



MOUNT SINAI COLLEGE

CREATING LEARNERS FOR LIFE

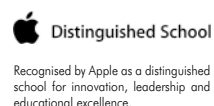
September 2018 ■ www.mountsinai.nsw.edu.au

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Phil Roberts

I hope you enjoy flipping through this edition of B'Yachad. It certainly gives a glimpse into the opportunities and events that have defined the College of late.

Rozanna Pleshet (Coordinator of Jewish Studies and Infants Coordinator) and I were most fortunate to be able to attend the inaugural Jewish Leaders' Conference held in Israel during the July holidays. There was a great deal we gained from the experience and like any good conference, some changes in our understanding and approach to teaching Hebrew and Jewish Studies should be the expectation. There is nothing more important than adopting an approach to teaching Hebrew (or any subject for that matter) that is based on highly regarded research.

The conference took place in Jerusalem and provided us with ample opportunity to meet educators and leaders from around the world. Some were leaders of Jewish schools whilst others were leaders of schools where Jewish students were present. We spent time hearing about the common challenges and shared values that bind us.

There was a sense that the emphasis is shifting somewhat from 'Diaspora for Israel' to 'Israel for Diaspora' and where better to start than for Naftali Bennett (Minister for Diaspora Affairs) to welcome educators from all quarters of the globe. We both found it fascinating and beneficial working with people from South America, Europe, Russia, The Balkans, etc.

After a great deal of work, the College has been awarded as an Apple Distinguished School for another triennium. Whilst we all feel proud of this achievement, we all recognise that people are often left with that vague look which suggests: "What on earth is an Apple Distinguished School?"

Firstly, the designation recognizes outstanding schools and programs that are the centre of innovation, leadership, and educational excellence, and that demonstrate Apple's vision of exemplary learning environments.

Apple Distinguished Schools – and Mount Sinai is an exemplar here – inspire creativity, collaboration and critical thinking. The environment is designed to encourage students and teachers to explore new approaches for learning and teaching. The environment integrates technology to support deeper student learning and teaching practices and the environment is redesigned to respond to and enable innovative learning and teaching opportunities with technology.

This focus has enabled us to be clearer about our vision statement viz: **Mount Sinai College strives to build a community of transformative learning with integrity embedded in Modern Orthodox Jewish values.** I am particularly excited about the possibilities for expressing this vision further with the school's physical transformation.

It is worth remembering that we have been equally focussed on student wellbeing and a great deal of work has gone into this using Kidsmatter as a framework. A school that gives equal priority to our students' social and emotional wellbeing is – by definition – one focussed on Jewish values.

Phil Roberts
College Principal



The countdown begins, as we start moving closer to the completion of our new College campus!

You should now be able to see a little more of the completed works and what's been happening behind the closed-off barricades for much of the renovations.



This area shown in the photos, once completed, will be the main central entrance and community focused hub. It will also be the area where the Blue Sky classrooms are built, the Cultural Kitchen (canteen) and where additional classrooms are located.

Much of the work over the past month has been on the terrace at the front of the College. All the scaffolding on the ground floor is removed and the builders have started to focus on the upstairs construction of the terrace and the stairway entrance to the College hall. Concrete has been poured and laid on the upper levels of the terrace, and have started to assemble all the framing for the balconies.





A large crane was used to transport all the steel required for the classrooms. The joinery work has started in classrooms and break-out spaces, as well as the stonework used for the external face of the cultural centre wall, have started.



On the inside, significant progress has been made with plastering and installation of internal glass fitted in all the classrooms and the Discovery Centre. It is wonderful to see the new College entryway being designed downstairs.

We're incredibly excited to see the building taking shape and on path to completion!

Once again, Mount Sinai College would like to extend a warm thank you for your support. As the College embarks on its journey of building contemporary, collaborative learning spaces we know this will only enhance the quality of Jewish and secular education. Your contribution to the College, both past and present is greatly appreciated.

MOUNT SINAI COLLEGE NAMED APPLE DISTINGUISHED SCHOOL 2018-2020



Mount Sinai College is pleased to announce that for a third designation, we've been recognised as an Apple Distinguished School for 2018–2020. The selection of Mount Sinai College as an Apple Distinguished School highlights our success as an innovative and compelling learning environment, that engages students and provides tangible evidence of academic accomplishment.

Mount Sinai College has embraced technology as both a teaching tool as well as developing skills where students use technology to solve problems. This is not just about learning coding and robotics but learning a new way of thinking.

The College has adopted Apple's Challenge Based Learning approach, which allows students to leverage technology to answer their own questions about a scientific phenomenon or social action they want to change. It helps them learn in a way that is meaningful to them. For example, during a Science class students are able to get much more engaged with their journals by heading off to the park, taking pictures, annotating and re-presenting these back using a host of multimedia resources.

'When you watch a child's eyes light up because they've built something using technology, that's just irreplaceable – it's more impactful than just regurgitating facts,' says Phil Roberts, Principal at MSC.

Being an Apple Distinguished School also means we use technology to modernise the way we educate. One-to-one iPads are provided to our K-6 students at no extra cost. Like a pencil or notebook, the iPad is an essential learning tool in the Mount Sinai College classroom. Our children are often required to present back their schoolwork using video from their iPads. For example, students record themselves reading their classwork, using and describing what they've made, how it works and their own analysis of the outcomes. Or during P.E class while students are participating in high jump, they're recording the motion of jumping and replaying it for themselves on their individual iPad to analyse their form and style and identify where improvements need to be made.

Parents can also have a much richer engagement in their child's school experiences by viewing, discussing and interacting with their child's work using a free app.

Technology allows us to redefine what learning looks like and embed the core skills of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) into our classrooms on a daily basis. Embracing STEM at a Primary school age transforms the learning experience into a real-world context at a much earlier stage of life, broadening our students' perspectives and opportunities as they enter high school.

Mount Sinai College are leaders in the technology space and want to equip your children to be leaders in the world of tomorrow.

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Rabbi Yossi

Achieving forgiveness – does an SMS or Facebook message work?

I was approached by one of our school students with a question relating to forgiveness. She had said something mean to a peer and was asking me if it would suffice to leave an apology note. It reminded me of a question I was asked about three years ago regarding the use of Facebook or SMS to achieve atonement.

Some four years ago, *The Israeli Daily* release a satirical article claiming that American president Obama removed Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu as his Facebook 'friend'. Let's play the hypothetical. What if Obama wanted to ask forgiveness from Netanyahu?

Would a new 'friend request' or personal message suffice?

Judaism differentiates between two types of crimes. There are those committed against G-d (such as breaking Shabbat or eating on Yom Kippur) and those committed against another person (such as stealing or spreading gossip). 'Repentance, Prayer and Charity' are considered the ways to redeem oneself from sins against G-d. But sins committed against another person can only be atoned for by obtaining forgiveness from the person first. Interestingly, if one repents and requests forgiveness on several, separate occasions and is still denied forgiveness, the transgression is transferred to the one refusing to forgive!

So can one attain forgiveness via text, the Internet and social media? I think this would depend on the nature of the wrongdoing. For small, less complex matters maybe. But for those more serious wrongdoings, sending a text message or email may be an inappropriate and cowardly method of trying to obtain a cheap, quick redemption. In such circumstances looking the other person in the eye and apologising would be the most courageous and appropriate way to go.

So would a mere apology note work for my student? Possibly, but in the end, she summoned the courage to face her friend face-to-face and they are once again best of friends!

I wish you all a Shana Tova umetukah – a year filled with joy, prosperity, lots of family time and good, genuine friendships.

Rabbi Yossi Friedman
College Rabbi



SIDDUR PRESENTATION

On Friday 31 August, Rabbi Yossi presented our MSC Year 1 students with their very first siddurs! This occasion is a tradition embraced by the College since its inception. The ceremony is always filled with such pride, joy and celebration. Mazel Tov to our MSC Year 1 cohort.





Tim Greenstein

Rosh Hashanah marks the start of a new year and is celebrated by greeting one another with the words **shana tovah u'metukah**, Hebrew for "a good and sweet new year." It's an important moment for reflecting on the previous year, appreciating the good moments, whilst also planning and hoping for a fruitful year ahead.

Furthermore, Rosh Hashanah is a time when family and friends come together, ushering in the New Year with our nearest and dearest whilst opening homes for those who are on their own. It is important as part of this celebration, not only to remember where we have come from as a nation but to teach our impressionable children about our shared history. The value we, as parents, place on Jewish values and traditions, and how we impart these ensure continuity.

Looking back, the dedication that Principal Phil Roberts and his team put into this community over the past year, and every year, and the focus placed on each and every child, cannot be compared. The fact that every teacher at MSC is trained in Feuerstein, speaks volumes about a staff that are unified in their belief in the worth and importance of teaching children *how to learn*.

Another great achievement for the year which we wish to celebrate, is that Mount Sinai has been recognised as an Apple Distinguished School 2018-2020 for a third triennium. By integrating technology into learning and teaching, our children learn the skills that will prepare them for the economy of the future. It allows us to redefine what learning looks like and embed the core skills of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) into literacy, numeracy, science, geography and physical education on a daily basis. We prepare students to be creative and critical thinkers in navigating a world of accelerating pace.

And as we look to the year ahead, there is a great buzz in the air, as it marks the first year our children will get to learn, play, laugh, sing and pray together in the newly built College campus.

With what is set to be a ground breaking, new generation campus, that houses some of Australia's best educators, our children will have unparalleled opportunities to learn, grow and become learners for life, in an environment specially built to meet the needs of the future. The imagery of the campus construction (*seen in construction section*) show that we are on course to meet our targeted deadlines and tracking within budget.

In the year to come I believe that our children will be lifted to new heights and with Mount Sinai's continued focus on care and support our children will perform to their own potential. We can all take comfort knowing they are being educated at a wonderful College that is at the forefront of education and also part of an amazing community we all refer to as the 'Mount Sinai College Mishpocha'.

Wishing you all a Shana Tova u'Metuka and an easy fast.

Tim Greenstein
College President



ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

The 2018 Mount Sinai Athletics Carnival was a day full of excitement, energy, house spirit and broken records! A large number of school records were broken in the 800m (Jade Lawrence, Harley Brown, Jenna Marks) as well as high jump (Sienna Raber) and shot put (Dylan Judd, Jordan Segal). A huge Kol HaKavod goes out to Tali Baltineshter, who broke three records (discus, shot put and long jump). This is an achievement not seen in years and a very special way to end her final carnival at Mount Sinai College.

Photo credit: Ofer Levy



GRANDPARENT'S DAY



ELC & PREP SHABBAT WITH PARENTS AND FRIENDS



BOOK WEEK



SHOWFEST PICS





Nicole Goodman (Maiden Name: Cousens)

WHAT ARE YOUR FONDEST MEMORIES OF MSC?

There are so many memorable moments, but what really sticks out is how close we were as a cohort and the warm relationships we had with children (and their families) throughout the school. As a year K student, I remember one particular year 6 student regularly played with me. I still have a relationship with her today! Then 6 years later, I did the same with the year K and 1 students, myself. I also remember representing the school in the choir, debating team, Israeli dancing performances and in the school netball team, especially when in year 6 we finally won a netball game against the top Moriah team, which led us to run around the courts screaming at the top of our lungs 'we beat Moriah'!

WHAT WERE SOME OF THE VALUES AND BELIEFS MSC INSTILLED IN YOUR SCHOOL LIFE GROWING UP?

The loving, caring, family environment that the school provided taught us to look after one another, help people in need and work together as a team, rather than compete with each other. I always felt like I was still part of this special family, even after moving onto high school and beyond. I still embrace these important values and encourage them in my own children.

HOW DID MSC NURTURE YOUR JEWISH IDENTITY AND BELIEFS?

To this day, I still remember the Jewish education I received, which has had a long-lasting impact on my own identity as a Jewish individual. After Mount Sinai, I did not go to a Jewish high school but have never felt like I missed out on anything that a high school would provide, as I received it all at Mount Sinai. Now that my daughter is at the MSC ELC and the amazement I'm often in when she tells me about all of the Jewish festivals, as well as the songs, prayers and Hebrew she has learnt at just 3 years old, it encourages us as a family even more to embrace our religion.



Mirah Teichtahl (Maiden name: Agami)

WHAT ARE YOUR FONDEST MEMORIES OF MSC?

My fondest memories are the warmth of the environment and being given the incredible opportunities and support to try out, enjoy, and excel across the board – which as a female, I highly value. I remember being the *Modern Major General* in the *Pirates of Penzance* and having so much hair that it held the helmet up above my head! Laughs aside, being given that opportunity was breaking boundaries.

DID MSC NURTURE YOUR JEWISH IDENTITY AND BELIEFS?

The Jewish Studies teachers were warm, loving and kind. That spoke to me. I remember Mrs Berger and Morah Aloni very fondly and they were excellent role models for the kind of Jewish female leaders who can exist in this world. Rabbi Freilich – a very kind and personable man and a wonderful, engaging teacher – taught me for my Bat Mitzvah and I felt warmly welcomed into his family. I believe having the synagogue as an integral part of the school was hugely impactful and at the beginning that's where our classes were.

DID MSC NURTURE YOUR DREAMS OF BECOMING A LIFE COACH FOR WOMEN?

MSC really allowed me to explore the different aspects of life and possible contribution. I see myself as a leader and I had the good fortune to be MSC house captain of David, prefect, and school captain in Year 6. This is a communication through action that women can lead in the world and an opportunity to experience it. I wasn't limited at all in my education at MSC. Rather, the sky was the limit. It was about reaching, performing, experiencing as far as I wanted to go within safe boundaries. That's what nurturing is to me.

I credit MSC with providing me with the very stable, solid, high-level launch pad I needed to go out into the real world and discover who I really am and what I am here to contribute. Infinite gratitude to my teachers, my parents of course, the school staff and the school board who all joined to make a dream into a reality. More recently it has been very heartening to return to the school as a parent of a special needs child and learn how to become a Feuerstein Mediator – again groundbreaking work from MSC. Thank you!

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



L-R: Dana Skalsky and Jonathan Airey

Alumni Engagements

- Gabriella Glick (class of 2004) to Moshe Engelman
- Gila Rudansky (class of 2007) to Michi Weiner
- Ashley Feldman (class of 2004) to Terri Belnick

Alumni Weddings

- Isabel Krutik (class of 1991) to Dan Mousley
- Dana Skalsky (class of 1999) to Jonathan Airey
- Simon Friedlander (class of 1997) to Diana Bass
- Michael Weiss (class of 1998) to Aaron Hughes

Alumni Births

- Da-vid Rosenthal (class of 1995)
- Michael Di Veroli (class of 2001)
- Daniel Segal (class of 1995)

Leadership at Moriah

Three Mount Sinai ex collegians were selected to the newly structured Moriah leadership team.

- Damon Glick – Music Captain
- Zac Moses – Communication captain
- Talia Shulkin – Sports captain
- Oliver Segerman re: 2018 Changemakers Award (class of 2014)



L-R: Michi Weiner and Gila Rudansky



L:R Meir Simcha, wife: Rachel Rosenthal, Da-vid Rosenthal, baby: Binyamin Yaakov, Shira (older daughter), Sarah Liba, and Chaim



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Shana
Tova

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

