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WHAT'S UP AT KING DAVID?

An update brought to you by Rabbi Kacev

HIGHLIGHTS

- 1** Matric Results 2016 – KD High Schools pass with flying colours
- 2** KD Alumni – Top results from Wits
- 3** King David Ariel – Excellence in remedial education plus all the benefits of a KD School
- 4** SATS – New offerings and opportunities for KD Matric Students
- 5** Facilities upgrade at King David Schools – Growing for the future
- 6** Security Upgrades – Keeping our children safe at school
- 7** New Director of the DIJE – Welcome from the SABJE
- 8** Poland Trip – An offering from KD Soul for KD parents

King David Schools remain among the top IEB Schools in South Africa

Congratulations to our King David 2016 Matriculants. Our results have continued to improve in every way. The group average increase indicates that all students are achieving better results and not just the top achievers. The South African Board of Education (SABJE) pays tribute to all the academic staff of the King David Schools for providing an educational environment of Jewish and general excellence for learners. We are proud of the magnificent success of our Matrics

and welcome them to our global King David Alumni family.

One of the measures of academic success at a school is its ability to assist students to achieve a high level matric so as to equip them for their post-school studies. It is for this reason that the 2016 results were so gratifying. The 208 students who wrote matric achieved a 76% average (excluding Life Orientation). In order to achieve such a high average everyone in the group needs to achieve and it is staggering that 87% of all papers written achieved a C or high (46% A's, 26% B's and 15 % C's). The group average is 6% higher than the average of all the IEB schools. 46% of all papers written achieved distinctions which is 20% higher than the average of the IEB schools.

Some details to share:

- 208 Students achieved 735 distinctions – Average of 3.5 distinctions per student
- 2 students achieved 10 distinctions
- 3 students achieved 9 distinctions
- 12 students achieved 8 distinctions
- 25 students achieved 7 distinctions
- 30 students achieved 6 distinctions
- 13 students achieved 5 distinctions

4 students on National Outstanding list – ranked in the top 5% in 6 subjects

4 students on National Commendable list – ranked in the top 5% in 5 subjects

KD Graduates Achieving at University Level

Not only did our King David students excel on a matric level, but our King David graduates have done exceptionally well on a university level, proving once again that King David Schools prepare and equip our students for the challenges of tertiary education. We are hugely pleased with the latest feeder results from the University of the Witwatersrand. According to the results of the undergraduate and postgraduate research, King David schools are ranked as 2 of the top feeder schools. 90.4% of exams written by past King David pupils in first year were passed at Wits University in 2016.

We are looking forward to the challenges of 2017 and to continuing the tradition of excellence as well as the spirit of co-operation between learners and teachers at King David Schools.

King David Ariel – a contemporary Jewish Remedial School

King David Ariel, will be opening in January 2018 on the Victory Park Campus. King David Schools are proud to be expanding the family with the establishment of a new Jewish school focused on delivering excellence in remedial education. King David Ariel will initially cater for the foundation phase and will ultimately grow to Grade 7 in the future. Children who experience barriers to learning will be able to enjoy all the social, cultural and sporting benefits of King David Schools with individual attention, top remedial teachers, therapists and academic support.

The name “Ariel” is made up of two words. “Ari” which is the Hebrew word for lion, because our pupils exhibit courage and the tenacious desire to succeed. The word “El” is one of G-d’s names indicating strength. We draw on our Jewish heritage to build a strong and caring learning community.

Sally Ann Knowles, current Preparatory Deputy Head of the Junior Prep at St David’s Marist Inanda has been appointed as the Principal of King David Ariel and will begin her tenure in April 2017. Sally has always taken a particular interest in the diagnosing and implementation of early intervention strategies for those pupils whose learning requires additional scaffolding and remediation. She has headed up a multi-disciplinary team of class teachers; bridging teachers and therapists for a number of years, and has built up an extensive network of professionals to support her in this task.

For further information or enquiries, please email Gaby Cohen on

cohenga@sabje.co.za

New offerings for King David Matric Students

In the pursuit of improving our offerings for students, King David High Schools have recently introduced a new and additional offering to Matric students in 2017. Many King David students are applying to international universities across the world and in particular, there is a lot of interest in applying for universities and

tertiary education in Israel. The SAT, is a globally recognized university admission test that is used as an entrance assessment tool and training will now be offered to King David matric students on a voluntary basis.

King David students will be offered the opportunity at no extra cost to them to be trained on Sundays for the English and Mathematics SAT at school so as to be fully prepared for the writing of the SAT should they wish to take the external examination.

Further to this, Universities in Israel including The Hebrew University in Jerusalem, are indicating that if our students achieve the equivalent of a level 3 on the Ulpan Hebrew level, they will not need to attend a Mechina programme. We are currently comparing our Matric Hebrew level to the Ulpan levels and may add the option of an advanced Hebrew course to assist students considering higher education in Israeli Universities.

For SASI bursaries to study in Israel see www.telfed.org.il and click on the student tab

This is yet another example in which King David Schools consistently prepare our students for the future in a positive and constructive way.

Facilities – focus on KD Victory Park

The development of facilities across our schools is planned on a cyclical basis so as to invest large amounts and to complete bigger projects one at a time.

Our first major improvement and investment of funds was the building of the Foundation Phase classrooms as well as a Media Centre at King David Primary School Sandton. This was followed by the complete rebuild of King David Pre-Primary School Linksfield, building 4 new classrooms in the Senior Primary School, renovation of the “W” and “S” blocks in the High School and many other improvements to a number of existing structures on the Linksfield Campus.

Over the next 3 years, a majority of the investment will be on the King David Victory Park Campus. This will include the completion of the Primary School classrooms, KD Ariel – our new remedial school offering, the Pre-Primary School and then the classrooms at the High School.

The extent of these projects will depend on the availability of funds. To this end, we thank the King David Schools’ Foundation for their generous commitment and encourage parents to donate to the KDSF. Should you wish to contribute to any of the projects on the go and receive a Section 18A tax benefit, please contact Raelene Tradonsky on tradonskyr@sabje.co.za

Security Improvements across all KD Campuses

As you are aware, the Schools have committed to increasing the security around all of our campuses. Last year, saw the introduction of highly qualified security personnel at all entrances. The CSO are attempting to fill all shifts at the Schools

which is not an easy job and we encourage you to refer possible candidates to the CSO for training.

In 2017, there will be a substantial investment in perimeter security impacting on entrances, gates and various other areas. There will be a level of experimentation so as to find the best solution for each vulnerable space and we appeal to you for your patience as we trial these facilities.

The SABJE welcomes a new Director of the DIJE (Department of Informal Education)

The SABJE warmly welcomes Brent Davidoff who has been appointed as Director of the DIJE for 2017. Brent matriculated from King David Victory Park High where he excelled in drama, following which he completed a B. Com Industrial Psychology at the University of Johannesburg. In 2010 he worked at the DIJE and in 2011 he was Rosh Machaneh at Bnei Akiva Camp.

He has been a Lead Facilitator for Harambee Youth and then Operations and People Director for The Heaven Group for the past 3 years. Brent has a passion for Jewish Education and currently teaches adult courses on Tefillah for the Academy.

The DIJE is the Department of Informal Jewish Education at King David Schools. Across the primary and high school campuses, they run various programmes, shabbatonim, seminars and encounters which are creatively

designed by a dynamic team of young informal educators, to make Judaism meaningful and relevant. The programme compliments the formal classroom and allows learners to engage with and experience their Judaism.

The aim of the DIJE is to imbue the students with a strong sense of Jewish Pride and a connection with whom they are and who they can become.



Brent

Davidoff

Trip to Poland for King David Parents – an offering by KD Soul

King David Schools, Mizrahi and The Academy are offering King David parents an opportunity of a “journey to life” – a tour to Poland.

From 15–18 May 2017, Rabbi Widmonte will be leading the tour, accompanied by a holocaust survivor. The journey will enable the KD parents to reconnect with the

life of Jewish Poland and to bear witness to the Holocaust: Warsaw, Treblinka, Lublin, Majdanek, Krakow and Auschwitz–Birkenau. The trip includes top hotels, land expenses and all meals.

For bookings or more information, contact info@theacademy.org.za



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