

Bialik Brings The Story of Pesach to Life

BIALIK COLLEGE

Pesach comes alive at Bialik College as we recount the incredible story of the Israelites' exodus from Egypt during interactive model sederim. Each year level has their own special seder with age-appropriate themes and every single student gets the opportunity to participate. The seder experience is backed by formal and informal learning which instills in the students the meaning and feeling of the chag.

Whilst the Kinder, Prep and Year 1 students act out the story of Pesach, bringing the characters and the events to life, in the Primary School classrooms, there is a focus on the conceptual idea of freedom. The theme runs, in one way or another, through many of the classes – both Jewish Studies and secular. Students are encouraged to consider the literal and figurative aspects of what it means to be a slave and to think about freedom from a humanist point of view. The message to the younger students is to look at every situation and find something positive, as well as to ponder deeply what learning can be gleaned from the situation.

This year, a new initiative has been introduced in Year 4. The students will investigate the concept of the number

four in the Haggadah, such as 'four cups', 'four mothers' and 'four sons'. This learning will culminate in the communal seder, which is a hamish event attended by the Year 4 students and their parents. The Seder is run by the students and includes fun, Pesach-themed activities for everyone to enjoy together.

A highlight of the Pesach traditions at Bialik is the Prep and Year 12 'buddy' seder. It is an opportunity for the new Prep students to cement bonds with their Year 12 buddies — they read from the Haggadah together, play games and get to know each other. Just as Pesach is a bonding experience for Jewish families, so it is a time for the Bialik family to unite. Like the tradition of the Pesach seder has been passed down to our people through the ages, so the Bialik tradition of unity and inclusive Jewish learning is passed down from our Senior students to some of the youngest members of the Bialik community.

Traditionally, Pesach is a time to reflect, discuss and debate. At Bialik College, the model sederim provide each and every student with the opportunity for lively discussion and a vibrant atmosphere, enriched with singing, games and educational quizzes.

