Seussical magic

The Cat in the Hat and his zany friends came to life on the Scopus stage in the College’s production of *Seussical*. The cast, together with the Marc and Eva Besen Orchestra transported audiences into Dr Seuss’ colourful, quirky and imaginative world in a story told entirely through song. The Cat in The Hat, Horton the Elephant, Gertrude McFuzz and a host of jungle creatures discovered “a person’s a person no matter how small” – the famous Dr Seuss quote which lies at the heart of *Seussical*.

Creativity abounds

Junior primary students at both campuses enjoyed creative, hands-on learning this term using iPads as a creative tool across the curriculum.

In class, students use a variety of materials and pick up the iPad as one of the resources they need to suit their purposes.

Recently Prep students used iPads to record time lapse photography while drawing their journeys from school to home. They then combined these with simple text in the app WordFoto combining art, literacy and creative writing in a fun exercise.

Year 1 students designed digital creatures and used the app Foldify to help them understanding the difference between 2 dimensional and 3 dimensional shapes. Foldify allows users to create 3D figures on the iPad and then print and fold them on paper.

Exploring patterns using their own leaf drawings combined with sequins, allowed Year 2 students to utilise the app Kaleidoscope to create beautiful mandala patterns, which they then printed and cut out to make flowers.

Our teachers have also attended sessions on using iPads creatively in all areas of education and students are looking forward to continuing their trans-disciplinary learning journey as the year progresses.
From the Principal

One of the aims in the Scopus Mission Statement is to enable our students “to make an informed choice as to the meaning of their Jewish identity”. We strive to fulfill this aspiration by providing stimulating and engaging Jewish Studies lessons, access to inspiring educators and a variety of Jewish experiences. In the secondary school, where students are making choices as to what sort of people they wish to be and what are their priorities in life, most of these experiences are optional. Students are therefore able to make their own choice as to how to connect to Jewish life, just as they will as adults. Since students are not obliged to participate, the voluntary involvement of so many in such a variety of programs is all the more rewarding for them and a true source of pride for the College.

This term a new fixture has been added to the many opportunities for Jewish engagement, in the form of the Girls’ Prayer Service (GPS) meeting once a week, and giving young women of Scopus the chance to connect to the meaning and practice of tefilla – the Jewish way of prayer. Both attendance and motivation at this event have vastly exceeded expectations, and the service has proved to be yet another wonderful opportunity for students to choose to experience and learn about authentic Jewish life. Since meaningful prayer is a great challenge in modern times, and sadly many girls in particular feel distanced from synagogue services, the ‘GPS’ is another way in which we help our students to make that informed choice of what being Jewish means to them.

Rabbi James Kennard

The Scopus community extends its heartfelt condolences to the family of former Principal, Aleksander Ranoschy AM, who passed away just before Pesach, aged 96.

Mr Ranoschy served the College with distinction as a passionate educator for over twenty years. He is fondly remembered as a dedicated and highly respected Principal from 1971-1985, who knew and cared for every one of the thousands of students in the school during those years. He exuded wisdoms beyond mere academia and his door was always open to students and staff alike.

During his principalship the College saw many significant developments, not only to school facilities but also to curricular and co-curricular programs, in both Jewish and General Studies. He taught students that their responsibilities as citizens were as important as their commitment to personal development, values which are still at the heart of the Scopus experience today.

At the Shloshim service honouring Mr Ranoschy AM (*"), Old Collegian (’70) and Chancellor of Monash University, Dr Alan Finkel AO, said, “Mr Ranoschy was a man for whom the welfare of the students came first, his every decision at school was ultimately for the benefit of the students. He worried about them collectively and individually. One cannot ask for more from a Principal, and Mr Ranoschy delivered.”

The beautiful garden on the Gandel Campus, dedicated in Mr Ranoschy’s honour at the time of his retirement continues to be a welcoming place for quiet reflection and is visited daily by students and staff.

Amy Hershan
College President

Council update

The College is always grateful to those parents who give their time, knowledge and expertise to the College Council, Executive and Sub-Committees. The demands on them are great but their input into the success of the College is greater.

We take this opportunity to thank retiring College Executive members Sam Alter and Vice President, Steven Klein, for their distinguished service, tireless efforts, wise guidance and dedication to the College.

We welcome Russell Casper and Jonathan Tisher to the role of Co-Vice Presidents and look forward to their continued contribution to the College.

Following the Annual Parents’ Meeting earlier this year the College welcomes new Council Members Gary Starr and Adir Shiffman and thanks Rodney Brott, Michael Borsky, Shane Gild, Anthony Goldman and Lisa Farber for recommitting to the Council.

Amy Hershan
College President
Premier’s VCE Awards

Mazal Tov to our 2014 Premier’s VCE Award winners:

- Michael Alter – Accounting
- Gideon Cohen – Theatre Studies
- Darby Dexter – Religion and Society
- Adam Hayman – Accounting
- Liora Mervis – Health and Human Development
- Joel Tauber – Further Mathematics

Premier’s VCE Awards are presented to Victoria’s top students by the Department of Education and Training. Awards are based on students’ VCE subject results, with the number of awards determined by the number of students in each subject.

We congratulate our winners and pay tribute to the teachers who have supported them.

Girls’ Prayer Service

Girls from Years 7-12 come together each Tuesday morning for an early morning prayer service with a difference.

Following the experience of students on last year’s Ulpan program, who participated in an all-girls prayer service in Israel, the students were keen to continue the idea and incorporate it into their daily lives in Melbourne.

Aiming to bring new meaning to prayer, the girls, with the guidance of the Informal Jewish Education team, plan to bring in speakers, hold meditation sessions, discussion groups, textual studies and theme weeks to enhance the meaning and spirituality of the prayer experience.

The Girls’ Prayer Service (or GPS as it has become known) attracts a large number of girls each week, and together with the popular Friday night minyan at Gandel Besen House and regular lunchtime shiurim, this new initiative provides our students with another opportunity to connect to and engage with their Judaism.

Music connection

During 2015 the College was invited to participate in a new education initiative with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra.

MSO Connect is a pilot program involving only seven schools and aims to connect musically engaged students and schools with the MSO. The 40 Scopus students involved will attend three MSO concerts at Hamer Hall, Arts Centre Melbourne, as well as an open rehearsal throughout the year.

At the first live Q&A forum they attended with renowned conductor Benjamin Northey and four members of the MSO, our students benefitted immensely from the interaction with professional musicians. As the program continues into second semester, they will also have access to master classes and in-school workshops with MSO musicians.

Enrol now

If you are considering enrolling your child into the College for 2015, 2016 or beyond, or know someone else who wishes to, now is the time to register.

Applications are still being accepted for entry in 2015 and 2016 in many year levels. Places are very limited or unavailable in some year levels.

If you are considering Mount Scopus Memorial College for your child, please contact Registrar, Anna Faiman as soon as possible on 9834 0070 to obtain an enrolment form.
Spotlight on sport

It’s been an action packed semester in sport with both interhouse and interschool competitions involving students from Smorgon Family Primary School and Lew Family Secondary School.

In Term 1 students represented their house in Swimming Galas at Years 4, 5 and 6, and a combined Years 7-9 competition saw Hillel house take out top spot.

We achieved our best-ever result in interschool EISM (Eastern Independent Schools of Melbourne) swimming, placing third overall in division one. Across 68 events involving ten schools we achieved eleven first places including breaking an association record, and were awarded the title of Most Improved School.

Primary teams competed in six interschool grand finals for the summer season including three Kanga cricket teams and Danish rounders, which all won premierships. Secondary teams took part in seven grand finals and highlights included the Senior Boys Tennis A team recapturing the trophy for the first time since 2003 and our Senior Boys Softball team winning the premiership for the fifth consecutive year – Kol Hakavod!

Career choices

As part of our Senior School Career Education program, the biennial Career Awareness Morning for Years 10 and 11 students gives them an opportunity to hear from over 40 speakers working in a variety of industries. Speakers discuss their jobs and detail the duties involved, personal requirements, stress levels, training, opportunities and specialisations.

Each student hears up to six informal career presentations, which gives them an insight into particular occupations and allows them to assess whether these are areas that they would like to further investigate. This year, career fields included: architecture, graphic design, music, social work, law, psychology, teaching, finance, marketing, nursing, medicine, engineering, occupational therapy, speech therapy, hospitality and journalism just to name a few.

At the end of the sessions, students had a firsthand taste of the life of a helicopter pilot when a helicopter landed on the Skolnik Oval at recess. Students were able to meet the pilot and learn more about a career in aviation, as well as take a peek inside a working helicopter.

We thank the many parents, Old Collegians and friends of the College who gave up their time to speak to our students.

Benefits both ways

The College offers an incredibly diverse range of community service opportunities for students in Years 7-12, allowing them to find their own way to make a meaningful contribution to their community, country and world.

New in 2015, the Homework Support Program in partnership with Stand Up sees our students partnered with newly arrived young migrants and refugees, mostly from Sudan. Once a week our students travel to Dandenong Library to tutor these children and assist their integration into Australia and hopefully widen their academic opportunities. The program also provides immense personal growth and development for Scopus students.

Before volunteering, students attended three training sessions on immigration, Sudanese culture and teaching. After just a few sessions, it was wonderful to see the interaction and learning taking place between the two groups of students.

Scopus Star Wars

The Eva and Marc Besen School of Music and Susie and Eric Stock School of Drama presented the inaugural ‘Scopus Star Wars’ talent contest recently. Evolving from Scopus Idol, the evening featured performances from singers, dancers, actors, bands, instrumentalists, acrobats and comedians from Years 7-12.
Lifelong learners

Just as our students are lifelong learners at Scopus, so too are our teachers. Research shows that it is the quality of teaching that makes the single biggest difference to student learning. Professional growth for staff and continuous improvement in teaching practice allows teachers to learn from each other and fosters an environment of ongoing improvement and best practice.

In our primary schools a number of new strategies help teachers grow and develop in their practice, through professional development, mentoring for new teachers, growth development/appraisal and coaching. This year, all primary teachers have the opportunity to work with a ‘trained teacher coach’, who supports them as they work through options to improve their practice.

In secondary, teachers take part in workshops run by our Co-ordinator of Teacher Development, Frances Prince. They also receive feedback on their teaching practice from a variety of sources, including teacher feedback surveys completed by students, peer observation and professional buddies. This allows teachers to plan, in conjunction with their faculty leaders, how to further develop and enrich their classroom teaching on an individual basis.

Dedication of the ‘Henry Lanzer Keter Shem Tov – Crown of a Good Name’ Award

Henry Lanzer has served Mount Scopus College with distinction for over 25 years. Our College was blessed to have had Henry’s involvement as College Treasurer from 1988 to 1996 and then for 18 years as the Foundation’s dedicated President, retiring in 2014. Under his leadership, many millions of dollars were raised for fee relief and for multiple major capital works projects including the George and Gita Smorgon Sports Complex, the Besen Family Performing Arts Centre, the Szalmuk Family Early Learning Centre, the Slezak Multimedia and Technology Centre and our two new primary school developments at Gandel Besen House and Smorgon Family Primary School at the Gandel Campus.

Mount Scopus College would be a very different place without Henry’s extraordinary leadership, wise counsel and fundraising efforts.

To pay tribute to Henry, and to his exemplary volunteerism, Mount Scopus College is proudly dedicating the recently introduced ‘Keter Shem Tov – Crown of a Good Name’ Award in his honour.

The ‘Keter Shem Tov – Crown of a Good Name’ Award is distinct from any other award for excellence, effort or achievement, and is designed solely to celebrate concern for others and the inclusion of all. Our Year 12 students are invited to vote for the member of their year group who has done the most to make the cohort inclusive and who has made the most difference to their cohesion – the one whose efforts on behalf of everyone else are most valued. It is the only award announced at the annual Graduation Dinner and the recipient will be publicised along with the VCE results. An Honour Board will be located in a prominent location at the College.

The ‘Henry Lanzer Keter Shem Tov – Crown of a Good Name’ Award is to honour, above all else, the attribute of caring for others and demonstrating concern for their wellbeing, and to show that the College values those who value others.

Mount Scopus College feels privileged that the ‘Henry Lanzer Keter Shem Tov – Crown of a Good Name’ Award will honour Henry’s lifelong devotion to the College and its students, with the knowledge that his efforts testify to and embody the very concept that this award celebrates.

Congratulations to Ashlea Gild (‘14) the inaugural recipient of the ‘Henry Lanzer Keter Shem Tov – Crown of a Good Name’ Award

Sharing their s’machot

Mazal Tov and thank you to Sage Priester who generously directed donations to Mount Scopus College on the occasion of her Bat Mitzvah.

Thank you also to the family and friends of Dion Hershman, who kindly donated to the College on the occasion of Dion’s 40th birthday.
Parents’ Association

Along with the regular activities like lunch orders, tuck shop and Challah sales, the Parents’ Association has been very busy!

Campout on the Skolnik

The Labour Day weekend brought together over 370 people for an action packed overnight campout on the Skolnik Oval. Activities included rock climbing, swimming, an outdoor twilight movie, Sportwise programs, jumping castle, arts and crafts, African drumming and a fantastic fully catered dinner and breakfast. Feedback was so positive that Campout will now be held biennially, so mark your diaries for 2017!

Thanks to our wonderful committee of Ronit Joel, Paul Platus, Alan Rosengarten, Aron Steg and Jonathan Tisher whose hard work was the driving force behind the success of this great event.

Scopus Supper

Current parents, Old Collegians and friends of the College gathered at Fenix Events at the end of Term 1 to hear social commentator and journalist, Sarah Wilson speak about her I Quit Sugar philosophy. A scrumptious supper and silent auction topped off an entertaining and educational evening hosted by Old Collegian Jordana Borensztajn (’99).

Special thanks to the dedicated organising team, including Mandi Azoulay, Georgia Borowski, Elise Cock, Rebecca Lipsitz, Davina Onas, Caroline Rose, Karina Shpigel, Melanie Smorgon, Becky Tempelhof, and Samana Trayer.

Mother’s Day stall

Mother’s Day stalls were held at all primary campuses and students had a great time choosing gifts from the amazing selection on offer. Co-ordinating the donation of gifts, wrapping over 1,500 items and managing the volunteers on the day is a huge job and our sincere appreciation goes to the Campus Stall committee of Elise Cook, Lisa Simon, Penny Small, Natalie Weisz, Deborah Zipper and the many parent volunteers who assisted.

Twilight footy night

A great crowd of footy and soccer keen kids enjoyed an evening of sports training, face painting, delicious food, a raffle and giveaways. To Rachel Mieszelewicz and her team of helpers – Kol Hakavod!

None of these events would be possible without the wonderful and generous support from those companies who continually donate goods and services to assist the PA in all that we do.

Art to make you think

During Term 1, Year 10 Visual Art students created and installed public art projects in the secondary quadrangle aimed to elicit thought, conversation and reactions from fellow students and staff.

Following an excursion to Melbourne’s street art laneways, students were asked to create an artwork which spoke to the physical environment in the quad or to the people who used the quad. They investigated how artists use public spaces to communicate about contemporary culture.

The artworks were temporary and used a variety of materials including fresh leaves which slowly decayed, allowing some of the pieces to change in appearance over time.

The installations raised questions and awareness about a variety of issues including the futility of war, the need to conserve water for future generations, bullying and violence and even one depicting how school helps students grow and bloom through knowledge.
Save the date

2015 Reunions

Class of 2010 – 5 year reunion
Thursday 6 August
Aimee Lewis, aimeelewis93@gmail.com

Class of 2005 – 10 year reunion
Thursday 8 October
Natalie Tenenbaum, natalietenenbaum@live.com.au

Class of 1985 – 30 year reunion
Sunday 15 November
Denise Kain, d.kain@scopus.vic.edu.au

Class of 1975 – 40 year reunion
Sunday 20 September
Mark Gandur, MGandur@ticgroup.com.au

Class of 1965 – 50 year reunion
Sunday 8 November
Jack Hoppe, jhoppe@bigpond.net.au

Grandparents’ and Special Friends’ mornings

Fink Karp Ivany Campus
Prep, Year 1, Year 2 – Wednesday 9 September
Gandel Besen House
Prep and Year 2 – Friday 4 September
Smorgon Family Primary School
Year 4 – Wednesday 14 October

Archives Exhibition

An exhibition titled Courage Then and Strength Now, presented by the Helen Synman Archive Project will run from Sunday 8 til Wednesday 11 November, featuring the extensive collection and fascinating stories from over six decades of College life.

Opening: Sunday 8 November, 2.00pm-5.00pm
Further viewing times: Monday 9, Tuesday 10, Wednesday 11 November – during school hours.

Scopus Flashback

The Skolnik Oval – a meeting place, the holy grail of College sport, the patch of green at the back of the school known so well by so many…but who was Skolnik?

The Oval was named during the early 1960s in memory of Jack (Yitzchak) Skolnik (1901-1961). Born in Romania, Jack and his family immigrated to Palestine before he settled in Australia at the age of 27. Jack became a successful Melbourne businessman and established the Australia-Middle East Export-Import Co and later the World Travel Service. He was a passionate sports fan, supporter and patron, as well as a high-profile Zionist. In 1954 he was elected president of the Australia-Israel Chamber of Commerce. Jack later married Rita Rockman (Ellinson) in his 50s and passed away a few years later having no children.

Little else is known of Jack Skolnik and his connection to the College, and the Helen Synman Archive Project would welcome any information to help develop a more complete history of our deserving benefactor. Please contact Archive Project Manager, Ms Frankie Pinch, archive1@scopus.vic.edu.au

Come for a tour

We welcome all prospective students and families to come and see our campuses in action. Visit our website (scopus.vic.edu.au) for full details of the remaining open morning events for 2015:

- Smorgon Family Primary School (Years 4-6) – Wednesday 5 August
- Lew Family Secondary School (Years 7-12) – Thursday 13 August
- Gandel Besen House (Lower Kinder to Year 3) – Friday 21 August

To arrange a meeting with College Principal, Rabbi James Kennard, and the relevant head of campus, or for a private tour, please contact Anna Faiman, Registrar on 9834 0070 or afaiman@scopus.vic.edu.au