



**MOUNT SINAI COLLEGE**  
 CREATING LEARNERS FOR LIFE

September 2019 ■ [www.mountsinai.nsw.edu.au](http://www.mountsinai.nsw.edu.au)

To update your details with us please contact the office at [reception@mountsinai.nsw.edu.au](mailto:reception@mountsinai.nsw.edu.au) or call 9349 4877

# CONNECT B'YACHAD



## New Campus, New Year, Start NEW with us!



Like us on Facebook  
 @Mount Sinai College  
 Community



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 @mountsinaicollege



**Distinguished School**

Recognised by Apple as a distinguished school for innovation, leadership and educational excellence.



JCA Member Organisation

# OPEN DAY@MOUNT SINAI COLLEGE

October 17, 2019

RSVP Essential: <https://www.trybooking.com/BELWB>

Morning Session

■ Prep 8:15am - 9:15am

■ Years K-6 9:15am - 10:15am

or Evening Session

■ Prep & Years K-6: 7:15pm - 8:15pm



## New Campus, New Year, Start NEW with us!

ELC offer personalised tours throughout the year.



MOUNT SINAI COLLEGE  
CREATING LEARNERS FOR LIFE

## CHILD SPECIALIST LEARNING TEAM

- FEUERSTEIN
- CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST
- LEARNING SUPPORT
- ENRICHMENT

Contact us today: [cslt@mountsinai.nsw.edu.au](mailto:cslt@mountsinai.nsw.edu.au)

## Principal's Message

Our official opening brought together those new parents who have just joined us and those who helped establish the school 38 years ago. Gathered on the day were founding students and parents of the College. It took a great deal of courage and vision to begin a Jewish school in the back of the Maroubra shule in 1981 and we are eternally grateful that these pioneering visionaries realised their dream and have been a pillar of support ever since.

Our presidents ever since have shown the same courage in steering the school through the various and never-ending technological revolutions and building upgrades. None have been as revolutionary as what we have achieved at this point in time and to that end, I thank and congratulate the Board for their continued support and vision.



Phil Roberts



(L:R Anthony Berman President, Phil Roberts Principal, Tim Greenstein Immediate Past President)

We are now telling our story like never before. **'Honouring tradition. Embracing change'**. If ever there was a slogan that so captures the essence of what has been one of the College's most astounding and influential transformations, it is this.

Some of us – myself included - recall the early pioneering kibbutz-like feel this school had, the tiles of which are still evident in the Mount Sinai mosaic. There are those unique features that have never been lost such as the tremendous stability of a great staff who contribute to the uniqueness of a Jewish school with its customs, traditions, festivals, rituals and commemorative days. And the Jewish music that we hear through the corridors and even the smell of challot on a Friday remind parents of their multisensory experiences at a Jewish school. And Mount Sinai has always had a warmth, an exuberance, an energy that is borne out of these traditions which we continue to honour.

Our design is an architectural expression of the contemporary, relevant Apple Distinguished School we have become. A school that reflects 3 archetypal learning spaces - Campfires; Waterholes and Caves. The cave is a private space for learning; the campfire is a place where people gather to collaborate in learning; and the watering hole is a place for sharing information and discoveries.



Our Phase one has been completed and soon we will be looking to execute Phase two. In other words, the Board is focused on developing the full masterplan. This will require continued support from our community and prudent investment in both infrastructure and property acquisition. This is about the realisation and finalisation of a vision – a vision that is both bold and courageous.

We have captured the community's imagination in no less of a way than we did when we moved from demountable classrooms to bricks and mortar two decades ago and we will be looking to enlist community support to fulfil our vision to give our growing Jewish community a fully integrated and consolidated ELC to year 6 site.

For Mount Sinai, there is a greatness in smallness and whilst we don't have to work hard at remaining small, we will always purposefully strive to evolve and work extraordinarily hard at remaining great. Our sincere thanks are extended to the JCA who has worked with and supported us all the way.

All of us can all take pride in how far we have come, and have faith in how far we can continue to go.

**Phil Roberts**  
Principal



Mount Sinai College Official Campus Launch

Six years after our College ran an architectural design competition, current and past students, parents and donors joined federal and state politicians and other key communal members to mark the completion of our new state-of-the-art facilities on the 23rd of June 2019.





Rabbi Yossi

Dedicating a new school is a momentous occasion. I count my role in our recent dedication as one of the great moments in my professional career as a Rabbi. But what does it mean to 'dedicate' a school?

In Hebrew, the term 'Chanukat habayit', literally dedicating the house, is about thanking G-d for reaching the milestone of a new home and setting the standard for what kind of home you would like to have. It is based on the inauguration ritual that took place upon the completion of the Tabernacle, where each tribal leader offered up sacrifices and prayers on behalf of their tribe. Also upon the completion of the First Temple, we are told how King Solomon led the nation in prayers (Kings I, 8).

Today, during a Chanukat habayit we invite friends, have a meal, share inspiring Torah thoughts and give tzedakah, establishing the values we want in the new home. The high point is affixing the mezuzah, which requires a blessing and some also say the blessing shehechyanu, thanking G-d for reaching this moment.

Interestingly, the word 'chanukat' is the same as the word 'chinch' which means, to educate. The implication being that through the process of dedicating, we educate those around us what our intentions are for how the house will be used.

And it is this very concept is at play on Rosh Hashanah. Based on the various customs that we observe, from offering forgiveness, resolving disputes, ingesting foods with positive messaging, to offering endless prayers, we show Hashem how we intend to conduct ourselves throughout the entire year. In response, we believe that Hashem will judge us most favourably and generously because it all flows from the beginning. Often the way we begin sets the tone for all that follows.

I felt proud to officiate on the day of our school's dedication in knowing the great history and the deeply ingrained Jewish values that are embedded within the Mount Sinai school experience. Dedicating this house of learning through reciting blessings, prayers and Jewish ideas was most appropriate, especially for a school such as Mount Sinai! A school that values each child and seeks to bring out the expression of their very best virtues. A school that fosters the dignity and respect of every person and ingrains a love of learning.

May the blessings of this dedication and new 'beginning' flow through every day into the walls and rooms of our revamped college. I look forward to being part of our incredible leadership team with renewed energy and wish Mount Sinai continued Mazal tov and hatzlacha!

**Rabbi Yossi Friedman**



Year 1 Siddur Presentation

Year 1 Siddur Presentation



The Siddur presentation is a ceremonial event which sees our current Year 1 students receive their very first Siddur from Rabbi Yossi. The ceremony, which has been taking place since the College's inception, conjures up feelings of pride, joy and nachas from both children, family and friends. Mazel Tov to our MSC Year 1 cohort.



Photo credit: Ben Apfelbaum



Photo credit: Ofer Levy



One of the roles I have most enjoyed from my time on the Board has been the building committee, particularly the past 18 months where so much has been achieved. However, the journey began 6 years ago with an architectural design competition which had to reflect the aspirations of the teaching team who were looking to make education more relevant and meaningful for our children.

We wanted a design which was purposeful and reflected the ideals of **forward thinking** educators worldwide and moreover, reflected Jewish iconography and culture. It is important to note that everything we have done to date is 'purpose built' - whether it be the centrally positioned and family-centred library, or the stunning Tree of Life sculpture with its Kabbalistic interpretation and Magen David motif, or the external canteen which beckons the community each morning. Everything is designed to welcome and bring our Mount Sinai community together. **This is design that says "come in and meet the family"**.

What has impressed me over the years is the way in which the teaching team has articulated a better concept of teaching and learning. There has been a great deal of preparatory work going into ensuring our children benefit from teaching and learning that is relevant, engaging and meaningful to them. A design isn't finished until someone is using it and it is inspiring to see how our children and staff have responded to and benefitted from their new spaces.

The flexible and versatile classrooms and various spaces were aligned to current teaching methodology and hence planned. Most importantly, our staff were prepared after years of professional learning to work in these spaces. This has been the difference at Mount Sinai - a teaching team - certified Apple Badge teachers - working in an Apple Distinguished School all of whom know how to use these facilities like no other.

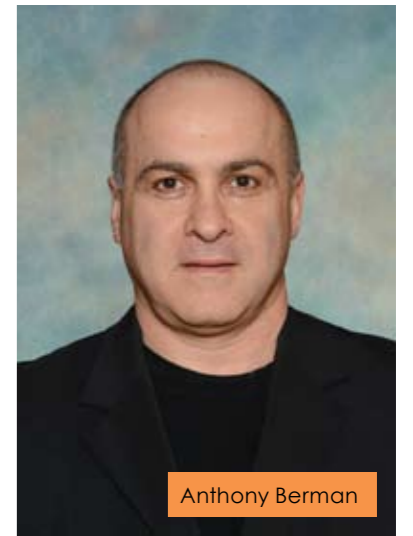
A building program that started right in the epicentre of the College was never going to be **easy** but the teaching and administration team survived and long may they all thrive!

We have evolved from one classroom in the back of the shule to what we have today and our shule and school stand as pillars of community strength and unity for a growing population of Jewish families moving to the south east.

As much as this is a momentous **achievement** we still have a considerable amount of work to do and I welcome the opportunity to articulate the vision further and lead the Board during the next stage.

I look forward to meeting and greeting many of you and most importantly, representing you all as I embark on my presidency.

**Anthony Berman**  
President



Anthony Berman



(L:R Anthony Berman President, Phil Roberts Principal, Tim Greenstein Immediate Past President)



Showfest



Photo credit: Ofer Levy

As a parent, your two biggest drivers are to protect and prepare. Arguably, one of the biggest decisions you will need to make in preparing your child for their future is choosing the correct schooling for them.

Statistics show that when a child enters a school from a preparatory school-readiness program (age 4-6) they are not only well ahead of their peers in transitioning into the academic aspects of year K and their formative school years, but they feel more secure and are more prepared to integrate socially. The personalised and individual attention they receive at this very early stage of their educational journey builds an intangible confidence which is pivotal to future success.

Hazel Gruskin, current Kindergarten teacher at Mount Sinai College says, "With over 20 years' experience in teaching this year group, the main thing I've noticed with a cohort who has come directly from MSC prep is the social resilience and familiarity. They settle within the first week, they know where the library is, the bathroom, the routines etc. It's a huge bonus!"

Schools such as Mount Sinai College that have a preparatory program argue that, by their very nature, they provide a guaranteed value-add to a child's education. This is achieved through the consistency of teaching staff throughout the child's school life, the employment of specialist staff, extensive co-curricular programs and embedding the school's core values and principles from the outset.

Mount Sinai College Early Learning Centre (ELC) and Preparatory Director Jill Allison, says "Often the transition from ELC straight into Kindergarten can come as quite a shock for children. Prep schooling is the next step from an ELC, yet an alternative to the standard primary situation, with a similar structure and environment pervading the entire school experience."

The Mount Sinai preparatory school readiness year is a rarity amongst Sydney Jewish schools. Situated on their main campus, the College offers the preparatory year as a transition into primary education. The program is full-time, 5 days a week with a structured numeracy and literacy program to promote school readiness, all while adhering to the Early Learning Framework. Further, the complementary informal and formal Jewish and Hebrew learning along with specialised music and sport lessons makes for a seamless transition into Kindergarten and later years.

The Mount Sinai College Preparatory Educators have obtained recognised Early Childhood Qualifications and are led by experienced University qualified Early Childhood Teachers. This educational cohort continuously enriches their practices through ongoing professional development.

Each Prep child is paired with a Year 5 buddy as part of the 'Big Friend Small Friend' initiative. This relationship, which is nurtured through formal and informal activities, gives a real sense of belonging.

Current prep parent Nicole Goodman says, "my child flourished at MSC ELC and has further excelled at prep where she is in a focused environment for children between the ages 4-5. We are continuously surprised at the level of education and her love for learning. Located on the main campus the children feel like they are included in certain school events, have lessons with the school's teachers such as Rabbi Yossi and Coach Joel, and group activities with the school students such as the "buddy program".

**Enrolling now for 2020: [mountsinai.nsw.edu.au](http://mountsinai.nsw.edu.au)**



# ENROL NOW: ELC AND PREP 2020

Start your journey with us today!

3 YEAR OLDS  
(Early Learning Centre)



2 YEAR OLDS  
(Early Learning Centre)



4 YEAR OLDS  
(Preparatory)



**ELC:** Nurturing Jewish day care, long-hours 8am-5:30pm, (4pm Fridays), ages 2+

**PREP:** Unique school readiness year, not offered by any other Jewish day school in Sydney, with year 5 buddy program. 5 days per week, ages 4-5

**YEAR K:** Continuing an enriched Jewish educational journey into primary school

Limited places remain for Year K 2020

Enquire now: Rachel Schwartz [rschwartz@mountsinai.nsw.edu.au](mailto:rschwartz@mountsinai.nsw.edu.au)

# MOUNT SINAI COLLEGE: JEWISH STUDIES GRANT

50% OFF TUITION FEES  
Years 1-6. Application is not means tested.

APPLY NOW:  
[rschwartz@mountsinai.nsw.edu.au](mailto:rschwartz@mountsinai.nsw.edu.au)

NEW CAMPUS, NEW YEAR, START NEW WITH US!

# MOUNT SINAI COLLEGE: NEW ARRIVALS GRANT

NO TUITION FEES FOR UP TO 2 TERMS (6 MONTHS) EXCLUDING OUTGOINGS

Mount Sinai College are offering new arrival grants for international families looking to relocate to Sydney, Australia.

## ABOUT MOUNT SINAI COLLEGE

- Join an exceptional, **intimate** environment built on a strong **Jewish foundation**.
- Experience the benefits of a **modern new campus**.
- **After school + vacation care** available (prep onwards).
- A competitive **flat tuition fee** that remains consistent from K-6 (outgoings not included).
- **Sibling discounts**, with 2nd child receiving a 10% reduction in fees from prep onwards.
- A morning and afternoon bus runs from **College to Vaucluse** (Eastern Suburbs).
- Direct **feeder school** into **Moriah College** secondary school.

## SELECTION CRITERIA

- Available for child/children entering from K-6 2020.
- 2 year minimum enrolment.

**Please note:**  
• Excludes our Early Learning Centre and Prep (ages 2-4).  
• All appropriate visas must be secured at the time of application.

Interested families should contact [rschwartz@mountsinai.nsw.edu.au](mailto:rschwartz@mountsinai.nsw.edu.au)



**Alumni Engagements**

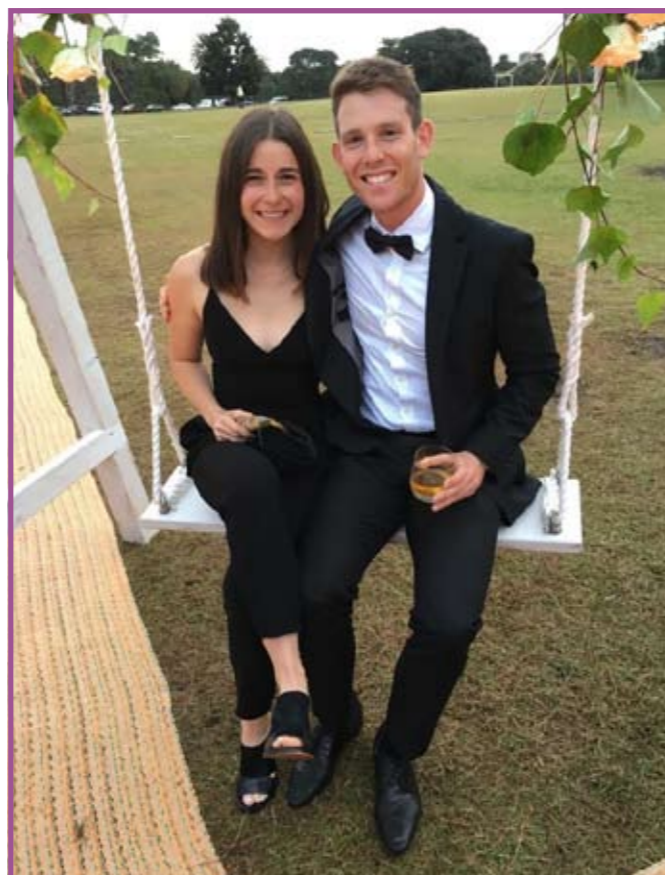
- Ron Levi to Tess Rosenberg
- Talia Heyman to Jono Moss
- Rivka Kleiner to Ezer Cohen
- Mark Lipson to Jordi Freeman

**Alumni Weddings**

- Gabrielle Glick to Moshe Engelman

**Alumni Births**

- Ilana Pollak (nee Levi) - a boy, Ethan
- Nicole Freed (nee Lipson) – a boy
- Sophie Cyprys (nee Kleiner) – a girl, Shoshana
- Tommy Biller – a boy, Rafael
- David Friedlander – a girl, Emily



Tess Rosenberg and Ron Levi



Rafael Biller



Ethan Pollak

**SHARE YOUR NEWS WITH US!**

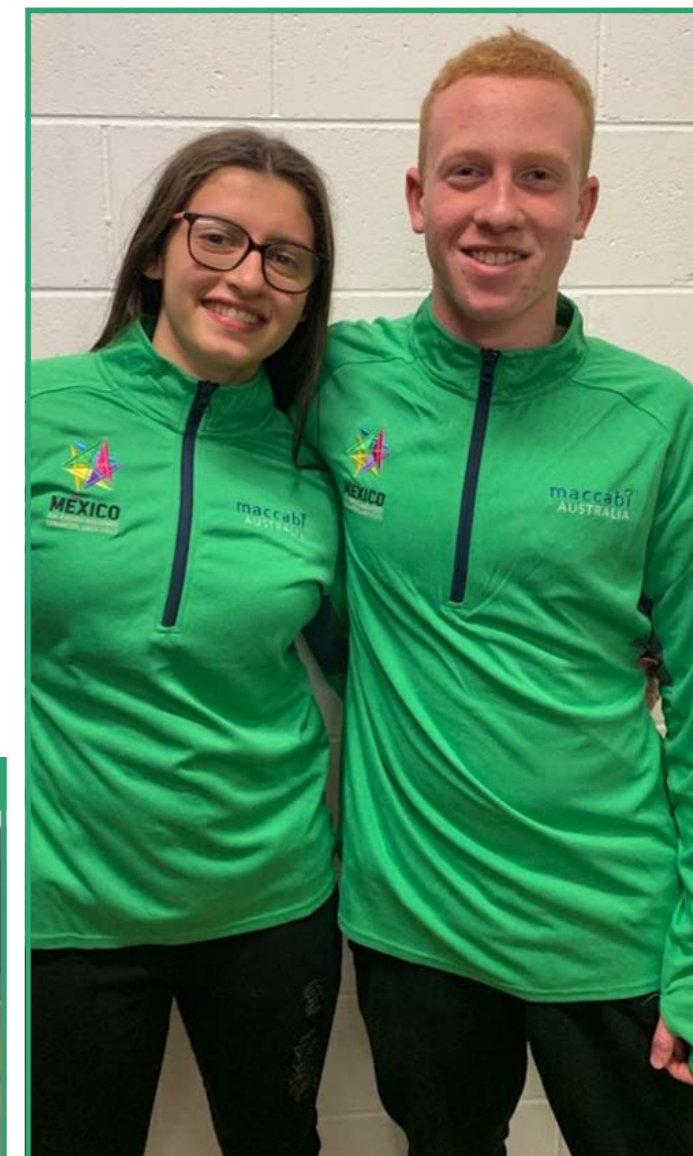
Whether it's a wedding, engagement, birth or achievement – we'd love to know!  
 Email: [reception@mountsinai.nsw.edu.au](mailto:reception@mountsinai.nsw.edu.au)

**Alumni News**

- Oliver Segerman and Alex Basserabie have just been elected to the Moriah College Student Leadership Council 2019/20. Mazel Tov!
- Gia Berman and Ben Potash swam for gold at the recent Maccabi Australia Pan-American Games in Mexico City! A milestone that follows Ben's recent achievements at the National Championships in Adelaide.



Oliver Segerman and Alex Basserabie



Gia Berman and Ben Potash



MOUNT SINAI COLLEGE

CREATING LEARNERS FOR LIFE

# Shana טובה

The Board,  
Staff and  
Students  
wish you a  
prosperous  
New Year  
and well over  
the fast.

