



# MOUNT SINAI COLLEGE

## CONNECT B'YACHAD

September 2016 ■ [www.mountsinai.nsw.edu.au](http://www.mountsinai.nsw.edu.au)

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

### Principal's Message



There is a common thread that weaves its way through the College. It is a thread – summed up in a core statement – that can be found in all that we do. We create learners for life. And to be a learner for life, you have to know not just what to think, but how to think. We are building thinking skills across all Key learning Areas, embedding Visible Thinking routines into all subjects, developing students' capacity to become learners in the Feuerstein Program, specialising in personalised learning as an Apple Distinguished School, and using Challenge-Based Learning methodologies to develop and enhance critical and creative thinking.

Recently, as I showed guests around the school, I walked past the music tuition rooms with the muffled sounds of orchestral instruments, past the Music room with children engaged in Orff work and singing, upstairs to the small hall where children had used coding to fly their drones, into the large hall where, once again, children had coded their robotics. [The Orff Approach, is one of several developmental approaches including the Kodaly Method, Dalcroze Eurhythmics, used in music education. It combines music, movement, drama, and speech into lessons that are similar to child's world of play.]

We then walked into the Year 3 classroom where every child was thoroughly absorbed in their Hebrew learning which was superbly differentiated to allow for a diverse group. We then went to the library where students were demonstrating their science thinking. Selected Years 4-6 students who had taken part in the 2016 Young ICT Explorers competition had

generated their own real-life problems, which they solved collaboratively using innovative digital technologies. The projects were entirely student-led with only minimal assistance from teachers.

Wherever we went, and our journey was spontaneous, we saw engagement and the development of critical and creative thinking. We saw creative arts and as we continued, outstanding work in the English classroom as children explored some very deep thematic issues related to their novel study.

It is hard to exaggerate just how much goes on in a typical week of schooling. What is evident however, is 'deep learning' and high levels of student engagement. And just in case one is inclined to think this may be a bit too subjective an opinion, we measure Engagement, Hope, Well-Being and Faith each year by way of the well respected and highly valid Gallup Poll. This year, as in previous years, our levels are much higher than national average in all categories.

It is one thing to talk endlessly about NAPLAN and standards (something by the way we don't do as we simply assume we will continue to do well in these) but it is quite another thing to build student Hope, Engagement, and Well-Being. These are greater challenges but ultimately, in the long run, more about what will define our students' success as learners into the future.

**Phil Roberts**  
Principal



Like us on facebook – [www.facebook.com/mountsinaicommunity](http://www.facebook.com/mountsinaicommunity)



**NOW TAKING STUDENTS FROM 2 1/2 YEARS**



**MOUNT SINAI COLLEGE**  
CREATING LEARNERS FOR LIFE

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## EARLY LEARNING CENTRE ENROLLING NOW

**EARLY LEARNING CENTRE AND PREPARATORY CLASSES (ON MAIN SCHOOL CAMPUS) WITH ALL THE ADVANTAGES OF LONG DAY CARE  
EMBRACE JEWISH CULTURE AND LEARNING IN A NURTURING ENVIRONMENT**

For a private tour and to discuss further please contact Kath Boyd on 9349 3967 or email [kboyd@mountsinai.nsw.edu.au](mailto:kboyd@mountsinai.nsw.edu.au)

### EXCITING NEWS FOR OUR EARLY LEARNING CENTRE

We are thrilled to announce that, in response to community need, the Operating Licence has been modified at our Early Learning Centre (ELC) and from 2017 we will be enrolling children younger than 3 years of age. This means that if a child turns 3 years old between mid-January and the end of July 2017 then they can start with us from the 16th of January 2017.

Some more wonderful news... our Enrolment Deposit has been reduced from \$1500 to \$500. This \$500 will be held over until the child enters Kindergarten at MSC and will then be fully deducted from the Term 1 fees. (Deposits are forfeited however if a student leaves for another school).

To obtain more information about both campuses and to get a genuine sense of the 'feel' of MSC, please enjoy the video that has recently been produced ([link](#)). If you have any questions at any stage of this enrolments process please do not hesitate to contact Kath Boyd our Director on **9349 3967** or email [kboyd@mountsinai.nsw.edu.au](mailto:kboyd@mountsinai.nsw.edu.au)

### OUR PHILOSOPHY

Children have the right to learn, feel loved, respected and to have a voice in order to feel safe and secure. At Mount Sinai College (MSC) each child is recognised as unique. Children are supported so they develop autonomy, resilience and the ability to make choices and decisions. Our Early Childhood Educators are thoughtful and creative in their interactions with children, empowering them to be imaginative and confident learners. Children at MSC celebrate and recognise their Jewish identity and develop a strong understanding of their Jewish heritage, traditions, customs, culture and religion.

**To view our video go to  
<https://youtu.be/-fv2MrwKnSg>**

## President's Message



We recently held a breakfast and gathered all our Life Governors together to update them on some exciting new developments at the College.

Over the past few years, a team of people from the college and our Board have been developing a Master Plan for our College. This plan is now ready to be realised and will open up opportunities for us to take our school into the future as a 21st century learning facility.

Exciting times are ahead. Realising is something we will all work on together. I anticipate that over the next two years – the first of which will involve us raising capital to fund this development – we will see many changes at Mount Sinai College.

These changes will naturally involve our physical space transforming itself to sync with our learning philosophy. Our learning philosophy will continue to evolve and encompass the needs of our children for the future and beyond.

Our College is an accredited Apple Distinguished School. The Apple Distinguished School designation is reserved for programs that meet criteria for innovation, leadership, and educational excellence, and demonstrate Apple's vision of exemplary learning environments.

As a school I'd like this to reflect our facilities as well. Having seen our masterplan I am feeling inspired and can't wait to share this with you. We are working on a 3D version that we will send out via our social media channels as well as email in the near future. If you are not connected with us please ensure that you send your email address to us via [reception@mountsinai.nsw.edu.au](mailto:reception@mountsinai.nsw.edu.au) or connect with us on Facebook here: [www.facebook.com/mountsinaicommunity](http://www.facebook.com/mountsinaicommunity)

Principal Phil Roberts also regularly updates us on education advances and insights on LinkedIn – you can connect with him via searching **Mount Sinai College Sydney** and **Mount Sinai Eduhub** on LinkedIn.

I look forward to embarking on this journey with our community and taking the College forward into the future.

On pages 4 and 5 we have given you an insight into our Board members. I am proud to serve with this group of people for the betterment of our College.

**Tim Greenstein**  
President

## Founder of our College Awarded JCA Life Governorship



*Founder of Mount Sinai College Peter Philippsohn OAM with grandchildren Tomer (Prep) and Boaz (Year 1) Simhi who are both students at Mount Sinai College.*

One of the founding parents of Mount Sinai College and communal leader Peter Philippsohn OAM was recently appointed as an Honorary Life Governor of JCA.

Peter, who stepped down as President of JCA at the end of 2014 has had a long history with the organisation and has sat across almost every committee since his initial involvement in 1999. Before taking on the role of President Peter was the Appeal Chairman of JCA raising millions of dollars for our community.

He is currently the Foundation Chairman of JCA and still continues to be involved in the wellbeing and future of Mount Sinai College.

Kol Hakavod to Peter – the Mount Sinai College family is very proud. Mazaltov!

## Board Profiles

The Board, a group of passionate and motivated parents committed to giving back to our community, lend their time and expertise in the management of the College. Below please see what motivates them, ensuring the best outcomes and future for our students.



### ANTHONY BERMAN

Grad AGSM

Commercial and Business Development Manager at Lightculture Australia.

I am on the MSC Board because this is how I give back to my community – it's my form of community service. I like to get things done and I think

everyone has a responsibility to contribute to making not only Mount Sinai but our community in general, a stronger, vibrant and dynamic place.



### GALIA DURBACH

BA English & Psych;  
Honours in Psych (UCT)

Head of Retail Operations at Hollard Insurance.

I give my time to the Board as I believe Mount Sinai College is a wonderful school which has given so much to my children and our community, and as someone who works full time,

sitting on the Board is one of the ways that I can be involved and give back in some way.



### TIM GREENSTEIN

B.Comm

General Manager of Supply Chain and Technology.

I am passionate about ensuring the continuation of our Jewish heritage, tradition and culture, and Jewish education is the foundation on which this rests.



### DAVID HECHTER

MBA Chicago University

Head of Innovation and Implementation, Specialist Finance Division, Westpac.

I have given time to being on the Board because I feel it is important to give back to the community and I felt that I could make a difference in helping the school achieve its

vision. Being able to see how my own children and their friends have thrived from what the school offers has been very fulfilling.



### JUDITH LEVITAN

LLB BSW (Hons)

Senior Project Officer Legal Aid NSW.

I have three children at the school across Years 6,5 and 2. I commit the time to the Board because I believe we have an amazing school and community and I want to contribute and give back to the organisation

that has given my children such a great start.



### ZACK LEVY

LLB (Sussex University);  
Masters International Business and International Relations (Macquarie University)

I currently serve as the CEO of a boutique technology consulting practice.

I commit as much time as I can to the board because I believe

in what we do. It is a privilege to be able to participate in shaping the way the kids of our community are being educated, now and in the future. It is extremely rewarding to work with a team of such great people who are equally committed to our community and its next generation.



### MICHAEL LION

**B. Com (Hons)**

Currently Group Manager of Corporate Development at Origin Energy, responsible for corporate strategy and group mergers and acquisitions.

I've had a long affiliation with school – I am a former student (class of '89) and my father was a former board member. I have two children at the school and feel that, as a parent I want to have a voice in ensuring the best possible educational environment for my children and others. I felt the best way to do this was to join the board where I can make a meaningful contribution to the school, and also work with other parents to make Mount Sinai the best it can be.



### MANDY LIPSCHITZ

**BSocSci Eco (Hons)**

Having had a dynamic career in Corporate Human Capital roles I started my own People Consultancy 8 years ago where I help clients attain, retain and develop their people capability. This includes leadership development, conflict

resolution, organisational structure and general HR services.

I believe we all have a responsibility to be contributors whether it's in our own families, our communities and in society in general. I struggle to sit on the sidelines and be part of the problem – I prefer to try and be part of the solution.



### DARYN SARETZKI

**B.Comm (Actuarial Studies) and MBA**

Partner at Ernst & Young.

I have 3 kids, 2 of whom are at the school and the 3rd is only 9 months old.

Rather than commenting from the sideline, I really enjoy getting involved and helping

make a difference – hence my desire to be part of the MSC Board and help build and improve the school for the future for the benefit of the whole community



### MICHAEL SEGERMAN

**B.A LLB**

Legal Consultant to Trusts.

Mount Sinai College is an important part of our Jewish Community and volunteering on the MSC Board is a small way to contribute and give back to our community.



### TONY SNOYMAN

**BSC Hons Actuarial Science, University of the Witwatersrand); FIA Actuarial Fellowship**

Actuary by profession but currently working with JCA on various new community initiatives.

I commit my time, the last 15 years on various community boards, out of a strong belief in the sanctity of our religion and the need for continuity and strengthening of these beliefs and traditions in the community into the future.

Tony is also the Immediate Past President of Mount Sinai College.



### JO-ANN SUCHARD

**(PhD), MCom (Hons), University of New South Wales | BCom, University of Newcastle**

Associate Professor UNSW School of Banking & Finance.

As a Board member, I am able to contribute to the growth of MSC as a leader in innovative education for our children and community.

# Grandparents and Special Friends Day





**FIVE MINUTES WITH Jo Simhi – Class of 1988**

After graduating at Mount Sinai Jo went on to complete high school at Ascham, maintaining her connection with the community through Habonim Dror. Jo then spent a year in Israel and upon returning completed a Bachelor of Industrial Design, followed by a Diploma of Interior Design. She now has her own business *Dwell by Jo* specialising in residential interior design and decoration.

### **As a student what did Mount Sinai College mean to you?**

Mount Sinai was like a family to me, truly a second home. There were about 18 kids in my entire year and we were all friends, despite having different interests and hobbies – I had weekend play dates with all the girls in my year. At the time I didn't know any different. It was only after moving on to high school (with 100 people in each year) that I realised how unique a situation it was. Now as an adult I realise how important a lesson it was – you don't know who you will end up studying with, travelling with, working with, but there are always commonalities that you can find and friendships that can be formed.

### **As a parent do you think the culture is the same all these years later?**

Absolutely – I walk through the school with my kids and even teachers who have never taught my kids know their names. There is a very strong sense of community, inclusion, encouragement and empowerment. I love that different classes take turns running the assembly and that kids are encouraged to perform musical numbers in the assembly. Whatever your child's strength or passion is, it is encouraged by the school. As a parent, that is priceless.

As a child I understood school to be a place of academic education, as a parent I understand it as one of the most definitive experiences in forming the type of person your child will be. I'm thrilled that the emphasis of community and striving to achieve your best, are still so strong.

### **You've obviously seen the school grow from inception – what is the biggest change?**

Apart from sheer size of the school, I think the biggest change is in the mindset of the school and the broader community's perception of it. When I went to Mount Sinai it was definitely the underdog – the little school in Maroubra that had just started and was finding its way. Now it is widely acknowledged as the fantastic school that it was working towards all those years ago.

### **Why did you decide to send your sons to MSC?**

There was a definitely a sentimental factor involved, and it was always going to be an option that I would explore for my kids. When it came time to seriously consider schools for my boys, everything I discovered about the ethos of the school and how this ethos was delivered cemented my views.

### **How have both boys progressed in their time at the school?**

It's still early days – Boaz is in Year 2, Tomer is in Prep and Itai will only start Apsley in 2018.

They are thriving – their teachers have been phenomenal in switching onto their personalities, and tapping into their strengths and passions. All the extra-curricular clubs and activities the school offers honestly seems like a holiday resort schedule.

### **What is your wish for the future of our College?**

My wish for the College is that it keeps going from strength to strength and that whilst it is proud of its achievements, it keeps pushing itself to be even better. I also hope that the focus continues to be not only on the academic/sporting/musical/artistic achievements of the student body, but on the calibre, mindset and Neshama of the kids going through it.

## Shailee Mendelevich – Class of 2002 – Where is she now?

Shailee is a graduate of Mount Sinai College and then Moriah, and has completed a Masters of Law, Media and Journalism at UNSW. She began her involvement in community life through AUJS, joining as a General Executive at UNSW in 2009, then becoming the UNSW Chairperson in 2010 and eventually the NSW Chairperson in 2011. She was a constituent deputy for the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies and a volunteer for the NSW Community Relations Commission. She led the AUJS Academy Program in 2012/13 and is now the Assistant Hillel Director, coming full circle in her commitment and passion for young adult engagement. She also enjoys hiking, salsa dancing and music festivals.



*Shailee working her team at The Shalom Institute.*



### When did you start at Mount Sinai College – when did you finish?

I started in preschool with Janine when I was 3 so that would be 1993! I started year K in 1996.

### Who was your most influential teacher and why?

I had so many influential teachers for so many reasons. I think Mr Foreman was a highlight for me. He helped ground the year group and instil in us a belief that we were more than what the clicks of previous years had boxed us into. He pushed me and I think I really stepped into my own skin from then on.

### How did Mount Sinai College influence your communal journey?

I am very proud to have graduated from Mount Sinai which kept me grounded in comparison to other students when we were in high school. I felt I better appreciated the gift of Jewish education. I wanted to share what I had received and the feeling of one family that is unique to Mount Sinai which is one of the key reasons that led me into Jewish community service.

If you were a primary school student now, with the advent of all the available technology – what would you love to learn?

I would love to learn coding! What a great skill and opportunity to be creative and make games as a child, as well as take those to new heights as an adult in intelligent design.

### Tell me about the favourite part of your job?

I love meeting new people and getting them excited about the possibilities of what we can create or offer which fuses their personal interests and Jewish culture in a great experience. Helping them belong.

### Why is community important to you?

Without community there is no history, memory or collective power to draw from that can inform the person you are or may one day want to become. I want to empower everyone with the choice to have those tools that can help shape and strengthen their lives.

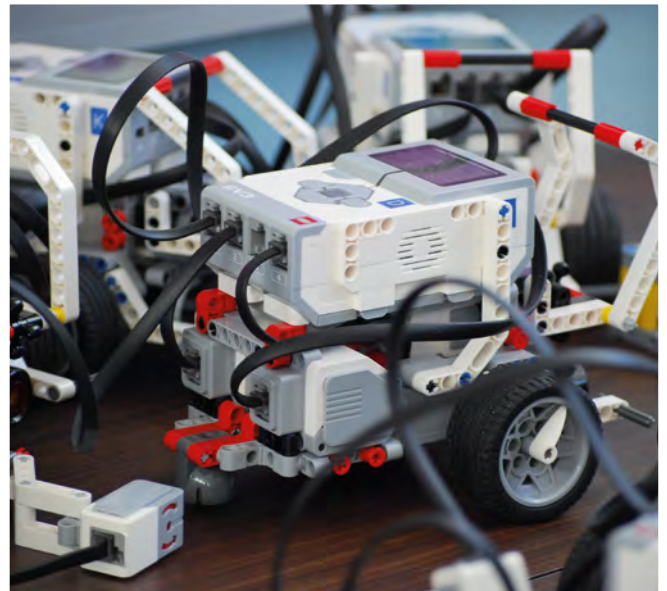
## Technology and Robotics

The College has always sought to be innovative and progressive in creating learning opportunities for students. Technology is viewed as a tool, an enabler, to enhance the learning outcomes of students across the Key Learning Areas of the Curriculum. Students started using iPads as an integral part of their learning in 2011 and since 2013 Mount Sinai College committed to providing iPads to all students from Year K to Year 6. The College has sought to meet standards which comply with the "Five Best Practices" as described by the Apple Distinguished School Program.

- Visionary Leadership
- Innovative Teaching and Learning
- Ongoing Professional Learning
- Flexible Learning Spaces
- Compelling Evidence of Success



The focus on the iPad/mobile device program at Mount Sinai College is to provide tools and resources that enable students to develop the skills and habits necessary to be successful 21st Century Learners.



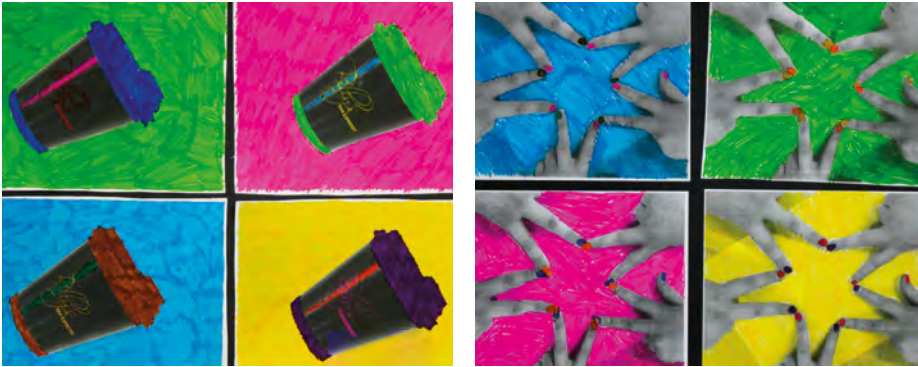
The College seeks to achieve a seamlessly integrated approach to the use of technology to enhance teaching and learning. The use of iPads/mobile devices is a way to make delivery of education more personalised, collaborative, authentic and provides the essential tools to help enable the development of 21st Century skills and ways of thinking.



The recent inclusion of the new Science Curriculum in NSW has meant that our teaching programs are being revised and enhanced to reflect changing needs. The College has a strong focus on improving student outcomes in Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). We are committed to bringing 3D printing, Minecraft, robotics, coding etc. into our learning programs purposefully. We are keen to see these become a more a natural part of what children can choose to do. Our mobile devices have enabled this shift to occur rapidly allowing students to easily design, create, code and engineer their ideas. Students have access to EV3 Lego robotics, 3D printers and drones.

“Art is not what you see but what you make others see” – Edgar Degas

These stunning artworks are on display around the hallways and in the classrooms at our College. Art is integrated widely into other Key Learning Areas which enhances curriculum relevance and extends the delivery of cross-curricular outcomes. The College also invites external art teachers into the school on an annual basis to conduct unique art classes in which every child takes part. As you can see our talented students love their craft.



## Social Media

Our social media sites are gaining momentum – please follow us – details below and be part of our online community for regular updates on what’s happening in education and at our College.



[www.facebook.com/mountsinaicommunity](http://www.facebook.com/mountsinaicommunity)

Instagram @mountsinaicollege



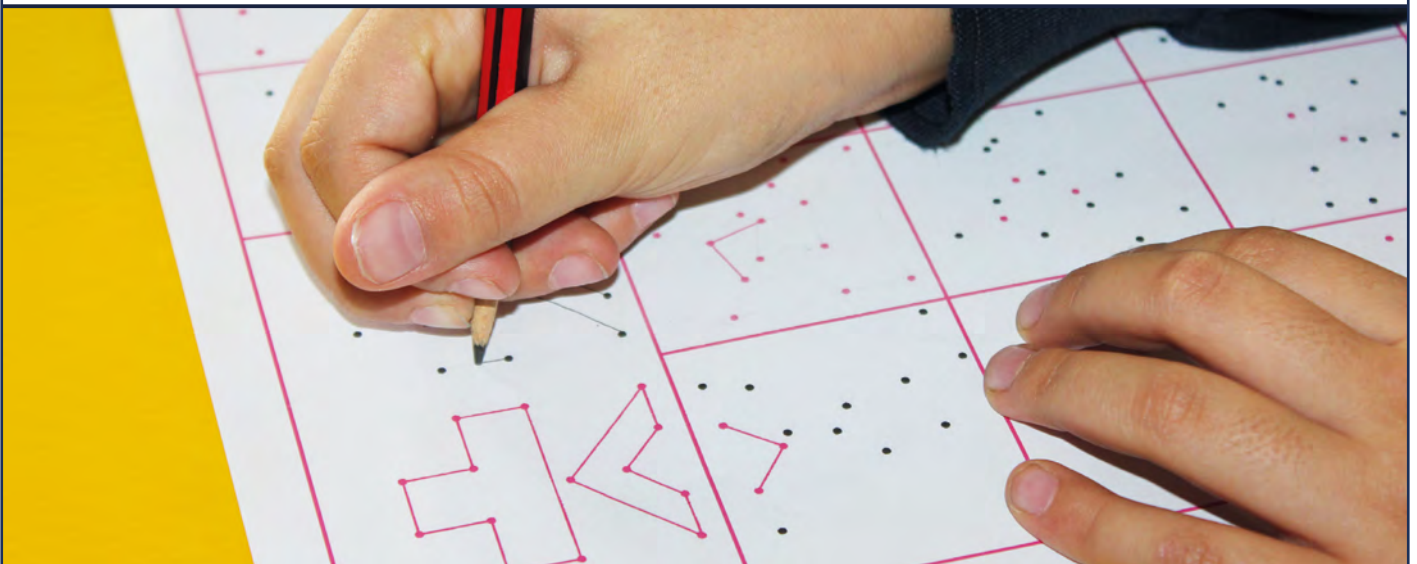
LinkedIn Official School Page:  
Mount Sinai Sydney

LinkedIn Group: Mount Sinai Eduhub



MOUNT SINAI COLLEGE  
FEUERSTEIN PROGRAM

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**FEUERSTEIN AFTERNOON PROGRAM ENROLLING NOW**  
**AFTERNOON SESSIONS AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS FROM OTHER SCHOOLS**

THE FEUERSTEIN PROGRAM FOCUSES ON HOW CHILDREN LEARN RATHER THAN JUST WHAT THEY LEARN.  
PROGRAMS ARE CURRENTLY CATERING PRIMARILY TO CHILDREN WITH:

• COGNITIVE CHALLENGES • EXPRESSIVE AND RECEPTIVE LANGUAGE DIFFICULTIES • IMPULSIVITY (ADHD)

For a confidential discussion please contact Helen Meyer on 9349 4877 or email [feuerstein@mountsinai.nsw.edu.au](mailto:feuerstein@mountsinai.nsw.edu.au)



MOUNT SINAI COLLEGE

CREATING LEARNERS FOR LIFE

# ROSH HASHANA 5777

The Mount Sinai College family wish you a healthy and prosperous new year.

