Parshat Nitzavim - Nayelech
Healthy Dynamic
By Tali Loewenthal

Our lives as individuals often display two quite different features. One is dynamism, movement, progress, discovery and change. The second feature, seemingly the opposite, yet also very important, is the attempt to strengthen one’s position, to consolidate, to attempt to be secure and firm, immoveable. The combination of these two contrasting qualities creates a healthy dynamic. One moves forward and grows - but not at the expense of what one has already gained. There is the thrust towards expansion and also a concern for consolidation.

These two qualities are expressed by the names of the double Torah portion which is read this Shabbat, the Shabbat before the New Year, Rosh Hashanah. The first Torah portion is called Nitzavim, which means in Hebrew “standing firm.” In its opening words, Moses tells the Jewish people “you are all standing firm here today.” The second Torah portion is called Nayelech, which means “he went,” referring to Moses: “Moses went and said these words to the Jewish people.”

While there are many fascinating ideas and teachings within these two Torah portions, something important is transmitted just by their very names: standing firm and moving forward. This provides guidance as to how we should live our lives, and has particular relevance on the Shabbat before Rosh Hashanah.

While the double theme of consolidation and advance can be applied to the business world and many other aspects of human endeavor, it also has special relevance for the spiritual life of a Jewish man or woman. Let us consider this in terms of the three general realms of Jewish expression: Torah study, Prayer and good deeds:

Torah study combines both a fixed, firm dimension, and also an inner dynamic. There is the fixed text of the Torah Scroll and the other books of the Bible, the Written Torah. Yet this is discussed and explored by seemingly endless books of teachings and commentaries by great Sages, who in every epoch provide guidance relevant to the challenges of that particular time. So, on the one hand Torah is constant, on the other it is growing.

Prayer, too, has a “fixed” quality and also a personal dynamic. The fixed prayer is the text in the prayerbook. Many parts of it are exactly the same every day of the year, whether an ordinary weekday or Yom Kippur. Then come special prayers, unique to certain days. Even more so, there is the individual and personal way in which a man or woman may approach the printed text, with their own unique feeling.

Finally in the realm of the precepts of Judaism (the Mitzvot), there is the fixed structure of the ideal Jewish lifestyle. And there is also the personal way in which any individual approaches this, taking certain points on board in their daily lives, emphasizing some details more than others, gradually increasing in observance and at the same time consolidating what one has already achieved.
Message from Morah Barbara

As the old year draws to a close I would like to wish all our parents, children, staff and wider community a good writing and signature. May we all merit to have a year of simcha, health and nachas from our families and may there be everlasting peace in Eretz Yisroel.

↑ Ari Cowen made a fish for Tashlich

↑ Asher Glick drew a picture of bees collecting pollen from a flower

↑ Ava Rapp decorates her Shana Tova card with apples

↑ Bailey Lebovits, Menucha Nakkar, Elisheva Lobenstein, Etty Ekman and Devorah Schreiber

↑ Chana Lider in kinder 1 is making her honey dish for Rosh Hashanah!

↑ Dalya Feiglin dressed up as a bee blowing the shofar

↑ Gila Borowski, Berri Schachter, Miri Levin and Chaya Wells having their whole apple sliced into a slinky

↑ Kinder 1 girls Fay Laufer and Etty Ekman are making a beehive for Rosh Hashanah

↑ Leora Fogelgarn

↑ Levana Cowen and Shaina Karnowsky

↑ Zelli Gordon blowing the shofar, getting into the Rosh Hashanah spirit

↑ Maya Grosberg and Orly Fixler chopping up apple to make compote

↑ Miriam Rushinek is 16 apples long

↑ Morah Dana and Shmuel Jacobson post a letter to his family for Rosh Hashanah

↑ Nessa Gallor bought in her father’s shofar to show her friends
Chai Elul Gathering

The children of the Gurewicz Early Learning Centre gathered last Friday to celebrate the birthdays of the Baal Shem Tov and the Alter Rebbe, the first Chabad Rebbe, Reb Shneur Zalman through stories, song and dance. The children saw a huge birthday bag full of amazing items that showed us how to celebrate our birthdays in a meaningful way. Each child received a birthday card on which they drew a special mitzvah they could do to honour this day. They also saw Buzzy the Bee Puppet Show and played a special Chai Elul ‘wrap the parcel game’.

Shofar Factory

We enjoyed learning all about how shofars are made when the Shofar Factory came to kinder. Rabbi Reuvi Cooper told us about different animals a shofar can come from example the Kudu from Africa. The children were fascinated to see how the cartilage comes out and loved seeing the shofar they helped to make, be blown. We loved hearing a really long shofar be blown too!
Hachnoso L’Cheder

It has been a custom that when the time comes for a young boy to start learning Torah with other children, we take him to “Cheder” and arrange a special Seder Hachnoso L’Cheder. Some of our boys from K5, K6, K7, K8 and K10 had the opportunity to participate in this very memorable Simcha on Tuesday and Wednesday. Rabbi Smukler conducted the proceedings for us and kept the children and our many guests fascinated and enthralled with all the minhagim. Each participating child was brought in by his father (or grandfather) wrapped in a tallis – as the Minhag (custom) is that a child should be careful to see only pure and holy things on that day. The other Minhagim include: reading the alef-beis with nekudos both forwards and then backwards; drizzling honey onto an alef beis chart and enjoying the sweet taste; eating honey cake with special pesukim engraved on it; eating a hard-boiled egg also with special pesukim written on it; giving Tzedaka; and being sprinkled with soft lollies. The boys had a wonderful and meaningful experience surrounded by their families.

Thank you Rabbi Smukler and the Kinder Staff for helping to make it such a wonderful morning and to Devorah Leah Schachter for the time and effort that went into making the tasty honey cake and hard boiled eggs with all the appropriate pesukim engraved and written on them.

Yitzchok and Elisha Greenbaum
↑ Daniel Moss and Ezzy Eisenberg with their Zaida
↑ Donny and Yudi New
↑ Dvir and Ezra Bar Gad

↑ Eli and Joshua Nossbaum
↑ Hachnoso L’ Cheder in the Erdi Hall

↑ Morah Barbara and Asher Siegel
↑ Rabbi Smukler shows Chaim and Ari Cowen the honey cake with the Possuk written on it
↑ Yissochar and Mordechai Gutnick
↑ Levi and Shmuel Goldberg

↑ Rabbi Smukler shows Chaim and Ari Cowen the honey cake with the Possuk written on it
**The Australian Solitary Native Bee**

Becky Dalmaso came to speak to some kinders about a type of bee, different to the Honey Bee, called the Australian Solitary Native Bee. These bees play a vital part in our environment by providing pollination for flowering plants. They do not form hives, produce honey or a sting. Becky brought in a “bee hotel” to show the children, which provides a habitat for these indigenous bees.

→ Becky Dalmaso visits Kinder 6

**Music Corner**

*By Morah Zehava Herzog*

This week in Lower Kinder we practised different drumming patterns using echo, which I explain as being ‘my turn, your turn’. We also talked about how music can be played at different tempi i.e. fast, slow, loud, soft. We practised marching (alternate hands) and jumping (hands together) on the drums and we combined all this with the music.

In Upper Kinder, we learned a specific drumming pattern that complimented our music.

The music had two section. We used our drumming pattern in the first section and we kept a steady beat in the second section. We were very excited that the first section returned so we could repeat our pattern!

→ Shaina Karmowsky, Adara Segal, Tiskah Solah - Lutman, Evie Tannenbaum and Rochel Hoch enjoyed drumming during a music session

**Outdoor Classroom Day**

Last Thursday was Outdoor Classroom Day. This is a global campaign to celebrate and inspire outdoor learning and play. Outdoor learning improves children’s health, engages them with learning and leads to a greater connection with nature. Play not only teaches critical skills such as resilience, teamwork and creativity but is central to children’s enjoyment of childhood.

→ Outdoor Classroom Day in Kinder 10

**Special Siddur**

As Rosh Hashanah approaches the children of the Gurewicz Early Learning Centre have been saying their tefillos with extra special feeling! A special siddur featuring our children has been given out this week to every child. We know they are davening for a good, sweet year, a year of peace, blessings, good health, prosperity and of course, Moshiach Now!

**Mercedes Dadon Crèche**

What an exciting week we have had in the Mercedes Dadon Crèche. The children continued learning about bees and Rosh Hashonoh. They made a collective beehive using egg cartons and used tongs, little bees and pom-poms to role-play the busy life in a beehive.

The children also used pipettes, cupcake trays and plastic flowers to role-play how bees transport pollen from flower to flower.

The girls and boys also made shiny fish and had a mat session where they learned what Tashlich means and why we do it on Rosh Hashonoh.

→ Roni Paltiel, Mordechai Glassner, Ariella Khudoznyk and Ariella Rapp playing with their bee finger puppets

→ Becky Dalmaso visits Kinder 6

→ Eitan Garfield - rock stacking challenge

→ Liam Magnezi - planting marigolds

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**Yeshivah - Beth Rivkah Pre - Schools / GELC**
Rosh Hashanah Message

Rabbi Moshe Loewenthal, Head of Primary School

As we make our final preparations for Rosh Hashanah – with the hearing of the shofar; getting ready to say selichos; adding in tehillim; making an accounting of our deeds; shopping for clothing and food; together with the other thousand things that need to happen, the feelings of awe and anticipation grow stronger with each day.

Awe: As we are about to stand before Hashem, the Master of the Universe, who will be looking at our deeds, judging us (we wish everyone to be granted a year full of visible goodness), we are all in awe, fearing that we were not able to live up to the potential that our Father, our King – Hashem has in us.

Anticipation: We know that Hashem has given each one of us great potential, opportunities and challenges and our desire, is to live up to and grow with each one of these. We anticipate and look forward to the coming year revitalised by the knowledge that Hashem is not seeking to see the negative but, rather he looks at us with the deep love of an ever patient parent of a mischievous child, always seeing the potential and the positive, never despairing and giving us plenty of opportunities to start anew.

Sometimes children don’t live up to the ideal that we would like to see. Bedrooms are not as neat, conversations are not as polite, a behavior needs improvement and values are not as strong as we would want them to be. As parents we love our children unconditionally. We can see their potential and are always prepared to give our children a fresh start. We must also make sure that our children, who often judge themselves in the harshest possible way, know that the adults in their lives will always be there for them and give them a fresh start the same as Hashem does for us.

Chicken Coup

As you all probably know we have gotten a chicken coop for Yeshivah Primary. The chickens came on Monday the 12th of September and everyone was overjoyed at their arrival. We will be teaching the students more about the chickens in days to come. We will also be collecting the chicken’s eggs. Hopefully these chickens will be a great addition to our school and hopefully have them for many more years. Enjoy the pics!

By: Jude Goldfarb and Yishai Moshel.

A very special thank you to Eli Herszberg (Year 7) for designing the coop and for spending hours and hours to help build it.

Marshall White Art Competition

I would like to thank each and every primary student for participating in the Marshall White Art Competition. Unfortunately we were only permitted to submit 3 pieces. One from foundation and Grade 1, one from Grade 2, 3 and 4 and one from Grade 5 and 6.

Thank you to Mrs Janet Feldman for choosing the 3 submissions. She had an extremely difficult task as the pictures were all outstanding.

The 3 chosen were: Yosef Yitzchok Lipskier - Grade 1, Boruch Yeshaya Tsap - Grade 3 and Shorime Flescher - Grade 5.

The winner will be announced next week and the prize is $5000 for the students schools art department.

Best of luck to our three entries.

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Siddur Presentation

Last Sunday the Foundation boys had an adorable Siddur Presentation. They sang beautiful songs filled with inspiration before receiving their first Siddur. We are all so proud of them. May Hashem always hear and answer their Tefillos!

Thank you to Morah Rivki and Morah Mindy for preparing the boys for this momentous day, and to Morah Elana for her musical expertise.

Year Four

Rabbi Serebryanski

Grade 4 have been learning in Chumash about the birth of the 12 Shevotim. The boys are learning from the pesukim all of their names, who were their mothers and the reasons behind their names. The boys are creating their own projects displaying all this information which will be shared in class and taken home for display. The boys are very excited about this and can’t wait to show their work to their colleagues in class as well as taking it home to show to their families.

Linda Goldsmith

In Integrated Studies, Year 4 have been making bridges. We were given the following to build our bridge: 20 pieces of balsa wood, 5 pieces of small balsa wood, 40 popsicle sticks, unlimited glue, unlimited sticky tape and 2 metres of string. We have to make the lightest bridge but it should hold the most. At the beginning we had to make a blueprint to follow up on. We also have to make a neat blueprint of how our bridge looks at the end. We are also supposed to write a weekly report, answering questions that are written on the board. When we finish we are going to put a weight on the bridge to see how much it can hold.

Dovi Sufrin

The year 4 are building bridges out of popsicle sticks, glue, masking tape and white string. It is harder than it looks. Some people are very close to finishing. Most people are doing suspension bridges. When we put on the sides, it fell off and that was annoying. We then put on masking tape to hold it. When it dried we took the masking tape off, then it stayed on the platform. We also had to draw a blueprint. It’s great fun but hard!

Yarin Yehuda

The year 4’s were split into groups of three and got a chance of building bridges. The teachers gave us popsicle sticks, strings, masking tape and glue to use to build the structure and see what we need to keep it holding heavy objects. We were only aloud to make Truss bridge, Arch bridge and Suspension bridge. It started off really hard but a few days later we knew what we had to do and everyone worked really hard and now a few groups are finished.

Tom Kurian
The Bee

Adapted from an article in L'Chaim Weekly

A bee was circling the head of my youngest, so I removed a shoe, took aim, and promptly broke a window.

Glass shattered and fell haphazardly to a thundering ovation of "Mazel Tov!" by all the kids except for David, who was frowning.

Where else but in a Jewish home do you say mazel tov when you break something? Just think about it: one therapeutic mazel tov takes the guilt out of being a klutz.

David, my dutiful son, was picking up broken window glass and interrupted my reverie. "Ma," he said, "this is a time for gentleness and reflection. The month before Rosh Hashonah should be devoted to personal stocktaking and gestures of friendliness. You have just killed a bee."

"So I'll repent!" I flippantly replied, wondering about my son's agenda.

"Ah," said David. "Good, that is one of the three pillars of Rosh Hashonah preparation. Once Elul begins, we must repent, increase our prayer, and triple our charity."

"I know that!" I replied with irritation. "What does it have to do with gentleness, reflection and, bee killing?" I failed to see my son's point, let alone the connection.

"Ma, gentleness and reflection would lead you to find a better way," he solemnly intoned.

"A better way to kill bees?" I asked.

"Ridiculous! I'd do it again," I thundered. Besides why were you just standing there holding a paper cup while I saved your brother from a potentially painful sting?"

"Ma," said my patient son, "I was holding the paper cup to trap the bee and escort it gently outside. But you struck it in haste. My plan did not include killing or broken glass, simply a better way."

Ah, now I understood.

The rest of his agenda had intrinsic beauty in keeping with the spirit of Rosh Hashonah. For who isn't familiar with those wonderful round challahs we enjoy this time of year? Round to symbolise the crown of the Divine Kingdom; to symbolise the unity of all Israel in their holy purpose; to symbolise the coming full-circle of the solemn celebration of a new year with loving kindness and good deeds (not to mention good food).

David reminds me even as I write: Although a bee has a stinger, it also helps us put honey on the table. So as we dip the apple in the honey, let us reflect on our deeds, and try to find a better way.

Shluchim Arrival

Pictured are the new Shluchim, Mendel Nemanov, Moshe Geisinsky and Rafi Chemel, arriving in Melbourne this morning.

They were greeted by Yeshivah College students and staff.

Torah Treasures

Answer for כי תצא The Torah uses the description of "בדרך בצאתכם ממצרים in regards to Amon, Moav, Amalek and (lehavdil) Miriam.

Question for ויסבלו פייס değer Who in our פרשה knew and who didn't know?

Please note the following:

There will be Cheder classes for Years 7-9 this Sunday 17th September from 10.40am – 12.30pm

Mesivtah – Chassidus 9.00am, Davening 10.00am

Mesivtah and Students of Year 10-12 Advanced Gemoroh Class – 11.15am start

Monday & Tuesday 18th and 19th September

7.15am Chassidus and Slichos Preparation

7.30am Slichos, followed by Davening and the regular school timetable.

Erev Rosh Hashonah

7.15am Slichos, followed by a special Erev Rosh Hashonah program.

Dismissal at 10.45am

Tsom Gedaliah (Sunday 24th September)

Years 7-9 Cheder will commence at 11.10am and will conclude at 11.30am.

There will be no Cheder classes for the Mesivtah and Advanced Gemoroh Class.
Year 9 History Excursion

As part of the Year 9 history studies of the First World War, the Year 9 boys travelled with Mr. Brilliant and Rabbi Doron via tram to the Shrine of Remembrance.

The staff at the Shrine took the group through a guided tour, the focus being on the “Spirit of ANZAC”. The boys handled some Australian uniforms from the War, as well as learning more about the history of Remembrance in Victoria. One person who played a big part in the construction on the Shrine in the 1930s was Sir John Monash, who was arguably Victoria’s greatest contributor to Australia’s success in the war. Following that, we were given a tour of the galleries which were constructed in 2014 below the shrine as part of the Centenary of ANZAC celebrations. The galleries house many artefacts from all of the conflicts Australia has fought in as well as digital and interactive displays and exhibits. We also took a quick lap outside the Shrine to view the Second World War cenotaph and the Eternal Flame. Overall it was an enjoyable and informative trip which was well worth the effort.

Year 7 Sculptures

In Art classes over the past few weeks, the Year 7 students worked in pairs to produce sculptures from an old shoe. They were required to collaboratively design and produce their piece using various materials such as plaster, cardboard, sticks and paint.

Here are just a few of the boys’ incredible sculptures.
Chai Elul / Pre Rosh Hashana Assembly

On Friday last week the Primary students attended a very special assembly in honour of Chai Elul and Rosh Hashana. Chai Elul marks the birthdays of 2 very holy tzaddikim, the Baal Shem Tov, founder of the Chassidic movement, and the Alter Rebbe, the founder of Chabad. These two great luminaries brought warmth and light into the world through their teaching and spreading of Chassidic teachings.

At our singalong the girls were given song books and glow lights. We thank Mrs Sara Kisilevich for accompanying us on the guitar. The room was filled with a wonderful energy as the girls sang all the Elul and Tishrei songs. The students also listened to a story about a young boy who, having never been taught how to daven from a machzor, was able to pierce the heavens with his simple tefilla of chanting the Alef Bet. We hope that all our students were inspired by the achdut of this beautiful get-together. May Hashem answer all the Tefillot of Klal Yisrael this Rosh Hashana, and may we be granted a Shana Tova umetuka.

Protective Behaviours

We are now well underway with most of our classes in Beth Rivkah Primary having begun Protective Behaviours conversations. In order to enhance the effectiveness of our school based program, we encourage parents to have similar conversations with their children at home. A helpful way to begin this talk may be to watch the following short clip with your child/children and discuss it. This clip covers the key ideas we cover on our Protective Behaviours sessions at school in an age appropriate way. They include:

- My body is my body and it belongs to me
- I have a safety network
- Private body parts
- Secrets
- Early Warning Signs

Please contact Adina Welsh for further information at adina.welsh@ybr.vic.edu.au or 9522 8235

Rosh Hashana and Yamim Noraim

All classes are very busily engaged in learning about Rosh Hashana and the Yamim Noraim. Please ask your daughters to share their vast store of knowledge at home.

We say farewell and Lehitraot to Sarah Smolarski who will be living in Israel with her family. We wish her hatzlacha and we will miss her greatly.

Thank You

Thank you to Rabbi Doron, Rabbi Smukler, Rabbi Wilhelm, Mr van der Plaat, Rabbi B Serebryanski, who have been blowing shofar for Beth Rivkah Primary during Elul.

Spellmasters

Round 9 is on Sunday 15/10/2017
South Melbourne Community Centre, Corner Park Street and Ferrars Place
South Melbourne.
(Melways map ref 2K/B4)
Junior Division 1.30 - 3.15 pm
Senior Division 3.30 - 4.30 pm

Thank you very much to Mrs Bat-sheva Milner who made the truly delicious pumpkin soup and the other volunteers who helped pack and distribute orders for the primary children. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Year sixes had a session with Linda from Click for Hate as part of their unit on racism, stereotypes and the Holocaust.

Year 2 are working hard on improving their Mitzvot during the month of Elul.
Rosh Chodesh Elul Awards

FGG Naomi Werdiger, Devorah Leah Jacks
FSE Devorah Leah Warlow Shill, Rachi Graneck, Chana Esther Brown, Leann Yehuda
FFG Blumie Wolf, Abby Urban, Evie Teleki
1KS Perlie Berkovits, Leora Goldberg, Bluma Raskin
1LM Lily Tovel, Eliora Kessly, Chaya Ernst
1ML Kaitlin Samuel, Maya Schimmel, Yael Miller, Mushkie Tenenbaum
2SR Aliza Housman, Gavi Spinrad, Yasin Rosen
2RJ Mindy Brown, Tovah Herszberg, Tova Kaplan, Chana Lange
2SG Gabriela Brodsky, Zimra van der Plaat, Shira Segal
3BS Mika Kotler, Aurelie Behar
3KC Meira Frenkel, Romi Deane, Rochel Bendetsky
4KM Liat Hoota, Tova Cohen
4TL Ahuva Turtletaub, Ora Caplan, Tova Gampel
5BH Leora Bergman, Rochel Loewenthal, Nechomo Dina Stern, Raizel Gutnick, Nechama Landau
5KG Dahniella Berkowitz, Romi Mihalovich, Chaya Nakkar
6LH Bruria Johnson, Perry Wolf
6DK Freeda Werdiger, Ellie Glick

Melava Malka

Tali Belfer 4KM

On the 27th of Av, at 7:30pm, my house filled with happiness. We started off with a welcome dance and moved on to an extremely fun game of trivia. We enjoyed an amazing type of game where you do a lucky dip, answer the question correctly and get a certain amount of points. We then did another awesome dance. We thank Tehilla Peretz’s mother for picking up the pizza and chips, so the food was nice and hot and the magnificent vegetable platters she prepared for us. We ate, we enjoyed a readily funny play and are all of the treats everyone had brought and drank some delicious drinks. We would like to thank all the parents who chipped in and to my mummy and abba for letting me host the Melava Malka at my house. Thank you to our teacher, Mrs Kantor for organising the Melava Malka for us. I think the whole 4KM can agree that we all had a blast.

Shluchot Corner

Hey there BRP. This week was another fabulous week at Beth Rivkah! We had an awesome mivtzaim packaging event with the Year 6’s. Thanks to them, we managed to pack over 250 kits which will be distributed all over Melbourne!

We ended off our Elul trivia competition with an unbelievable raffle! We were so impressed by how much everyone knew about the upcoming chagim. We wish a big Mazal Tov to all our winners:

Yehudis Lebovits year 1, Yasmin Rosen year 2, Dahlia Tamir year 3, Tamara Jacobs year 4, Chaya Cyprys year 5 and Hadass Belfer year 6. Well done to all the girls who submitted their answers as well!

Tzivos Hashem was really fun and our soldiers are really getting into shape! Your new forms will be given out to you by your teacher, and you can place your filled-in-ones in the Tzivos Hashem folder hanging in your classroom!

Cocoa club was another outstanding hit! It’s amazing to see how many of you are super excited to come bright and early every week.

We ended off our week with a smashing Birthday party for the world! (This Shabbos, chof hey Elul the world turns 5778) We all got invitations on our desk on Friday morning. Every class was invited to a party in their classroom where they enjoyed some yummy cake!

Have a great Shabbos and we’ll see you on Monday :)!

Love, Estee and Mussy

Mazal Tov

Mazal tov to the following girls who celebrate their birthdays in Tishrei:
Jordan Milner

Tzippy Lesches Chaya Adelist Mila Ash Michal Fogelgarn Shaina Franco Ella Zin

Chayi Lebovits Tova Herszberg Chana Lange Rivki Stern Brocha Serebryanski Sarah Smolarski

Adira Klein Yasmin Katz Eva Braverman Ariella Goldberg Shani Zeman Perel Deren

Etty Gopin Rimon Aharon Sterna Raskin Elishava Roth Rachel De Winter Sophia Ozernov

↑ The Year Three’s went on an excursion to Science Works. They got to see the night sky, and learnt more about the solar system at the planetarium.

↑ The Year Two’s went on excursions to Science Works. They got to see the night sky, and learnt more about the solar system at the planetarium.
Beit Midrash

Mrs Yael Schneier, Year 10 Convenor

The Beit Midrash branched out this week and visited science and maths classrooms to infuse general studies subjects with Torah wisdom. In Year 8 Maths lessons, students were treated to a case study showing Shlomo Hamelech’s incredible knowledge of Pi. As part of this they saw that Rambam’s understanding of irrational numbers was light years ahead of his time! Shlomo too, as quoted by the Talmud, seemed to be way ahead of modern mathematics in understanding that “any circular object with a circumference of three tefachim must have a diameter of one tefach” (Baba Batra 14b).

Year 10 science students looked at a range of sources that discussed the Jewish view on evolution. The following conclusions were reached: 1. the dichotomy between evolution and creation is the question of chance versus deliberate design. 2. As evidenced many times over, what seems by chance is most definitely Divinely created (eg story of Megillat Esther) 3. Science and Torah were both created by G-d. If science and Torah do seem to be in conflict, either not enough is known about the science or we have not yet fully grasped the depth of Torah.

Make A Date With A Book

Mrs Risha Feiglin, Librarian and Year 11 Convenor

The idea is simple.

On Thursday September 14 2017, stop what you’re doing for one hour anytime throughout the day and pick up a book. The Australian Reading Hour is an opportunity for Australians to either rediscover or introduce themselves to the benefits of reading. In children, it has been shown to help with identity formation, setting them up for success in the future. In adults, it has been shown to reduce stress by 68% more than listening to music, going for a walk, or having a cup of tea.

So make the time this Thursday, and encourage your students to do likewise.

VCE Music

VCE music student, Ruth Slonimsky, showcased her VCE music performance program during lunchtime on Tuesday 12th September. This was an important part of her preparation for her final performance exam which is worth 50% of her assessment for music. The 25 minute performance was enjoyed by supportive staff and students.

We wish Ruth the best of luck with her upcoming exam and know that it would be spectacular.

Year 11 Homeroom Events

Mrs Risha Feiglin, Year 11 Convenor

This term Year 11 students have benefited from the expertise of two excellent presenters in their fortnightly Homeroom Program. On August 22, financial planner Esther Althaus gave the girls an entertaining crash course in “Financial Fitness,” including tips for teenagers on budgeting, using credit card facilities, and the importance of being financially literate.

Rabbi Menachem Wolf addressed the group on September 5 on the topic of “Prayer.” He encouraged the girls to honestly examine their own attitudes to davening and then took them on a speedy trip through the morning prayers that they say each day. Rabbi Wolf gave the girls some insights and suggestions on how to make daily davening not just a race to say the words as quickly as possible, but rather a journey that prepares them for each day.

Thank you to Ms Althaus and Rabbi Wolf for generously giving their time to share their knowledge and ideas with BRS Year 11 students.

Tzedakah Captains

Two Fridays ago we were privileged to hear from Mrs Rose Mehlman and Mrs Kathy Paluch, the representatives and ambassadors of Yad Eliezer here in Australia. Mrs Paluch shared a few words about her grandson Hugo Paluch OBM, who is known for his kindness and generous spirit and was always thinking about ways to help others. Getting a glimpse into Hugo’s life made the $10,451 which was raised in his memory even more special. All the money will help provide warmth to those in Israel with the winter months approaching, including blankets, coats and heating.

Mrs Mehlman spoke of the essential work which Yad Eliezer does in Israel, providing us with examples of how poverty effects children, parents and families. As the Tzedakah Captains of BRS, we feel privileged to have taken part in an initiative honouring the memory of such a special individual. May his memory be a blessing.

Summer Uniform

Mrs Yamit Glasman, Head of Students

With the commencement of term 4 students transition to the Beth Rivkah summer uniform. Please be advised that the length of the summer dress must cover the knee and the sleeves fall below the elbow. The dress may be worn with either white tights or white knee socks. Please allocate some time over the break to check the state of your daughter’s uniform to ensure it satisfies the above requirements. Purchasing new uniforms is extremely straightforward on the school app and items are deliverable to the school’s front office for your convenience.
Canberra Excursion – Year 9

The Year 9 class left Melbourne, early Sunday on a road trip to Canberra stopping at Albury for lunch before continuing our journey to Mt Ainsley Lookout for a view of Canberra.

Monday’s first stop was at Questacon, exploring science and technology, with some fun at the “drop slide” where Miss Komendera and Zelia joined us for a quick drop.

Lunch was at the National Carillon Tower, a 50 metre landmark gifted to Australia by the British Government.

We then did an Embassy Drive Tour and visited the National Portrait Gallery.

The shiurim and activities on Tuesday and Wednesday emphasised the theme of the Canberra trip, Response-ability, with a focus on our responsibilities as Jews and citizens fortunate enough to live in Australia. An exploration of the High Court of Australia was followed by a very interesting tour at Parliament House. We were fortunate to attend Question Time giving us an insight on how our country is run. The Honourable Members of Parliament, Mr Josh Frydenberg and Mr Michael Danby spent some time with the students and answered our questions.

Guided tours of Anzac Parade and the Australian War Memorial took us back in history honouring those who served our country. The inspiring and moving exhibits made us feel Hakarat hatov (gratitude) towards those who sacrificed their lives for our freedom.

Trampolining at Flip-Out before boarding the bus gave us a fun opportunity to burn off some energy before the long bus ride home.

Canberra Trip 2017 was a great learning experience and bonding opportunity for our class and we thank all the staff who made it possible.
Mrs Tikva Broh

A legend in her lifetime! Tikva was an educator at Beth Rivkah Ladies College for 50 years, and during that time educated countless thousands of students. Her impact was enormous and boundless.

Among her many teaching roles, she taught Jewish Studies and Domestic Science in the secondary school, Foundation students for many years and Hebrew reading to individual students for many years. Her positivity, energy and creativity made her a beacon for all who encountered her. She was like Savta Simcha with her enormous bags, containing everything one would need during a school day and beyond. She wrote and directed numerous Siddur presentations staged by Foundation students. These productions were full of song, drama and movement and were absolutely enchanting.

Her strong Torah knowledge and values were embedded in everything she taught and transmitted so effectively to her students. Her vast knowledge of Hebrew language enhanced her teaching.

She created games, posters, puzzles, storybooks and countless other resources to enhance her teaching, and would generously share these with others.

Outside of school, Tikva taught converts and presented Judaism in a warm, engaging manner. Her kindness and hospitality were legendary, and she made a point of befriending anyone new to the community, anyone lonely or in need of a friendship. She knitted, crocheted, sewed, drew, cooked, baked and was never idle. She buzzed with ideas and 24 hours in a day was never enough.

She derived great nachas from her many grandchildren and great grandchildren and enjoyed seeing them during the school day.

Tikva means hope and her hopeful and optimistic outlook on life was delightful and infectious. She was an inspiration and her memory will continue to inspire as it lives on in our hearts forever.

CAPS Reminder

Just a reminder that the CAPS portal has now opened for parents who wish to apply. You should have received an email from “YBR CAPS” at approximately 9:45am on Thursday 14th September. The email was sent to the address where we send fee statements to.

Please be aware that all documentation needs to be submitted by October 27th to be eligible for the CAPS program. Failure to submit information will automatically elect you as “full fee” paying families.

If you do not receive login information in the next few days, or have any questions or concerns, please contact Jeremy Gold on 9528 8333 or jeremy.gold@ybr.vic.edu.au

Erev Rosh Hashana

Just a reminder that the Beth Rivkah campuses are closed on Wednesday together with Yeshivah Primary. Yeshivah Secondary is open until 10.45am. GELC is closed, but the pre booked holiday program is running from 8am – 1pm.

Continued from page 16

Things to avoid:

• Avoid talking about other people, denigrating others, especially those in authority – politicians, rabbis, communal leaders, or G-d forbid educators. Children who may not fully understand the content of the discussion will understand that people are being denigrated. Numerous children who have abandoned their religious way of life have attributed it to the negative Shabbos table talk with which their parents engaged

• Even if we are tired from our work week and preparing for Yom Tov, we need to hype ourselves and be full of positive energy for a Yom Tov meal

• Duration of the meal is important to think about and stages of expectation. At the table is not the time to discuss your expectations of your children. Have this discussion before so children are aware of your expectations so you can reward rather than discipline

• Don’t force children to stay at the table if it is beyond their attention span – you don’t want to win the battle of the table and lose the war of life-long enjoyment of the chag

• Don’t force children to say divrei torah in front of many guests if they are not company. Find a quiet time or a time separate from the table to do this – may even be with treats (which the adults tend to enjoy too).

Whatever you feel is appropriate for your family and guests, simply the thought, time and energy you put into making your Yom Tov table a more fun, joyous and engaging experience, will automatically yield magnificent results for you and your family.

Wishing you a K’siva V’chasima Tova and you and your families should know only joy and nachas. May this be the last Yom Tov to be celebrated in Galus and may we merit to see the ultimate Geulah Bimheira B’yameinu.
A Celebration Of Mishnayos B’al Peh
At Yeshivah College

Lisa Frenkel, YBR Marketing & Communications

The Annual Mishnayos B’al Peh Dinner took place at Yeshivah College on Sunday 10 September, 19 Elul. Attended by a record number of guests this year, parents, students and teachers filled the Werdiger Hall, enjoyed a delicious supper and were delighted to participate in an event that recognises the achievements of students who have taken great efforts to learn Mishnayos Bal Peh (by heart). With the largest number of students involved and the highest levels of learning achieved than ever before, the evening was truly a celebration of our students’ spectacular learning achievements.

The Mishnayos B’al Peh program began in 1990 in memory of Nathan Dzienciol who tragically passed away when he was in third grade. He had an exceptional dedication to learning Mishna, and now has Torah engraved in their (zokein) – one who has acquired wisdom – aspects of holiness, we must always be ‘מגנס’ – continuously increase and raise our standard; always moving forward, never being satisfied with the status quo of yesterday’. Rabbi Chaim Tzvi Groner gave a captivating dvar torah and commended the boys on their “tremendous effort”. He noted that learning b’ah peh gives the greatest reward of protection and continually reviewing mishnayos helps you “MBP - Maximise [your] Brain Power”!

Rabbi Gordon expressed his pride in the students’ outstanding achievements and commented that this evening “gives us the opportunity to honour a ר’ (zokein) – one who has acquired wisdom and now has Torah engraved in their memory.” He issued a special thankyou to Rabbi Aron who started the MBP program at Yeshivah, and he remarked that “the dedication of so many of the boys spending their spare time learning in the evenings, weekends and holidays is wonderful”. He is thrilled that he is often stopped in the school playground to ‘test’ students on what they’ve learnt.

The MBP program is run throughout the year by Rabbi YY Gordon and Rabbi YY Cohen who facilitate the twice-weekly Mishnayos B’al Peh sessions and ‘intensive’ Shabbosim. The program’s success is greatly attributed to the ‘repeat’ system on which it is based, which encourages students to be tested on complete chapters of Mishna and Tanya. Cleverly, the MBP program adopts a points system which allocates points based on each child’s age, ability, and effort – ensuring every student can ‘achieve’.

We thank Rabbi Gordon and Rabbi Cohen for their incredible efforts and ongoing dedication in co-ordinating this enriching program along with the long list of teaching staff who guide, assist, motivate and test the students on their learning.

The evening recognised the 410 students who actively participated in the program this year and who, incredibly, have managed to memorise in excess of 260,000 lines of Torah over the past year – the most lines learnt in the history of the program running in Yeshivah! During the event several students demonstrated their learning by skilfully reciting Mishnayos and Tanya by heart and also recited mishnas aligned with the letters of Nosson Aron (Nathan) Dzienciol’s name.

An address from Principal, Rabbi Smukler commended the students for their fantastic achievements and outlined that “when it comes to learning Mishnayos by heart, we must always be ‘דברים שבקדושה’ – aspects of holiness, we must always be ‘מגנס’ – continuously increase and raise our standard; always moving forward, never being satisfied with the status quo of yesterday’. Rabbi Chaim Tzvi Groner gave a captivating dvar torah and commended the boys on their “tremendous effort”. He noted that learning b’ah peh gives the greatest reward of protection and continually reviewing mishnayos helps you “MBP - Maximise [your] Brain Power”!

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**YBRPA Corner**

A big thank you to all those involved in helping us hold our very first Father’s, Grandfathers and special friends Day stall.

We look forward to holding it annually together with our many other fundraising initiatives.

*Thanks to: Chaya Sziewicz, Shelly Seligman, Shana Reuben, Sheree Goldberg, Baila Cyprys, Sara Ainsworth, Miriam Pacanowski, Rifka Raskin, Rachely*

† Some happy grade 2 girls with their proud purchases.

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**The Last Word**

Rabbi Yehoshua Smukler, Principal Yeshivah – Beth Rivkah Colleges

A Curriculum for a Successful Yom Tov Table

No one would imagine walking into an important business meeting without significant research planning and preparation. This is to ensure proper engagement of all the stakeholders involved in the meeting so as the best deal / outcome will be reached.

The impact of a Yom Tov meal and its integrity to our lives as Jewish families, to our children and extended family, and to all the guests who we may host, is far more spiritually enriching and life enhancing than many a business meeting.

So how can we ensure that everyone around the table gets the most out of the meal, including us? How do we cater to the range of ages, interest levels and backgrounds at our Yom Tov table?

Things we can do:

- Make the table and the meal one of Simcha and joy – can include adding decorative Yom Tov themes to the table
- Prepare formally, or informally, with thought provoking questions or topics, either on the customs, laws and nuances of the Yom Tov, bearing in mind the interest levels and attention spans of the different members at our table
- Exploring current Jewish issues in the Jewish world (being very mindful of avoiding loshon hora), taking the opportunity to help inculcate our children with a Torah Hashkafic lense with which to view these issues, and even bringing up alternative viewpoints with which we may not agree, demonstrating our respect, empathy and understanding, yet the strength of our conviction of adhering to our values.
- Today in Jewish History – often looking at things that occurred on that particular Yom Tov or around this time period, in Jewish History, in Australia or Israel or anywhere around the Jewish world, enriches our Yom Tov table participants’ feeling and understanding of feeling part of a proud chain of Jewish History and appreciative of the times in which we live and the self-sacrifice of our predecessors
- Encourage family members and guests to share their customs, memories, experiences and inspirations of that Yom Tov.
- Almost all grade levels will send home an abundance of learning and preparation, crafts and creations for a Yom Tov. Having a sneak preview at the Dvar Torah’s prepared and the school materials they wish to bring to the table, both encourages children to share as well as enabling you to hone in on their interest and knowledge areas.
- For some fun, collect little snippets of Divrei Torah and thought provoking questions, photocopy them and cut them up – no longer than 60 seconds to tell, and place them under plates at the table. At the appropriate time, each participant reads their short inspiration. Or before Yom Tov, print a rich and engaging story (Chabad.org has many) and share the story telling around the table
- Thought needs to go into the seating plan – no longer than 60 seconds to tell, and place them under plates at the table. At the appropriate time, each participant reads their short inspiration. Or before Yom Tov, print a rich and engaging story (Chabad.org has many) and share the story telling around the table
- Thought needs to go into the seating plan so as your children don’t feel like second class citizens, yet you demonstrate the respect for guests or other family members. During the meal, move around the table and engage with different people.
- Have a list of Yom Tov songs you may wish to sing

*Continued on Page 15*