

### Happy 70th Birthday Yeshivah - Beth Rivkah!

From small beginnings when Yeshivah College opened its doors 1949 with just three students, YBR has grown to become a thriving school and community with over 1300 students in our care from crèche to VCE. This year we celebrate 70 years of educating Melbourne's Jewish Community.



R Kasher & Freilichin Pesach Chag Kasher V'Sameach Yeshivah – Beth Rivkah wishes you and yours a happy and healthy Pesach!

# Principal Notes

### Message from the Principal



Dear YBR Alumni 'שיחי,

It has been my honour and privilege to have been part of the YBR story over the past nine years. We have seen the school grow and expand in its curricular and co-curricular offerings, facilities,

enrolments, and spirit. From performing and visual arts, Chassidus for many more grade levels and for all students in High School, to our women's and girl's Beit Midrash, just to name a few.

Our school is supported by an active and vibrant group of volunteers on the YBRPA who make it all happen. I strongly encourage all our alumni to roll up their sleeves and get involved in our schools, volunteering time, talents or resources. Our well over 300 educators, inspiring our over 1300 students (and rapidly growing), are a formidable force.

I would like to make particular mention of our YBRSL Board dedicated, wise, resilient and giving souls who have devoted literally hundreds of hours and abundant energy for the betterment and custodianship of our school, directly benefitting each and every child in our care.

I am proud of what we have accomplished over the past nine years. The school has been through tremendous and positive transition and change. At times it has been exceedingly challenging to stay the course, and simply to keep the ship steady and weather some of the storms that have come our way. However, I leave knowing that the school is strong educationally, fiscally, spiritually, operationally and with growing enrolments. The campus leadership are talented and capable educators who have dedicated the very core of their beings to the success of our children.

I wish YBR, its alumni and the whole school community continued Hatzlacha into the future, m'chayil el chayil.

A Kasher and Freilichen Pesach, Chag Kasher V'Sameach.

**Rabbi Yehoshua Smukler** Principal, Yeshivah – Beth Rivkah Colleges

### YBRPA Update

The Yeshivah – Beth Rivkah Parents' Association (YBRPA) ended a successful year of fundraising and events with a vibrant End of Year Carnival on the last day of the 2018 school year. Other initiatives spearheaded by the YBRPA in 2018 included popular mango fundraiser, doughnut day, soup days and mothers and fathers day stalls, and a successful welcome BBQ event to start the 2019 school year. In June last year the YBR Move-a-thon captured the attention of and inspired involvement from Yeshivah and Beth Rivkah students of all ages including a Father/Son Soccer Match, an afternoon at Inflatable World, Zumba and Personal Training Sessions and more.

A Corporate Breakfast held in November, with His Excellency Mr Mark Sofer (Ambassador of Israel to Australia) as keynote speaker, filled the River Room at

#### Growing With YBR Pre-Schools

To cater to demand, this year YBR Pre-Schools has introduced a 'transition' class at the GELC (Gurewicz Early Learning Centre). This room provides an ageappropriate program within the kinder framework to cater for children whose birthday falls just shy of the official kinder cut-off date. The adjoining playground space has been out-fitted with suitable play equipment and floor surface, providing an inviting atmosphere and safe surroundings.

Across the eleven kinder rooms at the GELC and the fullcapacity class of children at the YBR Crèche (Mercedes Dadon Crèche) children have settled in well and are thriving in the warm and nurturing environment.

#### Protecting Our Children

As part of a three stage project over the next 2-3 years, Yeshivah – Beth Rivkah is improving our security infrastructure. Under the name 'Project Fortify', the collaborative effort between the State Government, wider Jewish Community and YBR will see \$2M committed towards our school security upgrade.

Your support towards



this important project is appreciated – donations are being accepted via: https://council-for-jewish-education.giveeasy.org/project-fortify

Crown Casino and proved to be a morning of illuminating and informative addresses mixed with mingling and networking.

Funds raised from all the YBRPA events are injected straight back into our schools, and as such YBR extends gratitude to all the parent volunteers who dedicate their time and efforts for this end. To get involved in the YBRPA for 2019 please email parents@ybr.vic.edu.au.

YBRPA Committee



# Building New Opportunities



#### **New Developments**

As part of our Beth Rivkah primary campus upgrade, we are very excited to announce that we will have a new state of the art playground which is expected to be completed by the end of Term 2 this year.

We thank the Yeshivah – Beth Rivkah Parents' Association, and a very generous anonymous donor, who have made this project a reality. We can't wait to see our children enjoying the play equipment for many years to come.

To find out more about future projects please contact our Community Engagement & Fundraising Manager: miri.eckstein@ybr.vic.edu.au



Artists Impression of the new playground

#### New Court Gets the Green Light

Thanks to the voting efforts of our wonderful community, Yeshivah College was selected as the recipient of a \$200K Pick My Project grant to rejuvenate the Yeshivah asphalt courts and create an all-ability sports field. This much-anticipated improvement has significantly enhanced the grounds for our students.







Miri Eckstein, Bat-sheva Milner, Rachel Gottlieb, Tali Houseman (nee Sznetal '96), Miriam Gordon (nee Sziewicz '99), Shayna Nagel (Loebenstein '03), Chaya Sziewicz & Tammy Nossbaum (nee Holzer '01)





Scan here to view the "I love YBR" clip shown at the event.





# A Bright Start

#### Back to School 2019

The 2019 school year kicked off with ruach and excitement across the Yeshivah, Beth Rivkah, Gurewicz Early Learning Centre and Mercedes Dadon Crèche campuses.



#### Pre-School Welcome

YBR Pre-Schools was thrilled to welcome over 600 attendees to their Sunday BBQ welcome event held at the start of the school year. New and existing kinder families were welcomed to the Centre and enjoyed connecting with other families, teachers and children.





Mushkie & Menachem ('04) Rapp & family









### **Reconnecting!**

Margalit Aron and Hallel Rosenberg have become instant friends since the Rosenberg family moved to Melbourne (and YBR) in late 2018. In a funny twist of events, Robin Aron (whose husband Levi graduated Yeshivah in '95) and Yael Rosenberg did Sherut Leumi together in Israel over 20 years ago!

Needless to say they were surprised to cross paths (and have daughters in the same class) on the other side of the world so many years later!



### Welcome!

Welcome events continued across all YBR campuses, with Beth Rivkah and Yeshivah holding their own welcome events to begin the year, as well as sensational YBRPA (Parents' Association) BBQ held for Primary school families ahead of Purim.



#### Leading the Way

Our captains play an integral part in involving and enthusing the student body and we wish mazal tov to our newly elected and inducted Captains for 2019. Leadership and encouraging student involvement in the school has always been fostered. We take a look back at some student representatives of the past.



Leadership days held at the start of the 2019 school year equipped Year 6 students at Beth Rivkah and Yeshivah with knowledge and skills to help them succeed in their new leadership roles within the school, and work effectively as part of a team.



# Around Yeshivah - Beth Rivkah

#### Farewell Mrs Kantor!

We fondly farewell Mrs Judy Kantor from our school after teaching generations of students in her many years at Yeshivah – Beth Rivkah Colleges.

Mrs Kantor was a mechanechet-Jewish educator par excellence. To Mrs Kantor teaching was a vocation rather than a job. She prepared and planned meticulously to

ensure that her students received a very full, rich and intensive Jewish Studies program. Her broad and deep knowledge of Jewish Studies enabled her to enthuse students and infuse them with a love of learning. Her students developed superb Chumash language skills and a profound comprehension of the Chumash they studied. Moreover, she instilled Yirat Shamayim - awe and respect for Torah and Torah values – in her students.

Mrs Kantor brought her passion and enthusiasm to every aspect of the Jewish Studies program and transmitted this successfully to the students so that they too felt passionate. Her stories, songs and games made the curriculum come alive and she embraced technology and used it to enhance her teaching. She encouraged her students to think broadly and Mrs Kantor's students finished their year replete in skills, knowledge and Jewish values.

It is hard to measure the long lasting effects of Mrs Kantors teaching and her enormous positive influence on current students, their mothers and even grandmothers. Each person is a world and Mrs Kantor's influence is thus immeasurable. We express our hakarat Hatov to her and wish her a happy, healthy and fulfilling retirement in Israel.



#### A Sporting Chance



#### Soirees on Show



Beth Rivkah and Yeshivah Soirees held throughout the year showcase the achievements of our talented YBR music students with a range of solo and music ensemble performances at each campus soiree. Such nachas!



### First Interschool Footy Success

Beth Rivkah Secondary's first interschool footy team took on the Yavneh girls in late 2018 and came out triumphant!

Consisting of Year 7 and 8 students, the girls trained hard ahead of the game under the guiding eye of Mrs Ayelet Rapke, Head of Physical Education.





### **Furim Fun at YB**R!

Another spectacular Purim at YBR! An incredible 12 Megillah readings across the campuses, costume parades, matanos laevyonim and swapping shaloch manos! Thanks to all the parents who joined in the fun and dressed up in the Purim spirit!



A Look Back at Purim Through the Years



# **Programs That Elevate**

#### Training Hugo's Heroes

Year 10 Beth Rivkah students had the opportunity to participate in Hugo's Heroes First Aid training, facilitated by Hatzolah and Real Response. Thanks to the generosity of the Paluch family this program is dedicated in the name of Hugo Paluch ("y, son of Nicole and Dov Paluch ('94) who died in a tragic school yard accident in South Africa in 2017.



#### Cut for a Cause

The generosity of Beth Rivkah students shone brightly in late 2018 when over 150 Beth Rivkah students across Primary and Secondary year levels, as well as some staff and parents, bravely took part in "The Great Chop".

Students raised money for and trimmed their tresses to donate to Zichron Menachem, an organisation in Israel

that provides extensive support for children diagnosed with cancer, and creates wigs for children who have lost their hair during cancer treatments.

In addition to the lengths of hair, a substantial sum of over \$12,000 was raised to donate to Zichron Menachem.

Mrs Simona Weinstein (nee Elkus, '88) gave a moving address and spoke of her diagnosis of Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, bringing the importance of the Tzedakah effort to life.





#### New Awards Encourage

After the untimely passing of Dovid Frenkel "" in October 2017, several awards have recently been instituted in his memory. Donated by his classmates (class of 2005) and presented at the Yeshivah Secondary graduation ceremony in 2018, the (inaugural) Dovid Frenkel "" Award for Excellence in VET Hospitality was awarded to Avi Oren. A second award that will be presented at the beginning of each school year, donated by the Frenkel family, will identify a student dedicated to improving in the area of Tefillah. Akiva Finkin was the worthy recipient this year.



Mr Henry Frenkel presents Akiva Finkin with his prizes

#### Yeshivah Performs At Gary Smorgan House

Residents at Gary Smorgon House welcomed the Yeshivah Primary music ensemble and instrumental music students late in 2018 who entertained their audience with a range of beautifully performed songs.



### Pnimi Inspires

The 'Pnimi Program' was launched in 2018 at Beth Rivkah Secondary with an aim of encouraging students to create good habits by taking on hachlatos – with the ultimate goal of instilling a love of their Jewish and Chassidic identity. After the program's popular introduction and enthusiastic participation, students who accumulated sufficient points were placed in a raffle to attend a once-in-a-lifetime trip to New Zealand.

Year 10 participants Yehudis Tsap, Racheli Baker and Merav Hoota recalled "From having a shiur at the airport, visiting an old-age home, helping at the Chabad house, and Davening in nature, we were able to truly elevate New Zealand. Whether jeeping up a volcano, climbing the Harbour Bridge, or zip lining over the majestic Whaiheke Island, we could feel Hashem's presence through the breathtaking nature and scenery that surrounded us."



#### Lending a Hand

Large numbers of Beth Rivkah Secondary students have once again jumped at the opportunity to volunteer for the long-running and revered Yad L'Ezra iVolunteer program, run in conjunction with Chabad Youth.

Over 84 Beth Rivkah Secondary students have signed up to volunteer for the Help at Home family

division alone – with over 150 students opting in to participate across the five divisions of the program (mentoring, visiting the elderly, study assistance, fundraising and family home help).

#### Celebrating Hachnoso L'Cheder at the GELC

Kinder boys and their fathers took place in Hachnoso L'Cheder celebrations, marking the beginning of their Torah-learning journey.



#### Celebrating Generosity and Growth

End of year celebratory events took place to round off a year of learning, development and growth by our Bnot Chayil girls at Beth Rivkah and our Man Up Bar Mitzvah program participants at Yeshivah in 2018.

As part of their enriching learning program, both programs encouraged students to raise Tzedakah throughout the year. The events recognised the wonderful chessed and Tzedakah achievements of the Man Up boys who raised over \$4000 for Pantry Packers in Israel and the Bnot Chayil girls who contributed to Beit Rafael, Ma'ot Chittim and other Tzedakah and chessed projects throughout the year.

#### Post-Seminary Learning Program

In 2018, the Beth Rivkah Beit Midrash in collaboration with Ohel Chana were thrilled to launch a Post-Seminary Learning Program for girls, dedicated to providing high-level shiurim and connecting girls returning from seminary to a welcoming community.

Run at the Beit Midrash at Beth Rivkah Secondary attendees of the 2018 program enjoyed regular shiurim, farbrengens (gatherings), a cocktail evening with Rabbi Aron Moss of Sydney, a successful paint night for Vav Tishrei as well as a Chanukah Rooftop Supper.

2019 is set to be another engaging year, and coordinators of the program, Rabbi Levy Tenenbaum (of Ohel Chana) and Mrs Yael Schneier (of Beth Rivkah), invite all recently graduated students or those who have recently returned from seminary to join the program. For more information or to get involved contact: Rabbi.t@ohelchana.edu.au or Yael.schneier@ybr.vic.edu.au.





### Reunions

#### Yeshivah College Class of 1978 40 Year Reunion



The 40 year Yeshivah reunion was one not to be missed – with old collegians making the trip from Perth, the Gold Coast and Sydney to attend!

#### Yeshivah College Class of 2003 15 Year Reunion



Class of 2003 Yeshivah reunion attendees unearthed their VCE school jumpers and enjoyed the chance to catch up with old friends and reminisce.

#### Beth Rivkah Class of 1978 - 40 Year Reunion



The Beth Rivkah class of 1978 joined together at Kimberley Gardens in late 2018 to celebrate their 40th reunion! An evening of memories and a beautiful cake decorated with their graduating year was enjoyed by all!





Beth Rivkah Class of 1990 28 Year Reunion



A reunion for the graduating class of Beth Rivkah 1990 was hosted by Michi Gestetner. All attendess had a wonderful time catching up and reconnecting.

YBR would love to help facilitate your Class Reunion. Please email us (sara.k@ybr.vic. edu.au) with your name (including maiden name if applicable), graduating year and contact details and we'll be in touch!

#### Three Generations of Yeshivah Graduates

The Yeshivah College Year 12 Graduation at the close of 2018 marked a momentus occasion in Yeshivah College history



- with the Roth family being the first to present a third-generation graduate at Yeshivah College. Mr Leslie Roth was a member of the first graduating class in 1964, Mr Michael Roth graduated in 1990 and Naftoli Roth graduated with the class of 2018. Each of the three graduates received a certificate in recognition of this auspicious occasion, and a book entitled "Survivors" which documents the generations which succeed survivors of the Holocaust, was dedicated by the school in honour of the Roth graduates and donated to the Yeshivah College Secondary Library.

#### Inclusion at Beth Rivkah

Hannah Aroni, Beth Rivkah class of 2007

I wasn't always the best Beth Rivkah girl. During my school years, I may have been a studious nerd, but I was also rebellious and relentlessly questioned everything. But in one respect, I always felt completely comfortable at Beth Rivkah: as a disabled student it was the ideal place for me.



My vision and coordination impairments meant I needed practical accommodations like extra writing time in assessments, understanding and adaptation from teachers, and advocacy directed at outside state education bodies. By readily meeting all these needs, and by acting as if this was only natural and "mentschlich", Beth Rivkah instilled in me a belief that full inclusion and accommodation for all people was a completely reasonable thing to expect in adult life.

Years after graduating, I would learn about the "social model of disability", the idea that people with impairments are disabled by a world that isn't set up to fit them, and so by changing society to make it more adapted to people with different impairments, we can make life better for all disabled people. Going to Beth Rivkah gave me a taste of a world where my impairments were significantly less disabling than in many other circumstances. This taste of ideal inclusion helped me develop the courage and conviction to advocate for myself and others later in life.

Because Beth Rivkah accommodated me, I could achieve my educational potential, which allowed me to study law and later social work. In recent years I've worked as a disability advocate helping disabled adults access their rights, a university subject designer focusing on human services and disability, and a co-leader of a theatre company, A\_tistic, which tells stories about neurodiversity. I hope someday that with collective effort from all of us, the rest of the world can get a lot closer to the Beth Rivkah I experienced.

# In Memorium

### Zev (Vadim) Chelom ע״ה

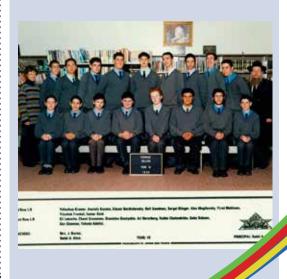
Zev "Vadim" Chelom ע" was an extraordinarily giving and caring person who would go out of his way to help others. Born and raised in Ukraine and emigrating to Australia in his early teens, Zev quickly acclimatised to Australian life and garnered instant respect from his teachers



and classmates (graduating class of 1996) at Yeshivah College for his sharp mind and the speed in which he learned a new language.

Zev would go on to become a leading Vet in the industry, featuring on the top rating television program RSPCA Rescue, hosting his own radio program and for having his exemplary vet/ patient interpersonal skills highlighted as elite by industry standards in a prominent veterinary journal.

In his early 20's Zev and his then fiancé Adina, decided to become frum. They would go on to inculcate their children with a love of Torah and Mitzvos. Zev was a very dedicated husband and father whose love for his 6 children was unmistakable. He was so very proud of them and basked in their unique qualities. Zev packed so much into a relatively short life. His family, classmates and the wider community feel his loss.



# **Keeping Connected**

'LIKE' Yeshivah College and Beth Rivkah Ladies College on Facebook to keep



#### Hatches and Matches

#### **Births - Baby Boy**

Eli '09 & Rivka Adelist Shragi '05 & Nici Aron Dovid '04 & Mussie Blecher Yosef Yitzchok & Mushkie '06 (nee Teleshevsky) Bacher Betzalel '05 & Devory Broh Sruly & Rishi '03 (nee Kaminetsky) Cohen Menachem Mendel & Brachi '15 (nee Vogel) Fox Naphtoli & Shterny '06 (nee Rapp) Fishman Shua & Esta (nee Rimler) Greenspan Emanuel & Pnina '99 (nee Castel) Goldberg Eli '94 & Beila Goodman Shloimi '12 & Sarah Gross Benji '04 & Mariashi Grosberg Yossi '07 and Elisheva Jedwab Osher '04 & Ilana (nee Kahn) Klein Michoel '05 & Naomi Kisilevitch Levi & Chaya '09 Liberow Meir & Dina Rochel '98 (nee Krinsky) Lesches Simon & Bracha '05 (nee Rafael) Morawetz Aliza 01' (nee Douek) & Saul Michael Mendy '12 & Batya Mochkin Berel & Chani '03 (nee Procel) Majeski Sholom Ber & Muka '10 (nee Groner) Pewsner Chanoch '08 & Bassie Rosenfeld Shoshana Amzalak & Malki Rose '97 Levi & Chana Hinda '98 (nee Raskin) Rivkin Levik & Devorah '12 (nee Engel) Simon Moishe & Lea'le '04 (nee Aron) Schwinger Dovy & Devorah Leah '14 (nee Engel) Straiton Shimon '09 & Chaya Szmerling Yossi '04 & Mushkie Teleshevsky Josh & Avigail '00 (nee Manshari) Wonder Dov '98 & Devi Werdiger Abe & Dina '98 (Feiglin) White

#### **Births - Baby Girl**

Heshv '07 & Gila Adelist Yosef '99 & Tzippora Aron Yudi & Bluma '03 (nee Raskin) Blotner Ephrayim & Rochel '03 (Gelman) Baskin Yossi & Etty '05 (nee Grossbaum) Berkowitz Boruch '12 & Michal '12 (nee Faraday) Chalk Dovi & Aidel Engel Shmaya '92 & Dvorah Glick Yisroel '00 & Chani Glick Mendel & Tikvah '12 (nee Feiglin) Gestetner Yossi '13 and Shifra '15 (nee Kornhauser) Gopin Mendel '08 & Shternie Gordon Sender & Devorah Leah '01 (nee Cohen) Gurewitz Avi & Shulamit (nee Malka) Hoota Reuvi '05 & Mussie Kaminetzky Shua & Henna '04 (nee Glick) Laufer

#### up to date with all the YBR highlights Yakir '09 & Shosh '12 (nee Herzog) Landau

Dobbie & Mushka '09 (nee Groner) Lisker Esther '97 (nee Gomplewicz) & Rabbi Moshe Loewenthal Yisroel Boruch '05 & Brocho '00 (nee Aron) Lebenholc Mendy & Rivka '06 (nee Sabbah) Niazov Sholom Ber & Rochele '04 (nee Oliver) Odze Zecharia '13 & Rivka Phillips Tzivki & Elka '10 (nee Fetter) Raksin Menachem Mendel & Sarah Rimler Zalman & Yehudis '13 (nee Herszberg) Simons Baruch 09' & Chaya Sabbah Moshe'12 & Devorah Leah Sabbah Eli & Tzippy '12 (nee Blecher) Simpson Sarah '14 (nee Faraday) & Rafi Wolf Zalman '09 & Mushkie Werdiger Mendy & Brocha '08 (nee Serebryanski) Wilschanski Eli '11 & Shira Wajsbort Zalmen '85 & Clare Welis

#### **Births - Twins**

Dovid '10 & Shoshana Riesenberg

#### Engagements/Marriages

Benji Figdor '10 & Gabi Mischel Rochel Moshel '09 & Ryan Lewy Zevi Joseph '15 & Malkie Eizicovics Akiva Aron '08 & Brocha '08 Serebryanski Levi Serebryanski '08 & Rochel Ulanovsky Mendel Szmerling '13 & Rochel Berkowitz Yossi Moshel '12 & Shterna Raskin Menachem Aron '13 & Shevi Rosenfeld '13 Shua Chalk '13 & Yocheved Spri Yosef Chaim Landau '10 & Chana Coleman Bochi Broh '12 & Miriam Kornhauser '16 Menachem Mendel Engel '14 & Peri Alperovich Eli Krinsky '09 & Elisheva Susskind '10 Chaya Esakoff '05 & Brendan Cilia Taiba Ash '07 & Jared Eisen Yehudis Castel '15 & Tzvi Dovid Freedman Shmuli Rosenbaum '12 & Bassie Leider Chaim Boruch Unsdorfer & Mushkie Blesofsky '14 Shneur Shusterman '12 & Mussi Stifel Yisroel New '07 & Mali Bukiet Yaffa Travitz '13 & Dan Keinan Yosyl '07 Cylich & Dana Klas Shmuli Karp & Chanie Raskin '15 Levi Kazilsky & Faigy Gross '15 Menachem Adelist '14 & Shternie Broukman Sammy Brygel & Esther Oyberman '14 Moishe Lipskier & Yardena Schachana '12 Nati Meltzer '17 and Jessica Srebnitsky '17 Mendel Gurkov & Rivka New '10 Mendel Groner '13 & Perel Faygen Hershy Gutnick '13 & Chaya Baron

#### Enrol Now for 2020

Yeshivah - Beth Rivkah Pre-Schools - taking enrolments for 2020 now! If you have a child due to commence kinder or crèche in 2020 be sure to contact Michelle Blutman, Parent Liaison on 9522 8222 or email: enquiries@ybr.vic.edu.au as soon as possible as places are filling fast.



#### Your **Memories**

If you come across any old school photos we'd love to see them. Email: alumni@ybr.vic. edu.au

General enquiries enquiries@ybr.vic.edu.au Enrolment enquiries michelle.blutman@ybr.vic.edu.au

We compile our announcements from information supplied to YBR and Community Announcements.

We apologise for any errors or omissions.

To notify us of your news please email: announcements@ybr.vic.edu.au

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