler, Gabrielle Kaplan, Nell Cohen, Samantha Levene, Bianca Stern, Zak Staub, Lisa Gluckman, Jasmine Mizrahi, Mia Kornfeld, Aidan Baron, Annabelle Klimt and Nicole Hauser

Dance: Hillel – choreographed by Gemma Adelman and Gila Friedgut and featuring Samantha Hayim, Gila Rudansky, Lauren Meltzer, Brigitte Gottlieb, Alexa Zeh, Jodie Rosenberg, Tanna Goldberg and Liza Moses

Herzl was named overall winning House.



Drama *Night*

The first Middle School Drama Festival was a huge success.

Friends and family gathered in the Moshe Triguboff Auditorium to enjoy five short plays, three of which were written by Sydney playwright Natalie Lopes who was an audience member on the night.

The other plays were devised by Year 6 students and included a recent Drama Eisteddfod piece. The cast and technical crew amazed everyone with their talent and professionalism.



Peace Poster Winners

Each year since 1988 Lions Clubs around the world proudly sponsor the Lions Clubs International Peace Poster Contest in local schools and youth groups, encouraging young people aged 11-13 to artistically express their visions of peace.

'Power of Peace' was the theme of this year's competition and Moriah had three winners in Year 7. The girls received their prizes at a presentation held at Diamond Bay Bowling Club.



Middle School Leadership

Year 7 students took part in a Leadership Day where they were introduced to the new Middle School Student Leadership structure for 2010.

The students discussed the various leadership roles and explored the topic of leadership and what it entails. Group workshops investigated concepts such as Communication and Conflict Resolution, Role Models and Effective Leaders, Problem Solving and Cooperation.

In the weeks following the workshops, students were given the opportunity to nominate themselves for one of four House representative positions and six Portfolio positions, each of which called for one male and one female leader.

Following the voting process, these students have been elected to Middle School Leadership positions for 2010:

Portfolio Leaders:

Israel – Joshua Hakim and Rina Lowy

Tzedakah – Jay Fink and Lauren Klimt

Jewish Life in the Community – Ryan Snoyman and Michelle Shmailov

Sport – Daniel Shein and Gabrielle Rosenberg

Creative Arts – Sam Mayer and Nell Cohen

Environment & Health – Ryan Berman and Sara Hirner

House Representatives:

Akiva – Aaron Lazarus and Emma Finkelstein

Ezra – Gadi Notelovitz and Talia Blank
Herzl – Jordan Abram and Zara Seidler
Hillel – Gidon Tuch and Jodie Rosenberg

These 12 Portfolio Leaders have been elected from their ranks the Middle School Captains: one male, one female, who, at the time of printing this edition of Contact Magazine were yet to be announced – watch this space!

All students who ran unsuccessfully for Portfolio Leader positions have been invited (together with other interested students) to join the relevant Portfolio Committee.



Students participate in a Leadership Day activity

Joining Middle School

Students in Year 5 were given a taste of what Middle School will be like next year during an introduction day recently.

The students enjoyed demonstration lessons in the Computer and Science Labs, the Design and Technology Workshops and the Music Classrooms. They also enjoyed House-based games and activities.

Our Year 6 students enjoyed an orientation to Year 7, during which they had an opportunity to meet the students from other schools who will be joining their Year group at Moriah College in 2010.

Inter-House games were a great ice-breaker and everyone enjoyed getting together for a BBQ lunch.



Project Heritage

Year 6 students participated in the annual Project Heritage Program, exploring and creatively portraying the life of a Living Historian.

Each class interviewed a Living Historian and then everyone spent the term working on individual projects to portray one aspect of their Historian's life.

Students could choose to present their work in a variety of ways including creative writing, a 3D model or sculpture, biography, PowerPoint presentation, musical composition, dance choreography, 3-panel painting or even a board game.

Each student showcased their work during presentation afternoons attended by their parents and their Living Historian.

This year, our Historians were Etty Lipton, Kitty Gassner, Joseph Goldberg, Susan Warhaftig, Dr Richard Haber and David Emanuel.



Moriah Bat Mitzvah

Mazal Tov to Year 6 students Ariella Broyda, Shoshana Broyda, Daniella Haber, Taylor Joffe, Abigail Kaplan, Erin Novick, Talita Sabel, Jenna Sacks, Gabbi Satz, Madeleine Shelest and Noa Zulman who celebrated their Bat Mitzvah together, during a beautiful ceremony in the Moshe Triguboff Auditorium recently.

This was the 43rd annual Moriah Bat Mitzvah Ceremony and was directed by Jennifer Shames with the theme, Life is Beautiful.

The girls sang songs and related moving and uplifting stories about family members. The service concluded with the girls being blessed by their parents. An afternoon tea co-sponsored by the P&F followed the ceremony.

On the Friday night prior to the ceremony, the girls participated in a candle-lighting ceremony with their mothers before enjoying a Shabbat service in the Hugo Lowy Synagogue.



iScience

Students from Moriah have been working with other Year 8 students from SCEGGS Darlinghurst, Kambala, St Catherine's School and Emanuel School as part of a Science Enrichment Program called iScience. Each group was charged with developing an innovative solution to a global problem.

Communicating almost entirely online, the students worked together and with mentors from the University of Sydney over three months to produce creative, futuristic and scientifically rigorous solutions to some of society's greatest challenges.

iScience culminated in the groups displaying their projects to parents, friends and staff members along with a panel of judges, which included Christine Kininmonth from the ABC's New Inventors program.

Congratulations to Aaron Schneider, Jake Bloom and Gabriella Chalmers who, with their team mates from St Catherine's, took out first prize for their T-Pod – an innovative personal monorail solution to transportation problems.

Sarah Katz and Nathan Sher, together with their team mates from Kambala, were awarded the People's Choice award for their stress-relief ideas.



Mitzvah Celebration

Students in Year T joined their parents in the Hugo Lowy Synagogue for the annual Mitzvah Celebration. Each boy received his first Tallis and each girl was presented with a candle stick. Together with their parents, the children recited blessings, sang songs and spoke about the Mitzvot they will be doing when they use their new treasures.



A Mime for all Reasons

As part of the Year 1 Science and Technology Unit 'Lets Communicate' the students enjoyed a performance of 'A Mime for all Reasons' by Jean-Paul Bell. The children were mesmerised as he rummaged through an imaginary showbag of tricks crammed full of inspiration and surprises. A highly skilled physical theatre performer, Jean-Paul tells stories through movement, creating a theatrical space with illusion and mime.



Students on stage with mime artist Jean-Paul Bell

Choc-o-thon

Students in Years T-2 performed a double mitzvah through their recent choc-o-thon.

The students brought in a gold coin for the privilege of placing a chocolate into a jar. The money raised went to the JCA and the chocolates to the residents of the Montefiore Home.

Here, students present the basket of chocolates to Montefiore Representatives.



Band Recruitment

Year 2 students and their parents gathered in the Moshe Triguboff Auditorium recently to learn about Moriah's highly successful Band Program and sign up as new recruits.

Through a series of comprehensive tests, each child was assessed to find the instrument which would suit them the best – and there was great excitement on the night as the students ripped open their envelopes to discover what they could have the opportunity to play.

To whet their appetites, a selection of students who are currently in the Band Program performed a series of entertaining demonstrations on various instruments.



Director of Music, Roberta Goot, discusses instrument choices with a Year 2 student and his parents

Science Fair

Year 2 students invited special guests to join them after school recently in a variety of Science, Maths and Computer activities. The children illustrated the skills they had learnt during the year by creating PowerPoint presentations, solving maths problems and proving or disproving scientific theories through science experiments. Everyone enjoyed an evening of hands-on fun and challenges.



Sun Awareness Week

Students in Years T-2 participated in a week of sun-related activities to raise their level of awareness about how people can look after themselves when they are out in the sun. The slogan "slip, slop and slap" was used to promote this concept during the week. On the first day, the children were encouraged to "slip" a T shirt of their choice over their uniform. Next, they were asked to donate a gold coin to the Melanoma Foundation and in return they could "slop" coloured zinc cream onto their faces. Finally, the children were asked to "slap" on any hat of their choice to wear to school.



Survival Swimming

Students from Years 2 to 5 participated in Survival Swimming classes in Term 4.

These involved presenting the students with a range of scenarios in the water and teaching them how to cope should they ever be in these situations. The scenarios included falling in with clothes on, rescuing a baby (which was actually a brick!) from the bottom of the pool, falling off a boat and using a floating aide, getting into unknown waters and coming up underneath a boat. Students in Years 4 and 5 who displayed a responsible approach to these lessons were rewarded with a trip to Red Leaf Swimming Pool where they could practise their survival techniques in sea water.



Year T Orientation

Students coming to Moriah for Year T in 2010 have been participating in a range of orientation activities to help prepare them (and their parents!) for the big day.

These included visits to the school to explore the play areas and Year T classrooms; and participating in a range of activities including sport and music lessons. There was even a day for parents to try out the 'go with the flow' drop off process.

Towards the end of term, the children were invited to come to Moriah with their parents to learn who their Year T teacher will be and meet their new class mates. They visited their future classrooms and participated in a fun craft activity. We are looking forward to welcoming them early next year as the graduating Class of 2022!



Sukkot

Our Primary School children enjoyed learning about Sukkot in a variety of ways. By far the most delicious activity was the making of edible Sukkahs in Year 2. The children used biscuits, pretzels and sweets to make the walls and roofs of their sukkahs and stuck them all together with marshmallows!

Zoo Excursions

Students in Year T and Year 2 all visited Taronga Zoo recently.

Year T students enjoyed the Backyard to Bush multi sensory exhibit where they could see, touch and smell a wide variety of Australian animals.

Year 2 students participated in an Ivrit excursion to the Zoo. As part of the Tal Am program, the children had been reading and writing stories and singing songs about different animals. At the Zoo, the students conversed and participated in a questionnaire entirely in Ivrit using vocabulary pertaining to animals and their behaviour.



Gymnastics

Congratulations to our Level 2 Boys' competitors – Jeremy Cohen, Benji Gilbert-Kaplan, Zac Klein, Jared Plit, Jordan Plit, Itai Klahr and Ariel Balkin – who came 1st in their section of the IPSHA Gymnastics Competition which was held at Homebush recently.

Moriah had four teams competing at this event and all participants performed very well.

A total of 79 students participated in the Moriah College Gymnastics Competition which was held in the Railea Moss Assembly Hall.

The overall results in each section are as follows:

Level 1 Girls IPSHA – 1st – Lilia Gottlieb • 2nd – Natasha Nussbaum
3rd – Raquel Yesner

Level 1 Girls Years 2 & 3 – 1st – Jenna Ziman • 2nd – Emma Pillemer
3rd – Ashleigh Cohn

Level 1 Girls Years 4 & 5 – 1st – Ricci Amoils • 2nd – Jemma Resnick
3rd – Meg Josman • 4th – Jaimee Alster

Overall Level 1 Girls Champions – 1st – Lilia Gottlieb
2nd – Natasha Nussbaum

Level 2 Girls – 1st – Savanna Chilchik • 2nd – Georgia Fuzi
3rd – Tallulah Gutman

Level 3 Girls – 1st – Nadia Vidor • 2nd – Tahli Hendler
3rd – Bianca Chimes

Level 1 Boys – 1st – Brad Karney • 2nd – Noah Kessler
3rd – Charlie Rosanove

Level 2 Boys – 1st – Benji Gilbert-Kaplan • 2nd – Zachary Klein
3rd – Jeremy Cohen



League Tag Gala Day

Three junior mixed teams from Years 3 and 4 and four senior boys and two senior girls teams from Years 5 and 6 competed in the annual Sydney Roosters League Tag Gala Day at Queens Park.

All the Year 3 and 4 mixed teams performed extremely well, with several players having little experience in League Tag, but still willing to have a go. In particular the performances of the Moriah Budgies need to be mentioned for making it to their semi-finals.

Our two girls' teams – the Moriah Cats and the Moriah Pandas showed commitment with some tough matches. Well done to try-scorers Kate Woods, Ashley Pillemer, Chloe Moss and Bianca Chimes.

Our senior boys' teams had mixed results with standout performances by Asher Port from the Leopards and Noah Ehrlich from the Lions. The Year 5 Zebras narrowly missed out on the semi finals and key players were Ryan Blumberg, David Bloom and Adam Borowsky.

Our best result was from the senior Year 6 Tigers who made it to the grand final against OLSH and were determined to redeem themselves from runners up in 2008 against the same school. A winning try by Greg Ellerine brought home the trophy.



Randwick 10th Birthday

The Moriah Family celebrated the 10th Birthday of the John I. Einfeld AM Campus, Randwick, with a wonderful party attended by current and past students, teachers, parents and members of the Moriah and the Montefiore Home Boards.

To acknowledge and honour the very special relationship that the Preschool shares with its neighbours, the Montefiore Home, Preschools Director Cathy Milwidsky presented Montefiore President David Freeman with a magnificent collection of canvases created by children from across all four Preschool Centres. Cathy also paid tribute to former Preschools Director, Rose Fekete, whose vision for the Randwick Preschool has become a much-loved reality.



Pyjama Day

Students in the youngest class at the Shya Redelman Preschool did not have to worry about getting dressed on the morning of Pyjama Day! Some brought their cuddly toys, others wore their favourite character PJs and everyone enjoyed a delicious breakfast.

Preschoolers in their pyjamas



Chanukah Expo

Our Preschool families participated in a wonderful family learning experience which was born from an idea brought back to Sydney by Jewish Studies teacher Velvel Lederman who attended an Early Childhood Conference in Israel a few years ago.

Now an annual event, the Chanukah Expo encourages our students to use their initiative to create wonderful, colourful and innovative chanukiot at home, and bring them in to display at Preschool.



Montefiore & Burger Centre Visits

Our Preschoolers have been delighting patrons of both the Randwick and Woollahra Montefiore Homes and also the Burger Centre. Visiting on Shabbat and other special occasions, the children have thoroughly enjoyed singing songs, reciting brachot and sharing morning tea with their very appreciative audiences.



Jewish Studies teacher Velvel Lederman leads our Preschoolers in song at the Burger Centre.



A Preschooler helps Millie Goodman celebrate her 102nd birthday!

Sukkot

Sukkot fell during the school holidays this year but that didn't stop each of our Preschool classes getting together in a Sukkah where they sang songs, learned all about Sukkot and, of course, passed around the Lulav and Etrog.

Being somewhat early, the Lulav was a toy version but the Etrog was real thanks to a bit of forward planning by Uncle Velvel who had preserved one from last year!

Preschoolers in the Sukkah with Mila Halas holding the Lulav and Lulu Reinke holding the Etrog



Year 11 Industry Panel

Moriah's Year 11 Students were recently treated to a series of career workshops run by members of BIZNET – The Moriah Professional Mentoring Network, alumni and parents.

The event was the brainchild of Yedid Co-Presidents Ruth Forman and Michelle Mekler-Peled, who, assisted by BIZNET committee members Tamar Balkin, Jacqueline Bennett and Diana Shoolman, turned the idea into reality.

Henry Roth (Project Runway Australia) was guest of honour at the event. His contribution was nothing short of remarkable, not only in terms of the inspiring words he shared with the students (in his energetic and effervescent way) but also his candour and warmth. His opening of the panel included a call to his father in New York who was instrumental in the set up of the College and who shared some words of wisdom with the students. The pride both father and son showed in Moriah College and the Jewish spirit was deeply moving.

The industry presenters included professionals from all walks of life including medicine, accounting, marketing and event management.



1. Henry Roth receives a framed photograph of himself as a Moriah student from Yedid Co-Presidents Ruth Forman and Michelle Mekler-Peled
2. Mark Schneider and Diana Shoolman lead the workshops on Finance and Accounting
3. Year 11 students with Yvonne Coburn and Greta Rusanow during the workshops on Politics and Law
4. Property Developer Allen Linz leads a workshop



Tribute to Aliza Siderowitz (Z'l)

To honour the late Aliza Siderowitz (z'l), popular former Moriah teacher of Hebrew and Yiddish who also had a significant influence on the promotion of Hebrew and Yiddish culture generally, a tribute was held at Bnai Brith with a capacity crowd attending.

Produced by former Moriah student Naomi (Baral) Jones and Fay Sussman, this event incorporated a musical celebration with many highlights and performers including Aliza's son Michael Siderowitz who sang "Yiddische Mamme", local entertainer Velvel Lederman and Israeli singing star Dalia Dior.

In addition, renowned story-teller Donna Jacobs Sife recounted sentimental stories about Aliza and a PowerPoint presentation showcased images from Aliza's life.

The connection with Moriah was formally acknowledged through the generous donation by Brit Ivrit Olamit from The World Hebrew Union, of a perpetual Primary School prize in Aliza's memory.

The donation was accepted on behalf of Moriah by Yedid-Alumni representative Paula Towers (Class of '76) who also presented the following tribute:

"The Book of Psalms states that a Woman of Valor is more valuable than a rare jewel and is in fact priceless – a more than appropriate description of Aliza Siderowitz.

Through the '70s, '80s and '90s, hundreds of Moriah students benefited from Aliza's instruction – even the more "roudy" element were in awe of her – according her the respect she enjoyed through her unconditional affection for them.

For indeed she was "A'richte Yiddische Mama" (a real Yiddish Mama) – representing a mother or grandmother for many as well as a symbol of the triumph of the spirit by coming through the nightmare of the Holocaust and embracing life and a love of learning and, in turn, inspiring that joy in others.

With that love as well as patience she taught Yiddish, Yiddishkeit and Hebrew in scheduled classes as well as in her spare time – delighting in giving instruction to those pupils inspired to further extend their knowledge in their own breaks.

Certainly Aliza can be accorded the honour of the ultimate accolade – that she made a difference – to our culture and to those who enjoyed the benefit of her wisdom and joyous spirit. Just as she was a blessing to our school and community may her memory be a blessing to all who had the good fortune of knowing her and having her in their lives."



Aliza Siderowitz teaching a Yiddish Class at King David Preparatory School (KDPS) in 1991

Class of '79 turns 30

Thirty years after graduating from Moriah, 42 ex-students met at The Vibe Hotel in Rushcutters Bay to celebrate and remember their school days.

The organising committee included Natalie (Towers) Lobelson, Judy (Kiss) Leach, Ilana (Hausmann) Den, Jonathan Caplan, Mark Gold, Gary Vidor and Geejay Schneeweiss.

Jonathan delivered a speech paying tribute to three former classmates who had passed away since the 20 year reunion – Jonathan Kahan, Lessley (Nadel) Schnall and Simon Stein.

Many students from this graduating year now live overseas in Israel, America, South Africa and England. Dr Michelle (Meyer) Rubin and Dana Rose made the trip up from Melbourne to attend this special night.

This graduating year already has a grandmother Lisa (Mintz) Miller, and father of 10 Nathan Gluck will be a grandfather in the not too distant future. Many of the Class of 1979 have children currently enrolled at Moriah College with some children of the Class of 1979 having already graduated!

Alumni can find more photos of the event at www.moriah.nsw.edu.au/yedid



Reunion organisers Judy Leach (Kiss), Natalie Lobelson (Towers), Ilana Den (Hausmann), Mark Gold, Geejay Schneeweiss, Gary Vidor and Jonathan Caplan



Graduates from the Class of 1979



Charles Abrams, Caroline Kanekevich (Berger) and Rozanna Pleshett (Moses)

Staying in touch with Past Students

Births

- Naomi (Bangle) '98 and David Rothman, Jamie Sim
- Nicole (Broit) and Simon Revelman '93, Noah Isaac
- Melissa (Balkin) '98 and Jeremy Waine, Asher Benjamin
- Suzanne (Lewis) '91 and Adam Green, Ethan Jesse
- Natalie (Spicer) '91 and Robert Dabscheck, Ari Joseph
- Nicole (Cooper) '95 and Josh Brandon, Eden Rose
- Monica (Levy) and Nathan Wise '94, Emily
- Vanessa (Lawford) and Anthony Fajwul' 89, Michelle Sarah
- Kylie (Helfgott) '95 and Simon Freedman, twins – Zoe and Emily

Engagements

- Monique Skalsky '01 and Mark Glatter
- Ilana Lion '99 and Jamie Hamill
- Anthony Guth '95 and Rachael Goodman
- Barry Kogan '96 and Tova Sher

Marriages

- Jeremy Goodman '00 and Nicki Cousens

We would like to hear from anyone with information about past students. Please send your emails to yedid-alumni@moriah.nsw.edu.au or phone Vivienne Radomsky on 9375 1600. (The greatest care is taken to ensure the accuracy of this information and any errors are regretted)

KEHILLAT MORIAH

Torah Thought

by College Rabbi, Dr Aryeh Solomon

Our edition of Contact appears in close proximity to Chanukah. The Hebrew name of the Festival of Lights, Chanukah, is related to the Hebrew word for education, Chinuch. Chanukah can shed light on how we go about our parenting and the real gifts to which we should be treating our children at this time of year.

One striking feature of the kindling of the menorah is that it takes place at night. As parents we must remember that education is all about replacing darkness with light. But just how do we go about doing this? "We do not expel darkness with brooms and sticks" noted one great Jewish mystic. "Rather it is through the introduction of light." This shows us that while we must correct faults and shortcomings in our children's behaviour, we must never cease to focus on encouraging the positive. When our children are involved in virtuous, positive acts

and mitzvot, there will be less negatives in need of correction.

In the Menorah, without the physical wick, the oil and its vessel cannot form a flame. It is the wick that "holds" the flame and allows the oil to feed it and the candle to be aglow. So too, ideas and theories may be great, but it is actual Jewish living, deeds like Tzedaka, Kashrut, Tefillin and Shabbat candles that are vital if we want our children to be aglow with spiritual values.

I can think of no better way to implement this ideal than by maintaining our Yiddishkeit while spending vacation time with our families. By maintaining standards of Kashrut while on vacation, ensuring Shabbat is sanctified when we are away from Sydney, remembering to pack Shabbat candles, Kiddush wine and our siddur, talit and tefillin, we are demonstrating to our children that to us, Judaism is the most meaningful gift we possess, seven days a week and 356 days a year, whether we are in Sydney, Jerusalem or Nelson Bay.

Tefilla Shleyma Dinner

Parents and students participated in the annual farewell dinner for Year 12 members of Tefilla Shleyma. Here, Rabbi Jonathan Sacks who has joined the Jewish Studies Department after studying in Jerusalem, delivers some Torah insights.



Hot Dog Anyone?

Primary School students enjoyed Hot Dog Day recently, a very popular P&F fundraising event. A big thank you to the volunteers who came to help pack and distribute hot dogs and drinks to all our T-5 classes.



Hot dogs for hungry Year T boys.



Year 4 girls enjoy their hot dog lunch



Volunteer mums Heidi Melamed, Andie Hallas, Revi Kadoury, Julie Wein, Daelene Kopelowitz and Debbie Levine



Giant hot dogs for Year T students.

Uniform Shop

The Uniform Shop will be open in the school holidays on one day only – Monday, 25 January 2010, from 8:30am to 1:30pm.

During Term, the uniform shop is open at the following times:

Monday – 8:30 am to 1:30 pm

Tuesday – 7:30 am to 1:30 pm

Thursday – 10:30 am to 4:30 pm

Dates for your Diary

New Parents Dinner:

Wednesday 3 March

Artbeat:

Sunday 29 August

Business Forum Breakfast:

Thursday 10 June

Tennis Day:

Wednesday 27 October

Big Breakfast:

Wednesday 4 August

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