Community Report 2011
VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT

VISION
The King David School is a Progressive Jewish school established on the principles of inclusion, egalitarianism and social justice. It is committed to engendering within its students a deep and abiding sense of community, a strong and proud Australian identity and a close and meaningful relationship with the Land and State of Israel.

MISSION
The King David School exists to provide both excellence and opportunity in education. It will foster the development of each individual student in its care paying careful attention and respect to his or her unique needs, abilities and aspirations. It will fulfil its goals with reference and respect to the contemporary Australian society within which it is so fortunate to exist:

- through the provision of an educational environment that is at all times challenging, nurturing and appropriate to the needs of its students
- through engaging and innovative co-curricular activities
- through close, active and practical engagement in Jewish communal activities, social justice programs and interfaith initiatives

The King David School will strive:

- to be recognised as a provider of educational outcomes which are second to none
- to deliver the highest possible standards of facilities and resources for the benefit of its students and the broader community
- to maintain a strong community profile and to support both the Jewish and the Australian communities within which it operates
- to develop strategic educational partnerships which will benefit students, staff and the broader school community
- to achieve its goals within a secure and responsible fiscal framework
- to resolutely and consistently focus on the responsibility to nurture, develop and indeed cherish each unique and exceptional child which the School has been created to serve and which it has the privilege to serve.
A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

2011 has been a year of innovation and progress. The opening of the Rebecca Magid Centre (RMC) has made outstanding facilities available to the Arts and to Physical Education. The Walter and Alwynn Jona Multi-Purpose Hall is constantly in use, not only for Physical Education and Sport but also for the newly introduced and popular Dance elective at Years 7 and 8. Our Pre-School children enjoy the sprung floor for their PMP, and morning and afternoon sport training sessions ensure the full utilisation of this carefully designed space.

The Michael J. Cohen Music School within the RMC is equally alive with vocal and instrumental ensemble rehearsals, instrumental lessons and classroom music as well as occasional guests from B'nai Brith's Monday afternoon Music group.

Experientia - the VCE Visual Arts Show – demonstrated what can be achieved by our talented students, under the tutelage of their inspiring teachers in our new Visual Arts School. In all, the RMC has enabled us to take a huge leap forward for our students.

The appointment of a new Head of Senior School – Guy Evans – has brought new energy and a new style to our highly successful Senior School. Guy’s previous experience, in the Sciences and in schools with long history and tradition, has positioned him well to continue to promote the exceptionally innovative Science program of the Senior School and to help KDS begin to embed its own traditions. Guy and Russell Kaplan, Head of Middle School are implementing a more robust and competitive Sport culture across the Senior and Middle Schools. In addition, several sport and lifestyle co-curricular activities have been added to the School calendar, with the Great Victorian Bike Ride and Bike Club. Many other co-curricular activities are provided at Middle School to promote students’ particular interests.

The Centre for Living Judaism has been established by our School Rabbi, Gersh Lazarow and is located at the Magid Campus. The Centre houses a Beit Midrash and is also home to our newly appointed, inaugural Jewish Life Fellow, Marshall Voit. Marshall’s involvement, at School campus and in the regular tefillah, has already enhanced the students’ participation in and appreciation of Jewish Life activities. The Yesh – Year 10 Israel Trip was well patronised again in 2011, following a highly successful visit of Israeli madrichim imparting Israel education with the assistance of local madrichim. Enrichment from Year 2 to Year 8 continues to enable students whose interests and aptitudes take them beyond the curriculum, to pursue Mathematics, Enquiry based research, logic and higher order thinking skills across a range of disciplines.

The ‘Learning & Enquiry Through Thinking Engagement & Reflection’ (LETTER) Philosophy project introduced in late 2010 draws together the skills of Philosophy and the principles of Project Zero from Harvard University. Teachers have engaged in extensive professional development presented by Dr Ron Richhart, an associate researcher at Harvard, and Karen Morrison, co-authors of the publication ‘Making Thinking Visible’: Teachers are utilising Thinking Routines in their classrooms and assisting the students to make thinking visible so that it can be constantly extended. There are strong synergies between Philosophy and developing a Culture of Thinking and the LETTER project continually enhances the links.

The Junior School is a vibrant centre of rich learning experiences that are intensely lived. Whether it is speaking with Benzi the puppet, or making a Shofar for Rosh Ha'Shana, or gardening in the kibbutz, every activity creates new connections for the children.

On behalf of our students and parents I want to thank each member of the teaching and ancillary teams who have made 2011 so memorable.
Academic Excellence

King David Students excelled in the academic arena once again in 2011. Our students who competed in a range of competitions did themselves proud as strong ambassadors for the School.

- VCE results place The King David School in the top 5% in the State
- Students from KDS in partnership with the Victorian Space Science Education Centre (VSSEC) represented Australia at the 2011 CanSat France. CanSat is a global challenge created to encourage student interest, involvement and excitement about Space, Science, and Technology. This was the first time an Australian team competed in this highly regarded international competition. KDS was the only high school team to participate alongside university teams and placed in the first 5 teams overall which was an incredible achievement.
- The all-Round VCE High Achiever for 2010 was Bryan Ladowsky. The 2010 School Captain recorded a perfect ATAR Score of 99.95 for his VCE and received a Premier’s Award
- 2010 graduate, Daniel Bornstein, had two of his etchings selected to exhibit at the National Gallery of Victoria's Top Arts: VCE 2010 Season of Excellence.
- Adam Sun (Year 7) achieved the Victorian top score for the 2011 Competitions and Assessments for Schools in Mathematics.
- Three Year 10 students represented KDS at the Australian Brain Bee Challenge State finals and ranked in the top 4% of the State.
- Yr 10 student Adam Weitzer won first place in the children's section of the Banjo Patterson Writing Awards, a prestigious national poetry competition, for his poem “Black Temper”.
- Matthew Kolomeysky (Yr 7) won first prize for his painting “Approaching Storm” in a competition organised by the Meteorological and Oceanographic Society.
- Raphael Morris (Year 10) was awarded a regional Swannie Award at BMW Edge for being one of the best speakers in the Debaters Association of Victorian Schools Competition.
- Year 10 Debating Teams(C Grade) enjoyed victories in the DAV debates. Adam Weitzer and Raphael Morris were equal best speakers in their debate against Wesley Collage and Eva Zeleznikow and Elie Loumer were equal best in their debate against Star of the Sea.
- Students in Years 5-8 attended the Chess Kids Regional Chess Tournament The KDS team placed runner-up and Sam Gluzman from Year 7 was awarded 1st place for the best individual performance.
- Sapir Turkenitz won a place in the Australian New Zealand exchange program to France. She will spend 5 months in France attending high schools and engaging in activities in her community.
- KDS students excelled at the B’nai B’rith 2011 Jewish Youth Art Competition. In the 11-13 division, Daniel Szmerling and Noah Rosham placed 1st and 2nd respectively for sculpture; Michael Osadchiy placed 3rd for Mixed Media; and Amy Priester and Maia Loeffler placed 2nd and 3rd respectively for painting. In the 14-15 division, Sarah Kasner won 1st place for Sculpture, while Daniel Kotzen received 2nd place for Mixed Media. In the 16-18 division, Rebecca Haperin, Oscar Davis and Elise Marchouba scored 1st, 2nd and 3rd for Mixed Media, whilst in the painting area, Oscar David received 1st and Micaela Chait received 3rd.
- In the Maths Olympiad-Year 7 & 8 Senior Division, the KDS team placed 3rd in Victoria and the top individual award was given to Adam Sun (Year 7).
- At the 2011 Philosothon, the KDS team placed second overall and Ike Curtis was awarded the Most Promising Philosopher prize.
- The KDS 2011 Sharon Hamilton Art Acquisition Award was awarded to Year 12 students Oscar Davis and Talia Meltzer.
**Community Interface/Australian Identity and Values**

The School encourages students to become involved in communal activities and to respond to issues which affect not only themselves and their families but the wider Australian community. Students are exposed to environmental, social, cultural, economic and political issues affecting all Australians.

- Celebration of a Nation was the culmination of Year 6 students’ exploration of what it means to be Australian, and how each wave of migration has enriched our society. Students set up booths representing the country they had chosen, wore national dress, and prepared food and activities relevant to the specific culture.
- Year 10 History students represented King David by attending the Darwin Defenders Ceremony at the Shrine of Remembrance.
- Year 4 students visited the Koori Heritage Trust as part of their studies in Indigenous Culture.
- As an introduction to their unit on Indigenous Art, Year 2 students visited the Ian Potter Centre, where they learned how Indigenous artists use symbols to tell stories about their culture.
- Year 9 History students attended the ‘Battle for Australia’ Commemoration Day Service at the Shrine of Remembrance.
- Harmony Day was celebrated at the Western oval where Year 4 to 8 students met the combined Israel and Palestinian Peace Team.
- Year 6 students spent five days in Tasmania as part of their Humanities Studies on the Early Settlement of Australia.
- Year 5 students went on a camp to Sovereign Hill as the final chapter to their studies on ‘The Gold Rush Era and the 1850s in Victoria’.
- Cultural day – a visiting Chinese dance troupe performed the traditional Chinese Lion Dance and Year 7 and 8 language students presented poems and songs in French, Spanish and Chinese.

**Charitable Works:**

Student fundraising efforts in 2011 included, ‘Loud Shirt Day’, bake sales, walk-a-thons, and ‘Bark Mitzvah’ (a dog party where gifts of dog food and supplies were donated to the Lost Dogs’ Home). Other recipients of charitable works included:

- The Daniel Morcombe Foundation,
- The Cancer Foundation,
- The Fred Hallows Foundation,
- The Lord Mayors Charitable Foundation,
- The Premiers Appeal,
- Queensland flood relief,
- The Muscular Dystrophy Association,
- Jewish Care,
- The Leukemia Foundation,
- The Multiple Sclerosis Society, and
- overseas projects for developing countries.
Sports Achievements

The King David School is strongly committed to the importance of Sport as a means of maintaining a healthy body, mind and positive spirit. In addition to Inter-House Sports, the School took part in Inter-School Sport through the Balaclava District Primary Schools Sporting Association (BDPSSA) for Years 5 and 6; Eastern Independent Schools of Melbourne (EISM) for Years 7 to 12; and the Victorian Jewish Schools Sporting Association (VJSSA).

- Years 3-6 King David School students participated in the Holt District Swimming Carnival and come first overall.
- The VCE Physical Education classes attended the Exercise Research Australia Facility to enhance their knowledge on energy systems and maximal oxygen uptake.
- Year 9 student, Shane Feldman, finished equal 2nd in the 2011 EISM Golf Tournament.
- Two Year 7 students and a Year 6 student represented KDS at the Australian Schools Cycling Cup. KDS finished 8th in the junior boys category.
- Years 5-12 participated in the EISM Athletics Carnival. The King David School placed 6th and was also awarded the Most Improved School, beating last year’s score by over 800 points.
- Year 5 & 6 boys represented The King David School at the Holt District Lightning Premiership (football) and finished 3rd with 5 wins and 1 loss.
- Year 5 & 6 girls netball team came second in the Holt District B Division.
- Years 9-12 students competed in the EISM Futsal competition, making it to the semi-finals.
- 4 States, 4 Tours, 4 Wins! – Yr 6 student and racing cyclist, Riley Hart, won expert under-13 road race at the Australian School Cycling Championships.
- 24 KDS students in Years Prep-11 took part in the Jewish Interschool Snow Sport Championships at Mt Buller. KDS won first place in the Primary Division and was awarded the Henry Birman Trophy for embodying the spirit of the race. Ben Brill recorded the fastest time of any competitor completing the course.
- KDS students from Years 5 -10 competed in the zone qualification of the Victorian Schools Table Tennis Singles Championships. All students placed in the top 3 in their age division.
- Year 5-9 KDS students finished third overall at the Jewish Day Schools Swimming Carnival.
- Year 8 & 9 KDS tennis team came runners-up for the EISM Summer Sports Tennis Round Robin.
- Joel Burstin was awarded player of the season for the EISM Summer Sports Tennis.
- King David School students participated in the Great Victorian Bike Ride.
- The Girls’ Tennis Round Robin Team came equal first, finishing on 5 wins and 1 loss against much larger schools.
Cultural Heritage

The King David School is privileged to be charged with the responsibility of transmitting a culture which spans the period from ancient times to the present day. It is a tenet of our educational mission that through engagement with our Jewish tradition, our students can best contribute to their Australian identity and to their global responsibilities.

- The inaugural Jewish Life Fellow, Marshall Voit, has been very active in Jewish learning and cultural activities at the School. His involvement at all School camps and in the regular tefillah, has already enhanced the students' participation in, and appreciation of, Jewish Life activities.

- Ten Year 10 students took up the opportunity to travel to Israel and immerse themselves in Israeli language and culture in the annual ‘Yesh’ trip.

- As always, special activities were organised for the celebration of Purim, Yom Ha'atzmaut and Yom Yerushalayim. A memorial service was held for ANZAC Day, on Yom Hazikaron (Memorial Day) and Yom Hashoa.

- KDS continues its involvement in the Building Bridges Interfaith Program to extend inter-cultural understanding.

- Three Year 11 students represented KDS at the March of the Living pilgrimage to Poland. Students visited several concentration camps in Poland and gained a deeper understanding of the issues of the Holocaust.

- Junior School students were involved in a number of Pessach activities including pyramid building, re-enacting the story of Exodus and learning songs.

- A Havdalah workshop was held for kindergarten students and parents who made spice bags, braided candles and painted wine glasses.

- Year 1 students and their families celebrated Shavuot by making the Ten Commandments from clay, weaving baskets and decorating the hall with flowers.

- Year 7 and 8 students attended a weekend Hebrew Camp, to be immersed in the Hebrew language in a unique and fun way.

- Year 9 students interviewed Holocaust survivors as part of a Jewish Studies elective.

- Pre-School and Junior School students celebrated Kabbalat Shabbat with their grandparents/special friends.
Creativity Fostered:

Performing Arts and Visual Arts comprise a significant part of the curriculum from Preschool to Year 12. From Music and Dance to Media, Photography and Orchestra, the School is alive with the students’ creative endeavours. With the help of dedicated and experienced teachers, many talented students are nurtured and developed to achieve at exceptional levels.

- The KDS senior orchestra travelled to Sydney to attend the inaugural Music Exchange program with our sister school, Emanuel. After intensive rehearsals, a combined concert was held.
- The Year 12 Theatre Studies production in 2011 was "The Crucible".
- Music students held a series of soirees throughout the year, highlighting their progress in group and individual performances.
- Winter Concert – Choral and instrumental students from all year levels performed to a full house of parents and family at Malvern Town Hall.
- The Senior Musical production in 2011 was “Urinetown”. 70 Highly talented singers, dancers, actors and musicians performed at Chapel Off Chapel.
- At the VCE Visual Arts show, “Experientia”, senior students showcased their artworks. Visitors were able to observe and talk to individual students about their art.
- Matthew Kolomeysky won first prize in a competition organised by the Australian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society for his painting “Approaching Storm”.
- 2011 Kindergarten Art Show - All children in kindergarten contributed their major artworks which were auctioned to raise funds for kindergarten equipment.
- Senior School LOTE students performed “Little Red Riding Hood” in Hebrew, French, Russian and Yiddish.
- Year 10 students performed at both The Malthouse Theatre and Kobritz Auditorium a modernist series of scenes from Apocalypse NOW.
- Junior School Eurovision Concert: Prep to Year 2 students sang and danced while representing various countries at the Alexander Theatre at Monash Uni.
- The Middle School Musical, “Ulysses”, was performed at the Gasworks Theatre.
- Oscar Davis and Talia Meltzer won the KDS 2011 Sharon Hamilton Art Acquisition award.
THE KING DAVID SCHOOL TEACHING TEAM

Consistent with previous years the School utilised the sector based services of the Independent Schools Victoria (ISV) for its survey needs. Over 80% of staff completed the survey, a pleasing improvement over the previous year. Most results for teaching staff across the campuses were on or above the ISV benchmarks. We recorded very positive feedback in questions relating to school based domains, particularly in areas of learning support, school ethos and parent involvement. Opportunities for improvement were identified in the area of technology, which has been nominated as a key focus area in 2012.

Our teachers also identified positively with survey questions relating to workplace domain, especially in areas of goal alignment, leadership and morale, staff collaboration and professional development. Whilst the response to staff feedback was above ISV benchmarks, there are still opportunities for improvement in this area, and this will be a key focus over 2012 and beyond.

In all, the teaching staff register high levels of workplace satisfaction as is indicated by high levels of attendance (97%) and staff retention of 90% (excluding teachers who retired from the profession at the end of 2010).

92% of our teachers have at least two qualifications. Of these 69% have Bachelor Degrees, 22% have Masters Degrees and 1% has a PhD.

Professional Development

It is the policy of The King David School to support the professional development of all members of staff and encourage teachers to continue their own learning. To that end the School enables staff to go to relevant seminars or arranges in-house speakers, arranges time release, and meets the cost of the seminars. Teachers then share their knowledge with other staff at appropriate meetings.

Teachers engaged in an average of 93 hours of Professional Development in 2011, with over $3800 per teacher spent on Professional Development in 2011. The following is a sample of some of the courses undertaken by our teachers:

- ‘Learning & Enquiry Through Thinking Engagement & Reflection’ (LETTER) Philosophy;
- First Aid courses including Anaphylaxis and Asthma Management;
- Using an Interactive Whiteboard;
- Creative Writing Seminars;
- Australian Curriculum seminars;
- First Steps-Writing Development;
- ICT Tools in the Classroom;
- How to Improve Learning in Students with a Learning Difficulty;
- Developing A Reading Culture;
- Creative Art Design;
- Engaging all Students in Maths and Numeracy;
- Implementing Gifted Changes;
- Quantum Change Seminars on Human Communication;
- Early Years Literacy;
- Student Wellbeing and Development;
- Skills, Drills & Modified Games for PE;
- Hebrew and Jewish Studies Curriculum Workshops;
- Effective Learning with Children in the Middle Years;
- VELS (Victorian Essential Learning Skills.) and VCE course conferences.

KING DAVID STUDENTS
The average rate of attendance for students was 96% with absences including illness, injury and family commitments. 84% of Year 9 students in 2008 continued through to Year 12 in 2011.

Student Performance

Under the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN), all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 are assessed on the same days using national tests in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation) and Numeracy. We acknowledge that these tests are only one measure and do not provide a complete assessment of individual achievement, however we are pleased with the performance of our students when compared to like schools and the State averages.

In addition, at Years 3 and 9 there has been a significant improvement in writing skills; at Year 5 there was improvement in numeracy, which was a major focus for the year; and Year 7 continues to score well above State in all categories and its scores are consistent with similar schools.

Specific details are on the My School website [http://www.myschool.edu.au](http://www.myschool.edu.au)

Standardised Assessment Results for Year 10 Students

In 2011 Year 10 students took part in Progressive Achievement Tests (PAT) for Numeracy and Reading Comprehension and the South Australian Spelling Test (SAST). The following results show the percentage of students tested who were at or above the normal range for their age group:

- Numeracy 95%
- Reading Comprehension 90%
- Spelling 97%

VCE Results 2011

There are many barometers of success in VCE. For some students, success is achieving the highest possible ENTER, for others it is gaining entry to a highly sought after course in the creative arts. At King David, our focus is on each and every student being the best that they can individually be. We are proud of all our students, many of whom have chosen to pursue dreams in such highly competitive and diverse fields such as Law and Industrial Design.

Our VCE results place The King David School in the top 5% in the State

- Median Study Score – 35
- 24% of Study Scores were 40 or above – top 5% of the State
- 42% of our VCE students achieved an ATAR score of over 90
- The top ATAR score was 99.45
- 1 student scored a perfect ATAR in Health and Human Development
- 1 student was shortlisted for Top Designs.
Tertiary Institutions and Courses

Receiving a first found offer for the preferred course and institute is one of the ultimate goals of the VCE student. All students achieved first round offers and over 90% received their first or second preference.

97% of students are taking up offers of place at Universities. 3% of students are taking up places at TAFE and other tertiary institutions, including:

- The University of Melbourne
- Monash University
- RMIT University
- La Trobe University
- Deakin University
- Melbourne Institute of Business and Technology
- Swinburne University of Technology
- The Victorian College of the Arts
- Victoria University

The tertiary courses being undertaken by KDS graduates are as follows:

- Law with Commerce/Engineering/Science/Art
- Biomedical/Health Sciences
- Science
- Engineering
- Commerce
- Business Information Systems
- Banking and Finance
- Marketing
- Property and Real Estate
- Architecture
- Environmental Studies
- Arts
- Journalism and Communication
- Creative Art
- Interactive Entertainment
School Operations

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<td>Tuition Fees</td>
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<td>Government Funding</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
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<td>Other Income</td>
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<td><strong>19,155,780</strong></td>
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Expenses

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<tr>
<td>Salaries</td>
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**Meeting the Challenge**

A strong emphasis on the spiritual dimension, as well as the academic and physical dimensions, is an important element of The King David School experience. For young people to make their way confidently in the world, they need to have developed a strong sense of identity and purpose. The emphasis at King David on being part of many communities and contributing to each of them, develops that strength. King David graduates demonstrate commitment to the Australian community, the Jewish community and to their role as global citizens. They also display a love of learning and a passion for creativity whether it be through the Arts, the Sciences, or in an innovative melding of cross-disciplinary areas.

Student satisfaction surveys conducted in 2011 saw significant improvements across all measures bringing King David on or ahead of the ISV benchmark for student satisfaction and quality of teaching. The School is particularly proud of the feedback from students in relation to learning outcomes, pastoral care, discipline and safety, peer relationships, School ethos and values. Student feedback in terms of the quality of teaching continues to shift upwards from prior years’ results, particularly in terms of academic rigour. It is extremely encouraging that our students recognise the importance of the School’s focus on academic rigour and its relevance to learning outcomes.

Of particular importance in relation to student feedback are the results from our more senior students. Feedback from students in the Senior School showed significant shifts both in terms of student satisfaction and quality of teaching, both measures being nicely above ISV benchmarks. This reflects the continued dedication of our senior school teachers, under the strong leadership of the Head of School, Mr Guy Evans, who commenced at the School at the start of 2011.

The School was extremely encouraged by the significant improvement in the number of parents who responded to the Independent Schools Victoria questionnaire (100 more parents responded in 2011 than did in 2010). In particular, the area of parent involvement showed marked improvement and it continues to be an area of focus for the School. Parental satisfaction with School discipline and School ethos remain extremely high, although resources remain an area of which parents are critical, in spite of the significant steps that have been taken throughout 2011. The School continues to make resources - both in ground and buildings, as well as ICT - a major priority.

Overall, parent satisfaction has improved by 4% on 2010 and this compares favourably with the ISV average, which was 2%. Junior School parents reflected an overall improvement of 6% and Senior School parents an overall improvement of 5% on the prior year’s results. Middle School parents registered a more modest overall improvement in satisfaction of 1%, but this comes on top of the significant improvement in overall satisfaction gained in 2010. The School continues to work with parents and gather feedback in order to continually improve in all areas.
Strategic Development and Plans

The School's Vision Drives its Strategic Objectives.

Vision:
The King David School is a Progressive Jewish School established on the principles of inclusion, egalitarianism and social justice. It is committed to engendering within its students a deep and abiding sense of community, a strong and proud Australian identity and a close and meaningful relationship with the Land and State of Israel.

Strategic Pillars:

- An educational environment that is at all times challenging, nurturing and appropriate to the needs of its students
- A highly skilled, motivated and professional staff
- A strong community profile supporting both the Jewish and Australian communities
- Delivering financial sustainability for the school
- Quality spaces, systems and processes that support teaching & learning

Over 2011 a number of Key Strategic Objectives were identified and actioned. Each of the Objectives was linked to one of the five pillars, thus ensuring that the School's leadership team continues to focus on delivering the best educational experience for our students.

These Objectives included the LETTER Philosophy Project, the creation of the Centre for Living Judaism, an expanded array of co-curricular offerings, an enhanced Jewish focus in Pre-school and Kindergarten, and an increased focus on Transition Programs. The School has also improved the ICT facilities for students and staff alike.

The School Council has spent the latter part of 2011 working on a longer term strategic plan, aimed at creating an operating model that will ensure the School's continues success in the years ahead. This key initiative is progressing well and staff and parent input will be sourced during late 2012.

This is a very exciting period in the School's history and the School's Council and leadership team look forward to continuing to deliver an outstanding education for our students.