



MOUNT SINAI COLLEGE

CREATING LEARNERS FOR LIFE

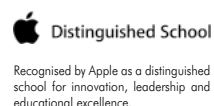
April 2018 ■ www.mountsinai.nsw.edu.au

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Tony Snoyman

Tony Snoyman: Tony Snoyman is stepping down from the Mount Sinai College Board after 15 years of service. Tony has held many Board positions, including President for 3 years. Over many years, Tony has taken leadership on, and responsibility for, many projects such as ELC; BER (Building the Education Revolution); Capital Appeals past and present and has always ensured Mount Sinai’s finances are secure. Principal Phil Roberts said, “Tony is special in that he was universally respected and liked by staff, and they, like me, always appreciated his sense of humour, his unparalleled loyalty and commitment to us all and his total devotion to the College. Very few have given and achieved so much in equal and substantial measure.”

Elana Shatari: Elana Shatari was recently awarded the ASG NEiTA Innovation Award alongside 12 other exceptional educators from across Australia. As the sole music teacher here at Mount Sinai College, Elana is often described as a ‘rarity amongst educators’. A teacher with Mount Sinai College for 23 years, Elana has woven Jewish music, singing, dance, composition and listening into the NSW Department of Education Creative Arts curriculum, allowing her students to immerse in their musical culture. Elana says she hopes to pass on the heritage of Jewish music by utilising 21st century teaching techniques and combining it with the Carl Orff and Zoltan Kodaly approach.

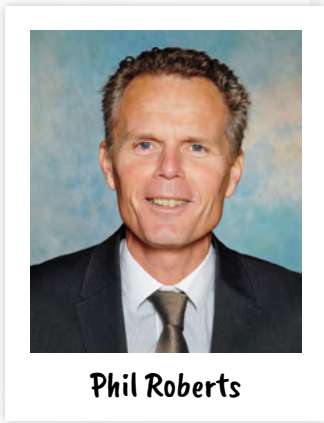


Elana Shatari



Jenna Marks

Jenna Marks: A special mention to Mount Sinai College year 6 student Jenna Marks who received the Age Champion award at this year’s ASISSA swimming carnival. Jenna’s outstanding achievement means that she is Age Champion out of all the schools attending. Jenna broke two records in Butterfly and Freestyle at this year’s swimming carnival. We wish Jenna and the other representatives a hearty good luck at the CIS Swimming Carnival, which is the next level up.



We find ourselves in the flow of 2018, even with the playground hoarded and the sounds of machinery reminding us that a new school is no longer a distant dream but a soon to be, fabulous reality. Our children seem to have adjusted to the new rooms, rules and norms within the first week, and so, school life goes on!

Term one is punctuated by Purim which always generates great cheer and the corridors echo with the distinctly familiar, stuck-in-the-head tunes, fondly reminding us that Pesach is bookending a busy term.

Richard Prowse ('Prowsie') retired end of 2017 and teases us all – generally just as we are in the busyness of the day - with photos of him strolling on Noosa Beach. Meanwhile, David Colville – our new IT Manager – appears to walk more than 10km per day around the school driving a great many initiatives. He has become a major asset to us in a short period of time.

One of David's initiatives is to work with the Mount Sinai Digital Leaders - a team of year 5 and 6 students who have the opportunity to develop leadership skills including involvement in decision making around technology and Cybersafety, and who will complete an industry standard certification they can use into the future. Quite impressive!

Our staff were all trained end of 2017 as Apple Badge Teachers. David Colville – himself an accredited trainer – ensured we all met the demanding criteria making our staff unique in being qualified in this way.

Imagine most of your staff coming into school – back to work – in the January holidays to be trained in Feuerstein! It says 2 things. Firstly, that we have a dedicated team of teachers at Mount Sinai but secondly, and more importantly, it speaks volumes about a staff that are unified in their belief in the worth and importance of teaching children how to learn.

We began the Feuerstein journey in 2014 and have since seen the benefits to so many children. Now, as we evolve the program further and move more towards a whole-school adoption, our teaching team can see how this benefits everyone. It also unifies staff in their understanding that "Intelligence is not a static structure, but an open, dynamic system that can continue to develop throughout life!" Once again, Helen Meyer has done a remarkable job in anchoring this pillar of our teaching approach firmly in the school.

Not to ignore the creative endeavours of staff, Elana Shatari, who was recently recognised as one of 12 winners in the 2017 National Excellence in Teaching Awards, flew to Melbourne to receive her national award. Drawn from ELC,



Elana Shatari (first on left) at the National Excellence in Teaching Awards

primary and secondary teachers from independent, government and Catholic schools, these 12 teachers demonstrate commitment, dedication and innovation which, incidentally, had to be thoroughly documented. Mazeltovs justly flowed her way. Whilst many teachers have been nominated for the National Excellence in Teaching Award, Elana is the only teacher who has taken this to the highest level of achievement.

As some of our photos may show, Term 1 is associated with swimming. Jenna Marks (Yr 6) broke 2 records in Butterfly and Freestyle and we sent a respectable team to the next level of achievement – ASISSA and CIS. It is good to know there are no glass ceilings when it comes to sport.

And finally, there are always those stories that go to the heart of the special quality of some. These are the stories that reflect well on students and the school and remind us all that The 6 Kinds of Best are not mere words but intentional actions. Jake Yudelman & Daniel Sidley (Yr 4) went to Coogee Beach one weekend recently to play their saxophones specifically to raise money for the Sydney Children’s hospital. Meanwhile, at the same time, Shana Baum (Yr 2) had to undertake a project for scouts one being “gemilut chassadim”. She baked biscuits for fire fighters!

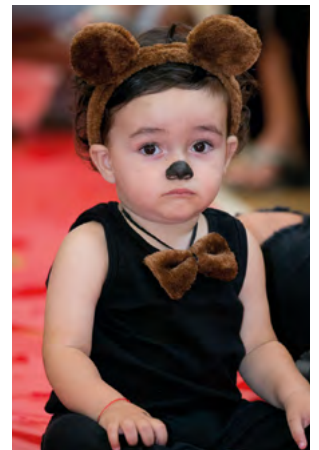
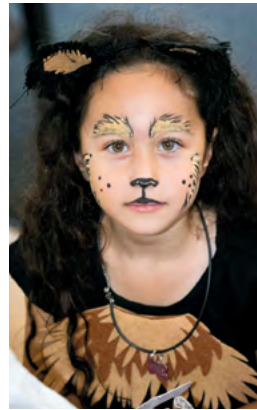
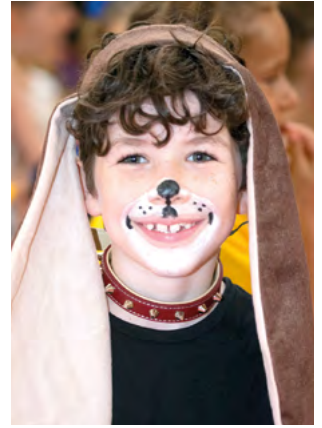
It is said that humility is not thinking less of yourself - it is thinking of yourself less. These children demonstrated those qualities that are all too often deficient in our leaders worldwide.

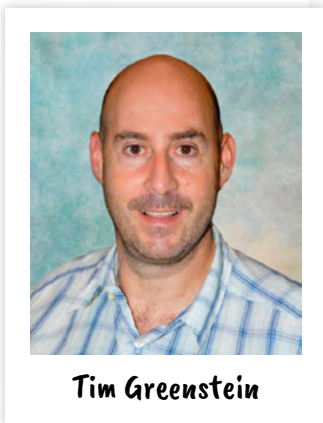
**Phil Roberts
Principal**



The Purim carnival at Mount Sinai College was a real highlight this year, with creative costumes that spanned from Princess Esther to a swimming lifeguard, an action figure spiderman, a lion and of course our fabulous teachers who collectively dressed up as builders- very appropriate indeed given our current building construction.

Photo credit: Ofer Levy





Tim Greenstein

2018 has begun at speed, following our momentous Capital Appeal last year.

We are delighted to write with news of the commencement of Phase 1 of the buildings on the Mount Sinai campus, and have begun to turn our Masterplan into a reality for our children. This is a huge advancement for the Mount Sinai community and the Sydney Jewish community as a whole. It will align our infrastructure with the innovative, cutting edge education that the College offers.

I wanted to take the opportunity again to sincerely thank Ian and Ben Levi, together with Life Governor Peter Philippsohn, for their leadership & support, throughout the Appeal process. We could not have done it without you.

Once again, a special thank you to all those who donated to last year's Capital Appeal. I can't tell you how your generosity and support will help shape an already successful start to the year. All support is greatly appreciated, and we continue to welcome support for those that would still like to be part of this change. Find out [more](#).

I also wanted to take this opportunity to thank and send warm wishes and gratitude to Tony Snoyman, who is stepping down from the Mount Sinai College Board after 15 years of service. During his time on the board, Tony has held many Board positions, including the role of President, being instrumental in many areas of the College, including the College's capital appeals, and the last significant build of the hall, and administration building during the Building Education Revolution.

I always find this time of the year, where the festivals of Purim and Pesach are upon us, a period of both reflection and inspiration.

Whilst Purim and Pesach are very different in their celebration, they share a common theme of redemption and renewal. In both cases, it is our faith and Jewish identity that have bound us together to overcome great obstacles. These important chagim, therefore give us an opportunity to reflect on what we have achieved as a community in the past, through the strength of our shared identity, but at the same time, to be inspired to renew ourselves in order to build a better future for our children.

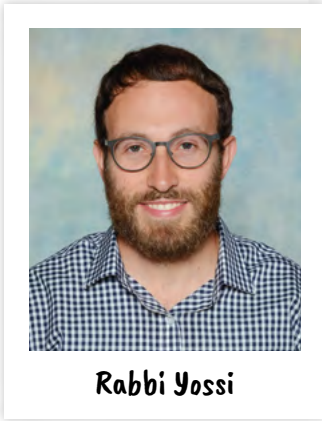
In the words of Rabbi Sacks, "We achieve greatness by handing our values onto the next generation and empowering them to go and build the future."

Through constant renewal we ensure continuity, and this is why the new Mount Sinai College campus currently being built, is a source of such excitement and inspiration. In the next 12 months phase 1 will have been completed, and the College transformed to have a new hub incorporating a new entrance, cultural kitchen, discovery centre and multiple remodelled classrooms, with new breakout areas, and new outdoor terrace area.

Passover is a time when the whole community and family get together to remember who we are and why we are here by reciting the Haggadah, Jews give their children a sense of connectedness to Jews throughout the world and to the Jewish people throughout time –

I wish you all a Chag Sameach and an enjoyable and meaningful Pesach, and encourage you all to make this a special time with your families, as well as reflect on the special community and nation that we are.

Tim Greenstein
President



Rabbi Yossi

Every year as Passover arrives, I can't help but feel sorry for the many Jewish mothers, housewives (and fathers), who spend countless hours on their hands and knees cleaning to rid their homes of the smallest crumb. I also feel for all the schoolteachers who spend countless hours training our children to retell and re-enact –in detail – the story of the Seder. Why do we place so much emphasis and make such a fuss over this particular holiday?

In 1936, the Peel Commission questioned David Ben-Gurion, then head of the Jewish Agency, concerning Jewish rights to the Land of Israel. Here is his reply:

Three hundred years ago, a ship called the Mayflower set sail to the New World. In it were Englishmen unhappy with English society and government, who sought an uninhabited coast to settle and establish a new world. They landed in America, and were among the first pioneers and builders of that land.

This was a major event in the history of England and America. But I would like to know: Is there a single Englishman who knows the exact date and hour of the Mayflower's launch? How much do American children — or grownups — know about this historic trip? Do they know how many people were in the boat? Their names? What they wore? What they ate? Their path of travel? What happened to them on the way? Where they landed?

More than 3,300 years before the Mayflower set sail, the Jews left Egypt. Any Jewish child, whether in America or Russia, Yemen or Germany, knows that his forefathers left Egypt at dawn on the 15th of Nisan. What did they wear? Their belts were tied, and their staffs were in their hands. They ate matzot, and arrived at the Red Sea after seven days. He knows the path of their journey through the desert and the events of those forty years in the desert. The child can even quote the family names from the Torah. Jews worldwide still eat matzah for seven days from the 15th of Nisan. They retell the story of the Exodus, concluding with the fervent wish, "Next Year in Jerusalem." This is the nature of the Jews.



You see, Pesach is not just 'another' festival. It is not like other memorial days or days of national celebration where we remember what happened and then have a drink. On this day we live, experience (and even taste!) our history. We eat the very same Matzah that our forebears ate on that fateful day and we eat bitter herbs to actually feel their pain. On this day our memories move from being experiences of our past to becoming our state of being.

This is why we make such a big deal about Pesach and why it's so important to bring it to life for our children. Because Pesach defines who we are as a people. On this day, we were forever changed. On this day our souls gained eternal freedom. But if our children are to continue our age-old tradition it must become 'real' to them. We must learn to translate history into living memory. And this is what takes place on Seder night each year. We all have the opportunity to bring that story of freedom further into our lives.



I hope we all seize this special time to create wonderful, proud, Jewish memories with our children and families.

Chag Pesach Kasher Vesameach,

Rabbi Yossi and Chana Raizel Friedman
College Rabbi

SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Mount Sinai College had one of our most successful swimming carnivals, with house David coming out as this year's winner! Our hardworking swimmers achieved amazing results, with many getting their first experience swimming at ASISSA level.

Every student who participated displayed great courage, determination and passion!

Kol Hakavod to everyone who participated.

Photo credit: Ofer Levy





AN EDUCATION AT MOUNT SINAI NURTURES A LIFELONG LOVE OF LEARNING AND JEWISH FAITH



**Enrolling
Now for
2019**

- Experience the benefits of our **modern new campus**
- **After school + vacation care** available (from prep onwards)
- A competitive **flat fee** offering that remains consistent from Year K-6
- **Sibling discounts**, with 2nd child receiving a 10% reduction in fees from prep onwards
- School bus service available from **College to Vacluse** with year 6 student present along the bus route

ELC: Nurturing Jewish day care, long-hours 8am-5:30pm, (4pm Fridays), ages 2.5+




PREPARATORY: 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

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Email rschwartz@mountsinai.nsw.edu.au to find out more!

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THE MOUNT SINAI FAMILY
WISH YOU PESACH
KASHER V'SAMEACH



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