Nelson Mandela once said, "Education is the most powerful force you can use to change the world".

Through the educational offerings at Sinai College our staff hope to change the lives of their students through providing a culture of excellence and unlimited opportunities so every child is able to follow their dreams.

We have planned for the students a year of exciting events and engaging learning activities and I urge every student to grasp these opportunities wholeheartedly. Camps, Co-curricular, extension, and support programs are on offer this year to enrich students’ every day experiences.

Please remember my door is always open as our school works collaboratively with parents on our vision for the school based on the 5’e’s:

"Explore—Encourage—Engage—Extend—Excel".

Welcome to 2016 at Sinai College!

Debra Creed—Principal

Upcoming Events

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Staff News

We welcome three new staff members to Sinai College, Danielle Troeger, Peta Harding and Emily Tattam. All three staff members have already had a positive impact on the children. Maya Chester commences this week as the Israeli Dancing Instructor so we are looking forward to her contributions with great anticipation. All the staff are excited at the idea of joining in with the Israeli Dancing sessions!

It is with enormous sadness that I report Mushkie Hecht and her beautiful family are returning to America. It has been an honour and a privilege working with Mushkie. The Early Years Jewish Studies program under Mushkie's guidance has engaged all the children and given Judaism a renewed sense of importance and purpose in their daily lives. Wherever Mushkie goes she will bring joy and light to all she meets. We hope she keeps in touch and one day returns to Brisbane - especially to Sinai College!

We are currently in the process of recruiting a new Early Years Jewish Studies Teacher and a Playgroup Leader and will inform parents of the new staff members as soon as an appointment has been made.
Meet our New Staff

Ms Danielle Troeger - Junior Years Teacher
Ms Danielle Troeger is a new addition to the Sinai College staff. Ms Troeger has worked with multi age groupings previously and most recently taught Year 2 at West Moreton Anglican College. Prior to this Danielle taught at St John’s Anglican College, Regents Park State School and Marsden State School. Ms Troeger has a Masters of Education, Graduate Diploma Education (Early Childhood), Bachelor of Teaching, Reading Recovery Certification and Cert IV in Assessment and Training. Danielle has worked as a literacy, early childhood and curriculum consultant in numerous private schools throughout Queensland and has a great passion for sharing her love of reading with her students.

Ms Peta Harding - Early Childhood Educator
Ms Peta Harding joins us in the Preppies classroom, supporting Ms Emma Percasky our Early Childhood Teacher. Peta has almost 9 years working in Early Childhood environments, a Diploma of Children’s Services and is currently completing her Bachelor of Early Childhood. Peta can always be found with a smile on her face and is often up to her elbows in play dough!

Ms Emily Tattam - Swimming Instructor
Our new swimming instructor is Ms Emily Tattam. Emily is a qualified swimming instructor of Babies, Children and Adults. Emily is providing intensive swimming sessions that develop student skills and strengths. Emily is a very busy lady as she also works as the Queensland Office Manager for the JNF!
Welcome Preppies (Prep/Pre-Prep)

The first day of the 2016 school year was a very special day with the opening of our new “Preppies” class at Sinai College. We were so proud of our Preppies and the fantastic way they are interacting with each other and their learning experiences. There wasn’t a single tear in sight on the first day. This exciting program is based on the Early Learning Framework with elements of Reggio Emilia and Montessori approaches woven through the learning opportunities. “Preppies” consists of both Prep and Pre-Prep students and allows Pre-Prep students the option to be extended by participating in Prep activities. Similarly our Prep students have the option to attend extension classes with the Year Ones should they be developmentally and academically ready. Our unique program is play based but also incorporates literacy and numeracy development, alongside access to specialist subjects including Jewish Studies, Hebrew, Israeli Dancing, Library and Swimming. We have dedicated a special double page spread in this issue of the newsletter to our gorgeous newest members of the Sinai College.
CoordiClass

Sinai College is working in collaboration with occupational therapist Marga Grey to implement the CoordiClass program in all classrooms in 2016. CoordiClass is a program of exercises to provide structured movement breaks in the classroom. Movement breaks are important to encourage optimal concentration, the ability to sit and pay focused attention and thus to learn. The exercises of CoordiClass consist of 4 exercises which are presented during the day to each class. Each set of 4 exercises takes 5 – 10 minutes to complete. The program provides the following opportunities:

1. Movement to trigger the vestibular system (encourages the ability to sit still in one position)
2. Brain bridging (encourages both hemispheres of the brain to be focused)
3. Rhythm (rhythmical movements is underlying to sequencing, e.g. counting or time tables)
4. Listening (listen to a beat, move on a sound to rest the ears from listening to the human voice but to encourage the use of the ears at the same time)
5. Balance (encourages focus attention and stabilizes the body to still for periods of time).

CoordiClass benefits students of all abilities as it assists them to maximise learning time. For more information go to www.coordikids.com.
Whole School Testing Program

Last week our teachers commenced collecting data across Spelling, Writing, Numeracy and Reading to collate, analyse and feedback to parents. For Preppies an individualised developmental assessment across literacy, numeracy, fine motor, gross motor and speech skills is being completed. Our school is developing a whole school approach through a ‘Data Dashboard’ to track the progress of students during their educational journey at Sinai College. The data informs planning for your child and the development of your child’s personalised learning plan if required. Your child’s teacher will provide further information on their progress at the upcoming Parent/Teacher Interviews.
Parent/Teacher Interviews

Parent/Teacher interviews commence Tuesday, 16 February 2016, although some interviews may be scheduled before this time if required. This year our Hebrew Teacher, Ms Orly Vetchers will also be contacting parents for Parent/Teacher interviews. We strongly recommend all parents partake in this process as the College values collaborative partnerships with families. During this interview any personalised planning for your child will be discussed. Gold Coast parents who are unable to attend in person will be provided with either a Skype or Telephone option. Letters will be distributed this week with appointment details. Please remember we encourage parents to contact the classroom teacher throughout the year should any concerns or questions arise.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Sinai College offers a number of scholarships to provide opportunities for students to benefit from a Jewish education.
Festival of Trees

Tu B’Shevat, the 15th of Shevat on the Jewish calendar, was celebrated this year on Monday, January 25, 2016. This is the season in which the earliest-blooming trees in Israel begin a new fruit-bearing cycle. Students marked the day of Tu B’Shebat by planting trees with Rabbi Jaffe, decorating trees and making trees out of fruit from trees including dates and figs. On this day we remember that “man is a tree of the field” (Deuteronomy 20:19).
Tennis

Tennis has commenced again at Sinai College during Monday lunchtimes. Families interested in their children participating in tennis lessons should contact Remar Tennis Academy on 3345 9620. Pre-Prep lessons using specialised equipment more appropriate for the younger students are also available on Thursday. Again please contact Remar Tennis Academy.

Visiting Speech Pathologist

Ms Susanne (Sue) Park commenced at Sinai College this week as our Visiting Speech Pathologist. Sue has supported children and adolescents who have a wide range of speech, language, voice, literacy learning and communication difficulties at numerous private schools for several decades. She also has an interest in working with ESL students, supporting their English language learning. She is currently Speech Pathology Australia co-representative for Private Practitioners in Queensland. You may have seen Sue on “Australian Story” regarding her work through Aus Aid. Parents who wish to utilise Sue’s services at the school on a fee for service basis should contact her on 0409 268 919.
Swimming

With the hot weather last week students were delighted to hear swimming was starting again. We were very proud of our Preppies who tackled the water with great bravery for their very first Sinai College swimming lesson. The lessons for younger students focused on water safety and awareness. For older students the lessons were centred around stroke and breathing skills. Students are requested to bring a swimming cap for future lessons.
Parent Information Evening

Thank you to the parents who attended the Parent Information Evening on Thursday evening. As well as presentations by the class teachers and specialists we had a special guest speaker, Occupational Therapist, Marga Grey. Handouts from the evening may be found under Publications on the school website for parents who were unable to attend.

Playgroups

 Mothers with children aged from birth to 3 years are welcome at our new free playgroup sessions held every Thursday from 10.00 am to 11.00 am. Refreshments are provided. Playgroups are a way of connecting families through play and forming a sense of community. They also give parents a chance to network and discuss common topics with other Mothers. These playgroups were an initiative of Muskie Hecht and we thank her for all her efforts to provide mothers and their children with a fun and stimulating program.

Congratulations to our Student Council Representatives
Buddy Program

Our new buddy program places younger students with an older student to assist children in transitioning into school and bridge the age between students. Building a strong foundation within our school community, the buddy program provide mentorship opportunities for our seniors and peer support for our juniors. Each Friday our older students read for 15 minutes with their younger buddies and role model the importance of developing reading skills. Wednesday lunch times provide our students the opportunity to play with their buddies and complete fun activities together. The positive attitude of all the students involved in the program is an enormous credit to them and has built relationships across the school.

Cape York to Brisbane Walk

This term our school aged students will be combining efforts to walk the equivalent distance from Cape York to Brisbane. The students will spend 5 minutes from Monday to Thursday walking/running around the oval. We are providing students with pedometers to measure their steps during this time and then calculate the distance travelled based on an average step. At the end of the week we will combine everyone’s efforts to mark the distance travelled by the class on a map of Queensland.
School Leaders Induction Ceremony

Congratulations to our new school leaders who showcased their leadership and public speaking skills at this week’s School Leaders Induction Ceremony. Our School Captain, Vice Captain and Sports Captain spoke eloquently about their new roles and responsibilities and initiatives. Rabbi Jaffe provided a blessing for the students in their new roles. Part of our new leaders’ roles is to observe students during playtime and award an outstanding student at assembly in the areas of sportsmanship, good behaviour on the playground or environmental awareness. Each week our leadership team meet with the Principal for Student Council to provide student feedback and plan exciting opportunities for our student body. Well done leaders the school is proud of you!

EXCELLENCE PROGRAM
ENGAGE | EXTEND | EXCEL

In 2016 Sinai College is excited to launch its ground breaking Excellence Program with innovative options for student learning.

- Enrichment Activities
- Co-curricular Opportunities
- Extension Programs
- Acceleration Options
- Personalised Learning Plans
- Mentor Programs

Sinai College
Caring for the future, today!

To explore the unlimited educational possibilities for your child book an interview with the Principal on (07) 3349 9088 or email admin@sinaicollege.qld.edu.au
Reminders

**Netball Australia** is running an eight week ball skills program commencing Friday lunch. Students should bring or wear joggers to school.

**Israeli Dancing** commences on Thursday. Prep to Year Six students should wear their sports uniforms to school.

Senior students participating in **Personal Training** sessions on Thursday or Friday should wear their sports uniform to school.

**Homework** commences for all students from this Monday. **Tuckshop**, ‘Falafel Fridays’, commences this week for students. Please ensure payment and orders and payment are made by 3.00 pm Wednesday.

**Swimming** continues on Wednesdays. Please ensure students bring togs, goggles, towels and SWIMMING CAP. Students from Prep to Year Six should wear their sports uniforms to school.

Families interested in **tennis lessons** for their child (Monday for Prep to Year Six) (Thursday for Pre-Preps) should contact Remar Tennis Academy.

Families interested in lunchtime **Krav Maga** lessons for their child should contact Jeremy on 0427 915 110.

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**Enrol now for 2016**

**Contact details:**

✉️: 20 Moxon Road, Burbank 4156  
📞: 07 3349 9088  
@️: admin@sinaicollege.qld.edu.au  
🌐: www.sinaicollege.qld.edu.au