

BIALIK COLLEGE

New creche offers great start in life

BIALIK College is delighted to announce that its spectacular new creche, the Judith Hellen Children's Centre, opened on July 1 this year. The state-of-the-art facility warmly welcomes children as young as three months through to three years to its inclusive, nurturing community.

Bialik is also thrilled to report the recent appointment of creche manager Melanie Turkopp. She comes to Bialik with 30 years of experience in the early childhood profession and has also worked with the VCAA (Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority) to create resources that highlight preschool children as confident, intelligent and active participants in their world.

Turkopp explains, "Infants and toddlers have long been a focus of my attention, curiosity and pure amazement because of their innate ability to explore, discover and be involved learners."

Flexible and child-centred, the Bialik Creche is inspired by the Reggio Emilia approach, as well as Bialik's Cultures of Thinking project, developed in collaboration with Harvard University, and which encompasses and reflects the whole school pedagogy, inclusive of our rich Hebrew and Jewish studies program.

The creche is part of Bialik's award-winning Early Learning Centre (ELC), which is renowned for its outstanding educators and excellent educational outcomes. It is in a stunning new building on the Bialik campus, a secure and safe environment with access to superb facilities like Bialik's Gringlas Sports Centre, gyms, libraries and beautiful outdoor areas.



Bialik College principal Jeremy Stowe-Lindner with student Jackson Rose, who is putting up a specially crafted mezuzah at the new Bialik creche.

Bialik's year 1 students in the ELC have made a wonderful contribution to the creche by creating beautiful mezuzot that have now been placed on all the entrances in the new building. It was a very special project for the young students that began at the start of the year and involved not only creating their mezuzot but also learning about the art, the ritual and the meaning of the mezuzah.

At the end of term 2, the students joined Bialik's principal Jeremy Stowe-Lindner to walk through the creche and affix their unique mezuzot to the doorposts, while reciting the brachah together.

Melanie Turkopp is now taking interested families on tours to see the creche. Please contact her on (03) 9822 7982 to make a booking for a personal tour. General school enquiries to (03) 9822 4599.