



# MOUNT SINAI COLLEGE

## CREATING LEARNERS FOR LIFE

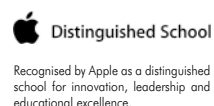
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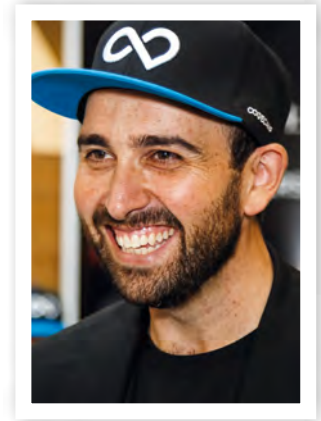
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Welcome to 2017. It's a huge year for Mount Sinai College with the launch of the Masterplan and the College's largest ever Capital Appeal. College leadership is on a journey to ensure that we are equipped with the best learning facilities to teach and inspire our students to be prepared for the 21st century.

We were approached to co-chair the 2017 Mount Sinai Capital Appeal early this year and as a former president (1992-1996) and a former student (1988-1994) the opportunity to say no was very quickly dismissed. We are both committed to the success of the College and are passionate about its future.

Once on board we reflected on the College's progress and process to get us to this point. We are pleased to report that there has been extensive, but low-key preparation in the lead up to being awarded the 2017 Capital Appeal opportunity by JCA. With funds raised from the previous Capital Appeal in 2006 the College has been able to purchase a key property adjoining the existing campus and had the Masterplan approved with a Complying Development Certificate (CDC). None of this would have been possible without the support of all donors, most recently the 2006 Capital Appeal donors, and we take this opportunity to thank them.

So what will a successful appeal look like?

The College commenced in the rear of Maroubra Synagogue in 1981 and was then housed in demountable classrooms until the construction of our first school building in 1993, followed by an additional building in 2009, both based on a post-industrial concept of schooling.



*Demountable classrooms circa 1985*



*Playground circa 1985*



*Runic Lane circa 1985*

A successful Capital Appeal will enable the creation of flexible, versatile, innovative and collaborative learning spaces to complement the curriculum and prepare students as future leaders, equipping them appropriately for the workplace that awaits them.

As an Apple Distinguished School, Mount Sinai College takes its place amongst 400 schools worldwide with this designation – a real testament to the integration of technology into the College. Educators from other schools often visit Mount Sinai to see what best practice in iPad integration looks like – they come to learn from us and value the opportunity to do so. Whilst our technology is second to none, it is now time for our physical facilities to keep pace with the progress of our technology to deliver the future needs of our students.

This is an exciting time to be part of the Mount Sinai College community and we look forward to working with you to make this a reality.

Wishing you Chag Sameach.

**Ian and Ben Levi**  
**Co-Chairs**  
**Mount Sinai College 2017 Capital Appeal**



# FIRST DAY OF YEAR K

Mount Sinai College welcomed 41 children to Year K in 2017. Mount Sinai College acknowledges the journey from Preschool to Year 6 as the formative years of your child's development and we actively promote that desire to learn in every student. Making extensive use of Harvard University's Visible Thinking Routines, students are introduced to a flexible and systematic research-based approach to integrating their thinking with visible content learning across subject matters. This learning approach has two goals – to cultivate the child's thinking skills and dispositions and to deepen content learning. Thinking dispositions promote curiosity in learning, concern for truth and understanding and help develop a creative mindset and an eagerness to enquire.





I simply had to include this photo of four of my previous students who came to the College recently to say hello. Evie Binet, Mark Richards, Ronit Turner and Tania Brodie – all now 30 something and with children (where they have them) attending Mount Sinai. There's no doubt the school of today they walk through is vastly different to the school they spent their time at in 1990. However, as much as our approach to teaching, adoption of new technologies and personalisation of learning is reshaping the educational landscape, there are still some common, recognisable elements that define our College.

Their children may well have 15-20 jobs across five or six careers as the workforce becomes interdisciplinary with new jobs being created that do not yet exist. And yet, schools must educate for social and emotional skills – and that's always been a focus for our College. The OECD's (2015) Skills for Social Progress: The Power of Social and Emotional Skills report states that educating for cognitive skills development alone is not enough. Social and emotional skills such as perseverance and sociability are now recognised as vital requirements for children and young people if they are to be ready for a swiftly changing world. These skills significantly determine the kinds of educational, social, economic, health and well-being outcomes a person can expect to experience throughout their lifetime. Mount Sinai plays a central role in fostering the development and growth of these skills, from pre-school onwards.

Social and emotional skills – also known as non-cognitive skills – fall into three broad categories: **achieving goals** (which include perseverance, self-control, and passion for goals); **working with others** (sociability, respect, caring) and **managing emotions** (self-concept, optimism, confidence).

Within each of these three categories is a range of skills that play important functions across a wide variety of life situations regardless of age.

Of these, sociability and conscientiousness that are embedded in the three categories above were identified as key skills valued globally. The capacity to achieve goals, work with others and manage emotions were identified as drivers of success over the life course. 21st century skills such as critical thinking and creativity have also been identified as important. What we know, is that these skills also have cognitive and social and emotional dimensions. As much as we have changed, I am sure our former students will always recognise that Mount Sinai is, and has always been about all of these dimensions.

**Phil Roberts**  
Principal

Purim celebrations were characteristically joyous at Mount Sinai College. It was a culmination of a wonderful learning experience that spanned over the three weeks ensuring that all our students fulfilled the four mitzvot of Purim – 1. Reading the Megillah, 2. Giving of Mishloach Manot, 3. Enjoying a Seudah, or festive meal, 4. Matanot La'evyonim – giving to the needy.

Thanks to the many people who contributed to making it all happen!

Photo credit: Ofer Levy





I take this opportunity to reconnect with you after the December/January break that seems like a long time ago. The year has started off at an intense pace and here we are with Pesach upon us.

The College has, as always, been in overdrive the past few weeks with demonstration Seders and teaching our students about the traditions around this Jewish festival.

It is a time to reflect once again on how our people have risen above adversity and how we continue to thrive.

Each year at our Pesach Seder I find it particularly significant that our children are the focal point of the proceedings.

As the President of a Jewish day school that is committed to fostering and developing ethical behaviour derived from the Jewish moral and spiritual heritage, I see how we empower our students to navigate the future with a clear moral purpose and confident understanding of their traditions and religion. I see it play out at my own family's Seder table.

It is the reason that we send our children to Mount Sinai College. The Jewish Studies and Hebrew curriculum are adapted to suit the needs of 21st century learners. This learning is at the heart of all we do at the school – equipping each student with the tools and knowledge to develop their own Jewish Identity, which actively ensures Jewish continuity.

And Pesach is about Jewish continuity. From the enslavement of the Jews in Egypt to the exodus to our arrival in Eretz Yisrael.

So as the youngest member of the family sings Ma Nish'Tana at your Seder, take a moment to reflect on how important it is that our children are infused with a love of Judaism and Yiddishkeit so that they too can continue the traditions that we consider so much a part of our people.

While spiritually igniting the *ner tamid* of learning in each child through our Jewish Life programs it is my hope, that our vision of continuing to teach our children, will be strengthened through creating inspiring learning spaces for our current and future Mount Sinai generations.

To view our Masterplan vision [click here](#). Together, with your support I hope we can make this a reality.

I wish you all Chag Sameach.

**Tim Greenstein**  
President



Festivals are eagerly anticipated, prepared for and celebrated at Mount Sinai College. Wherever possible, family members and members of the extended Mount Sinai community are invited to join us. We hosted Pesach seders across all the year groups which were interactive and ensured that all pupils participated. Pupils learn extensively about each Chag before they are celebrated. Jewish Learning encapsulates the heartbeat of our school, equipping each student with the tools and knowledge to further develop their own Jewish Identity, which actively ensures Jewish continuity.

Photo credit: Ofer Levy





Never before in the history of humanity, have we witnessed so many achievements in human endeavor. Current developments in fields such as medicine, the sciences, technology and innovation have reached unprecedented levels and would have been unheard of only decades ago. In this day and age it would appear that we are really only limited to the size of our dreams.

Yet dreams alone are not enough. While dreams may provide flashes of vision or inspiration, without ongoing **education**, these dreams will quickly pass away. It is only through the transmission of knowledge, values, traditions and customs – that our dreams become substantial and infused with meaning, capable of inspiring ourselves and others. Only through the process of ongoing education and training can we develop the capabilities of turning our dreams into reality.

In just over one week from the writing of this article, Jews across the globe will come together to celebrate the Festival of Passover, also known as, the Festival of Freedom. On this night, we will gather around our family tables to retell the early beginnings of our people and in particular their miraculous story of deliverance from ancient Egyptian bondage that occurred some three and a half thousand years ago. This night is the most celebrated evening in the Jewish calendar, even more than Yom Kippur. Interestingly, the structure of our discussion at the Seder takes a peculiar format – that of question and answer. Why? Because this will intrigue the children! In fact, the whole Haggadah can be summarized in just two words – “Vehigadetah levinecha”, “You must instruct your child!” You see, the composers of the Haggadah understood that the secret to Jewish survival lies in our ability to effectively educate and pass on our traditions to the next generation. They realised that only through engaging and meaningful education will our youth feel empowered and proud to become the next link in a very long Jewish chain.

As I welcome a newborn son into the world, Yehuda Isaac, I ponder as to what kind of a world he will be living in and how I can most effectively teach this child the knowledge and skills that will be necessary for him to survive and thrive as a proud Jew and committed citizen. I know that most parents wonder the same and only want the very best for their child and family. Yet as I reflect I realize that we are truly fortunate to live in the generation that we do, in a country such as ours, and to be a part of our special Maroubra/Mount Sinai Jewish community – a community committed to ongoing education, innovation and belief in the dreams and abilities of the individual. I know that it is only from within communities such as ours that the next generation will emerge strengthened in their identities and empowered to pursue their dreams.

So at this time of year we should celebrate as we reflect upon our nation’s history, our practices and achievements. And let us also further strengthen our support for our wonderful community in helping it create greater opportunities for learning and education.

**Rabbi Yossi Friedman**  
College Rabbi

# SWIMMING CARNIVAL

This year's swimming carnival was a hotly contested competition between houses Meir, David and Monash with David emerging victorious. Kol Hakavod to everyone who participated.

Photo credit: Ofer Levy





**Camilla Hirsch**  
Year 6, 2011



**Saul Oberstein**  
Year 6, 2011

The Mount Sinai College family are so proud that our former school captains from 2011 Cami Hirsch and Saul Oberstein have been selected as Moriah College's School Captains for 2017. What an incredible achievement.

**For you, what was the best thing about Mount Sinai College?**

Mount Sinai was like one big family to me and I felt so comfortable there. The teachers know every student and its community spirit creates a nurturing environment.

**Did Mount Sinai College help you in your journey in becoming Moriah's School Captains?**

I definitely think Mount Sinai helped shape who I am today. I valued the school's priorities of caring for the community, environment and others. The lessons were invaluable and I became a better person for it.

**What do you think the most important quality of leadership is?**

I think one of the most important leadership qualities is a strong sense of responsibility to those who are being led and to co-leaders. I believe in leading by example with collaboration to encourage others to do the same.

**What are your plans for the future?**

I'm considering a few different university courses, hopefully after a year of travel.

**What advice would you give a young student at Mount Sinai College about their education journey?**

It is important to remember that school experiences are what you make of them so take every opportunity and get involved!

**For you, what was the best thing about Mount Sinai College?**

Mount Sinai College is a small and tight knit community that acts like a family. Its warm and welcoming nature allows all types of kids to feel comfortable and secure.

**Did Mount Sinai College help you in your journey in becoming Moriah's School Captains?**

Mount Sinai gave me the opportunity to excel.

The warm school environment gave me the confidence and support to develop the qualities that were valuable to becoming a leader at Moriah. Additionally Mount Sinai College gave me lifelong friendships that I still treasure today.

**What do you think the most important quality of leadership is?**

Standing up for what you believe it important. It also involves leading from behind and by example, and includes stepping up to do your part.

**What are your plans for the future?**

As the moment I am not really sure but as Mr Levy wrote on my Mount Sinai Year 6 jersey 'The world is your oyster.' I plan on spending some time in Israel next year, and then coming back to Australia to complete a commerce degree. More importantly, I know that I will strive to become an active member of the Sydney Jewish community, using the skills that I developed during my schooling in order to give back.

**What advice would you give a young student at Mount Sinai College about their education journey?**

Get involved. Be yourself. Learn from your mistakes. Remember to smile, have fun along the way, and no setback is ever the end of the world because it all works out in the end.

# THE MOUNT SINAI FAMILY WISH YOU PESACH KASHER V'SAMEACH



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