

Learning Through The Arts At Bialik College

BIALIK COLLEGE

Media, art and design, music, and drama are the four areas of the arts studied at Bialik and have equal but distinct offerings. Artistic and creative endeavours are valued, according to Principal Jeremy Stowe-Lindner, as 'essential in developing the balanced, rounded graduate of our forward-thinking school.' Principal Stowe-Lindner also says that he is 'proud of Bialik's history of staging creative and impactful arts opportunities.'

The stage is seen as a platform for learning as well as for expression of creativity and the school production as a tool for bringing students together, expanding their repertoire of skills, teaching them the fine art of time management, helping to build tolerance and resilience and for students to appreciate the wonderful results and value of their hard work and commitment.

This year's offering, *Seussical*, was a glorious success that showcased the exceptional talent of Bialik's performers, technical and backstage crew, and musicians. Head of Drama at Bialik and Director of *Seussical*, Eli Erez, expressed that the students were inspired by their stage experience and understood the value and importance of creative thinking – what he believes is a particularly important quality of Dr Seuss' work. Erez added, 'The other important themes and values that are explored in this musical – loyalty, kindness, empathy, determination and self-sacrifice – have been evident throughout our rehearsal process and in the interrelationships between our cast, crew and band.'

Other performance opportunities such as the various VCE Drama and Theatre Studies presentation evenings and the Year 7 Drama elective Italian Night are much-anticipated

annual events.

Bialik College also provides an ongoing and comprehensive Music program that is frequently showcased through a series of early evening *Solrees*. Student musicians take up positions supporting drama performances and the annual Bialik Rising Star singing competition, which always plays to a full house.

All types and abilities of artistic expression are celebrated annually during the Bialik Arts Festival, which provides an opportunity for all students from Years 2–12 to connect through arts practice. The Arts Festival offers a plethora of activities, workshops, exhibitions, events and performances for everyone to enjoy. Visual arts, too, have a special place at Bialik. Whether it's photography, digital design, fine arts, film or multi-media, students' ideas are nurtured and developed. There are many opportunities during the year for students to share their work. Creative projects are displayed throughout the school, students are commissioned to create the poster art for various school productions and, towards the end of the Term 3, a gallery-style event is held.

This evening includes the Media Gala, during which the VCE Media films are screened and the Visual Art and Design Showcase, which represents every Art and Design student from Year 6 through to Year 12. It concludes with the *Musica Bialika* concert, a delightful music experience featuring the College's brightest voices and musical talents.

The Arts enrich the school experience and will continue to be an important part of life at Bialik for not only do artistic pursuits excite, challenge and inspire young minds but they also create lasting, positive memories of the school years.

