



MASSADA COLLEGE ADELAIDE INC.

Incorporating Victor & Odette Ades Memorial Kindergarten
ביה"ס "מצדה", אדלייד, כולל גן ילדים ע"ש ויקטור ואודט אדים

MASSADA MUSINGS

18th August, 2006
24th Av, 5766

Volume 10, Issue No. 10

FOR YOUR ATTENTION

Term III Fees now due



Special Group
Photographs
Last chance to order
(see p.3)



Student Free Day
8th September
(see p.3)

IN THIS ISSUE

- Jewish Educators' Conference
- Activities Week
- Business Manager's Hours
- Student Free Day

DIARY DATES

21st—25th August—Book Week
 21st August—JSHAA Festival of Music
 24th August—Museum Visit – Rec.—Year 3
 25th August—Kindy Open Shabbat
 31st August—"Who Sank the Boat" - K-3

Shabbat Begins: 5.24 p.m.
Shabbat Ends: 6.25 p.m.
Parasha: Re'Eh

Massada College Adelaide Inc.
 Telephone: + 61 8 8338 2800
 Facsimile: + 61 8 8338 2455

Victor & Odette Ades Memorial Kindergarten
 Director: Tammy Bolaffi
 Telephone: + 61 8 8338 3098
 Facsimile: + 61 8 8338 2455

13 Flemington Street, Glenside, S.A. 5065
 P.O. Box 112, Glenside, S.A. 5065 Australia
 Email: reception@massada.sa.edu.au
 Website: http://www.massada.sa.edu.au

FROM THE BOARD

This week we would like to communicate some important issues that are outstanding. The most important: A Principal for Massada College.

Kathy Cresswell our Year 2/3 teacher is effectively assuming the role of acting-principal until a new full-time principal can be found. Kathy is doing an excellent job but is looking forward to resuming her full-time teaching role. Currently, we are facing a shortage of qualified and available principals throughout Australia. The Board has put feelers out and is advertising for a principal through both the Independent Schools Council (AISSA), the Jewish Schools Association, as well as through the many personal networks we can draw upon. We have done initial advertising in the press and plan to advertise nationally if necessary. Given the urgency of the situation we are considering taking a retired interim principal to give the daily guidance to our teachers, particularly where the Board cannot. We have a potential candidate and the interview process will take place within the next week. You will be kept up to date with this matter.

The issue of security of Massada College

and our students during this sensitive time is pressing. There was a meeting held at the school where this issue was discussed and John Zoanetti has been in touch with the South Australian Police and the National Community Services Group in determining the level of risk. Currently, the level of risk is extremely low, although we are nevertheless taking a cautious approach. The safety of children, parents, and staff are a priority in our view. You would have noted that the lock on the pedestrian gate has been repaired - it can no longer be opened without a card, key or from reception - and we are ensuring that the double gates are kept closed to keep the flow of children, parents and visitors to a manageable level. We will also be instituting a parents roster to assist with patrols at critical times, specifically to provide the required vigilance and deterrents.

To answer that burning question - **No, Massada College is not closing!** There has been significant financial assistance provided by a number of very generous persons to manage the daily running of the school. *Cont'd overleaf*

PARASHA: RE'EH

Moses speaks to the Israelites about the laws that will govern their lives once they have conquered and inhabit Israel. Among the many instructions they receive are rules pertaining to the foods that they are permitted to eat as well as those they are not allowed to eat.

The laws of *kashrut* determine that Jews are not allowed to eat whatever they may want, and even the permitted foods must be prepared in a special way. While there are many misconceptions about the reasons for the dietary laws, Judaism teaches that, even in our own day, observing the laws of *kashrut* can turn the simple act of consuming food into a sacred and holy act and lead to a richer and more fulfilling Jewish life.

Throughout the ages, many attempts have been made to explain the laws of *kashrut*. The Torah itself does not explain them, although in three separate passages the Torah implies that the purpose of these laws is to make us holy. (Leviticus 11:44-45 and 20:26)

In a letter by Aristaeus, an unknown Egyptian Jew (probably of the first century B.C.E.) he states that the dietary laws are meant to instil people with a spirit of justice, and to teach them certain moral lessons. Thus, the rule against eating birds of prey was intended to demonstrate that people should not prey on others. (Encyclopedia Judaica 6:42)

Following the laws of *kashrut* can be very challenging in our society. According to Rabbi Samuel Dresner, *kashrut* demands sacrifice, self-discipline and determination. It demands the courage to turn our face against the powerful current of conformity that almost overcomes us daily. The goal of *kashrut* is holiness... It is part of Judaism's attempt to hallow the common act of eating which is an aspect of our animal nature

Adapted from Shabbat Table Talk: UAHC

FROM THE BOARD CONT'D.

We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to our many donors and contributors (many who have chosen to remain anonymous). We have been given permission to thank the following four benefactors by name, the Victor Smorgon Charitable Fund (Melbourne), Bori & Helen Liberman Family (Melbourne), Gandel Charitable Trust (Melbourne) and Garry & Klee Benveniste (Adelaide). Our gratitude also encompasses an additional six benefactors who will remain anonymous until naming releases have been provided.

Thank you! You have directly helped the children of our community to keep their school.

A big thank-you also goes out to Richard Bolaffi who has been active in securing these donations. Richard has been drawing on his significant connections within the national Jewish community as well as on his own talents as a strategic fundraiser. Massada College is indebted to Richard's efforts.

As you all know, Massada College has been greatly in need of working capital. So critical has been the financial problems prior to this new board taking office that there was a danger of not being able to pay salaries. The new Board is working hard to rectify the problems. An investigation into the financial problems and their resolution is currently being undertaken by the Board's Treasurer, Sheryl Lee who is assisted by Irina Sverdlov. Sheryl runs a bookkeeping and financial business. Irina is taking over from Rainer on a part time basis and is proving to be both extremely effective and efficient in the execution of these duties. Sheryl and Irina are working very hard to ensure that Massada covers debts, pays all bills and has daily and long-term viability.

Finally, there is a full operational and strategic review currently taking place. This is focusing on how to provide a cost effective school where excellence in education is the minimum standard.

We have already achieved a number of cost reductions with other operational changes still to come. The review and its outcomes will embrace many aspects of the school: enhanced and innovative education, additional offerings, funding and finance, curriculum, marketing, website, concessions, structure changes and more.

There is a tremendous amount of work to get through and the Board is working diligently to set these innovations in place. These will be actioned in the coming months. It does take time and effort so please bear with us.

We would like to thank the community for your support and at the risk of being repetitious, for any questions or concerns please contact the President of the Board Shaun Lee on tel: 0409-319-570 or email shaun.lee@eds.com for clarification.

Regards to all,

Shaun Lee, President, Board of Governors

NEWS

End of Semester Reports

Student reports for last semester have been sent home with your child/ren today. Should you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to make an appointment to speak to your child's teacher as soon as possible.

Jewish Educators' Conference

Earlier this week, Joyce and Tammy attended a Jewish Educators Conference at Mt. Scopus College in Melbourne.

This conference is held biennially and attended by Jewish educators from all around Australia and New Zealand. It is a wonderful opportunity for those attending to interact with teachers from other Jewish schools, as well as gain new information and ideas from the various workshops and international guest speakers.

Activities Week

For many reasons, it has become increasingly difficult to secure a suitable venue for our annual camp. With rising costs, insurance concerns and the necessity to self-cater in accordance with kashrut regulations, many venues in close proximity do not meet our requirements.

Therefore, once again this year, we have planned a fun-filled, action packed four days of activities in **Week 7 (4th—7th September)**. *No lessons—Yay!!!*

We will be seeking parental assistance with food preparation, serving, cleaning up etc. both prior to, and throughout the week, as well as help with the activities. A letter with full details will be sent home with your child next week. Meanwhile, please diarize these dates and be prepared to offer help on any day(s) that you can.

P & F NEWS דוד

Chocolate Drive

Well done and thank you to those families who have already sold their allocated chocolates. This is a major P & F fundraiser for the year so if you are able to sell more, please see Mandy or Annette. *They are definitely low calorie, no fat Freddos!!!*

Hot Dog Roster

Please add your name to the roster posted on the notice board for the day (s) you are available to help.

Habonim Dror presents

BOWLING

When: Sunday, 20th August
3.00—5.00 p.m.

Where: AMF Norwood
11 Osmond Terrace

Cost: \$15.00 (includes drinks, 2 games and shoe hire)

See you all there!



NEWS

JSHAA Poetry Competition

Lauren K. (*Year 6*) and Liat K. (*Year 7*) have been selected to represent Massada at St. Peter's College on Thursday, 31st August in a Poetry Competition.

Both students must perform a set poem and one other poem of their choice in front of a group of judges.

In the past, our students have done amazingly well and have received prizes.

We wish both girls the very best in their effort. Parents and friends may attend the competition as part of the audience.

Venue: St. Peter's Boys College
(*Multi Purpose Junior Hall*)
Hackney Road, St. Peters
(*car park—enter off North Tce.*)

Year 6: Thursday, 31st August
2.30 p.m.—3.30 p.m.

Year 7: Thursday 31st August
4.00 p.m.—4.45 p.m.

Mary Curnow,
JSHAA Competition Co-ordinator

Business Manager's Hours

As you are aware, Rainer has resigned from Massada College and his role is temporarily being covered by Sheryl and Irina. As they both have commitments outside of Massada, they are unable to commit full time. Therefore, the Business Manager's Office is open during the following hours:

- Monday: 8.30 a.m.—4.00 p.m.
- Tuesday: 8.00 a.m.—5.30 p.m.
- Wednesday: 3.30 p.m.—5.30 p.m.
- Thursday: 3.30 p.m.—5.30 p.m.
- Friday: 8.00 a.m.—12 noon
3.00 p.m.—4.30 p.m.

We apologise for any inconvenience.

Special Group Photographs

Anyone wishing to order special group photographs (*displayed on the notice board*) must do so by next Friday, 25th August as we wish to finalise this matter.

Prepaid envelopes for ordering can be collected from the school office—cost is \$15.00 for one photo with a discount for orders of 2 or more.

Premier's Reading Challenge

The Premier's Reading Challenge for 2006 is soon drawing to a close. A number of students have already completed several lists of 12 books and have been rewarded at assembly with a special certificates.

Once again, it would be great to see everyone complete at least one list of 12 books so that we maintain our 100% success rate, as in previous years.

Keep up the good reading! *Wendy*

Student Free Day

On **Friday, 8th September**, School and Kindy will be closed for all staff to participate in First Aid training. This is compulsory and must be undertaken every 3 years.

Childcare will be available in the Kindy. Bookings are essential so that adequate staffing arrangements can be made.

Please complete and return the attached reply slip as soon as possible if you wish to avail yourself of this service.

An OSHC Registration Form (*available from the school office*) must also be completed if you have not already done so.

Term III Fees

A reminder that Term III fees are now due. If you have not already done so, please endeavour to make a payment as soon as possible.

If you are experiencing difficulty in paying, please speak to either Sheryl or Irina so that a payment plan can be established.

Aboriginal IncurSION

Today, the Kindy, Reception and Year 1 children were treated to a visit from Andrew from ARMSU (Aboriginal Resource and Management Support Unit). This organisation provides Indigenous Cultural experiences for the children. The children were involved in a Music session with lots of dancing and playing Aboriginal instruments, as well as lots of Art and Craft, including Dot painting, face painting, puzzles and a reading from one of the stories from the Dreaming. Thank you Andrew!

Kosher Imports

We have been asked by AHC to advise the following dates for meat delivery dates during the forthcoming Yom Tov:

- Wednesday, 6th September
- Wednesday, 27th September
- Wednesday, 11th September.

Orders must be in by the Friday before each delivery day.

----->

BOOKING FORM:
OSHC, 8th SEPTEMBER

NAME OF CHILD/REN
.....
.....
.....

My child/ren will require OSHC on Friday, 8th September.

Morning / Afternoon / Whole day
(please circle)
SIGNATURE OF PARENT
.....

KINDY NEWS

Week 4 has arrived and so much is happening. Our Multi Cultural focus has been very successful with the children observing, exploring, creating, and tasting many different aspects of Fijian, Russian and Aboriginal lifestyles.

This week we have been looking at **Aboriginal Culture**. The children looked at dot paintings, and the wonderful colours and patterns used in their art work.. We also made didgeridoos and read many of the Dreamtime stories with lots of role playing and discussion to follow. We had a visit from Andrew from the Aboriginal Resource and Management Support Unit. The children listened and played instruments to Aboriginal music, had our faces painted and listened to a Dreamtime story.

Next week the Kindy will explore Australian Culture and its diverse traditions, lifestyle and food.

OPEN SHABBAT

Next Friday, the Kindy is inviting all parents, grandparents and friends to come and join in the Kindy for our Kabbalat Shabbat. Notes will be placed in pigeon holes this week. This will be a wonderful experience for both children and adults to see and participate in our Friday traditional ceremony. Please come and join us for this special time.

COMPUTER TIME

The Kindy children have also been working with their buddies in the Computer Room. We introduced them to the Kids Pix program and they created wonderful designs and explored all the various keys and icons they can use on the page. At the same time they were becoming familiar with the mouse and the keys on the computer. We will be continuing with more of this later on in the term.

PODIATRIST VISIT

Last week we had a visit from Dave from Podiatry Care. Early detection of potential foot problems is essential in children. This awareness can prevent the development of unnecessary foot and lower limb problems in the future. A brief examination was carried out of each child's foot structure and function of their footwear and analysis of their walking pattern.

WELCOME

We would like to welcome Max Bederman and his family who are visiting us from Toronto for the next 4 weeks. We hope you enjoy your stay here in Adelaide.

Welcome also to Evelyn V. Evelyn is a participating in a Work Experience Program and has been in the Kindy all week, playing with the children and supporting the staff in their duties. Thank you Evelyn for all your help and support. We hope you have enjoyed your time with us.

CONFERENCE

Last weekend Tammy travelled to Melbourne to attend the Zionist Federation Jewish Educator's Conference. It was an extremely enlightening couple of days. The sessions included areas such as the importance of Play Based Programs and the need for an active listening approach to children's exploration and learning. Tammy has returned with many encouraging and new ideas which we will see in the future.

TOP TALES

Our Top Tales books are on display once again on the top of the lockers. Please come and browse and make a purchase. These books are wonderful to add to your child's library at home. Please remember each order you make earns us more bonus points to order for our Kindy Library. Thank you to all those parents who have purchased books from Top Tales so far this year. Your

purchases and donations have enabled us to add six more books to our library. Todah Rabah and Kol Hakavod to you all.

FATHER'S DAY RAFFLE

Our annual Father's Day raffle is on again! And what great prizes they are! Who could resist? All Kindy parents would have received 10 tickets to sell in their pigeon hole accompanied with an informative flyer. It is important that you make the effort to sell these tickets and contribute to this fundraiser. All moneys raised will help to purchase new balls and desperately needed sporting equipment for the Kindy. Thank you to all parents for their support.

REMINDERS

- **Patch Theatre Visit** - Permission slips with payment of \$8.00 to be returned by due date.
- Please remember to fill in the attendance folder both on arrival and departure.
- Please remember to empty parents' pigeon holes daily for important and current information.

IMPORTANT DATES

Friday 31st August – *"Who Sank the Boat?" K-1*

Monday 4th September – *Father's Day Breakfast, 8.00am*

Thursday 7th September – *Morialta Falls picnic, whole school event*

Friday 8th September – *Staff In-Service, (Kindy closed, OHSC Open)*

Friday 22nd September – *Erev Rosh Hashana, (Kindy closure 12.30pm)*

Monday 25th September –

Thursday 28th September – *Parent- Teacher Interviews*

Wednesday 26th September – *Rosh Hashana Concert, 10.00am*

Tammy, Irina, Gail & Rosemary