

The Hillel Herald



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Hillel Day School of Boca Raton

Home of the Hillel Lions

Winter 2011/5771
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Editor's Note: All items in green type are Midot-related.

The new middle school building is planned to be completed this Spring. Naming opportunities are available by contacting the Development Office.



Congratulations to Gabrielle Pomeranz, winner of the Chanukah Card Design Competition (pictured below).



Elijah Webberly, z"l ~In Memoriam~



A Message from the Head of School, Rabbi Samuel J. Levine

Dear Parents,

On the 23rd of December, corresponding to the 16th of Tevet, our school suffered an incalculable loss with the passing of Elijah Webberly, of blessed memory. Our hearts go out to his mother, Zehava, and to his sisters and brothers. We cannot begin to comfort them in their sorrow and pray that they be given the strength to deal with their grief.

Elijah is no longer physically with us but he will not be forgotten. All of us at Hillel, his classmates, his teachers and the school administration will carry Elijah's memory with us for the rest of our lives. We will remember his gentle demeanor, his warm smile, his sparkling eyes, his sense of humor and his zest for life.

As Elijah's illness diminished the time he spent in school, he underwent a transformational experience going from being a student to becoming a teacher. Elijah taught all of us. He taught lessons of faith and courage. He taught us how to laugh during adversity and to appreciate the value of life as he was slipping away. Sitting in class during one of his infrequent visits to school, his classmates asked him questions, some of them very personal. When one of the students asked him what it was like to be in school, the teacher told Elijah that he did not have to answer. Elijah retorted that he didn't mind the question and then proceeded to say, "Don't ever take going to school for granted."

Elijah never felt sorry for himself. His concerns during his illness were for his mother and family and for how he was impacting the lives of others. When I visited him in his hospital in New York, he always sought to put me at ease. His selflessness was infinite and his generosity of spirit remained intact throughout his ordeal.

As a school community, we are still formulating the proper way to memorialize Elijah. Any memorial forthcoming will serve to inform future students and Hillel families about the special neshama G-d chose to share with us for but a brief time. Those of us who knew him, however, will need no such memorial. We will carry his memory with us for the rest of our lives.

The Hillel Day School Emergency Hotline number is 866-544-5535. Please keep this number handy so that you can access school opening or closing information in the event of any emergency, weather or otherwise.

Annual Journal Event

Hillel Day School's Annual Event Honors Rabbi & Mrs. Samuel J. Levine, Dianne Groendyke & Hadassah Smolarcik

With over 280 guests in attendance, Hillel Day School of Boca Raton raised over \$200,000 at its Annual Journal Event held at Congregation B'nai Israel this past December. As its major fundraiser of the year, the event is held annually to pay tribute to deserving community members and to raise funds for Jewish education via the ad journal.

After cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, guests entered the sanctuary for the tribute ceremony. Sal Abady, chair of Hillel's Financial Resource Development Committee,



welcomed everyone, and Shimmie Kaminetsky led the National Anthem and Hatikvah, followed by Rabbi Efrem Goldberg, Morah D'Atrah of Boca Raton Synagogue, who delivered the D'var Torah. Remarks were also made by special guest, Rabbi Kenneth Brander.

This year's event co-chairs, Sal & Leslie Abady and Daniel & Caroline Katz, enthusiastically took their leadership roles to a new level in planning the evening of tribute for Rabbi and Mrs. Samuel J. Levine, for their lifelong dedication to Jewish education. Daniel J. Katz, president, spoke on behalf of Rabbi & Mrs. Levine. Also speaking on their parents' behalf were Dr. Sara Levine, Dr. Elie Levine and Yitty Levine, and two grandchildren, Mollie Markowitz and Skyler Levine. A sterling silver Kiddush cup from Israel was presented to the Levines, along with a photo book, created by Rabbi Mordechai Smolarcik, capturing many memories of years past. In a poignant response, Rabbi Levine reflected on his past 40 years dedicated to Jewish education, and those people who played key roles in his journey.



Also honored were two faculty members, Dianne Groendyke and Hadassah Smolarcik, who each received the Oht Hameseroot Faculty Dedication Award for their 13 years of service to Hillel Day School.



The guests then entered the ballroom for a grand buffet by VIP Caterers. An extra special thank you to Nancy Markovitch Floral Design for creating and generously donating the beautiful table centerpieces as well as other components of the decor. Guests enjoyed the presentation of HillelTube, a video montage of students living the Hillel Day School experience. The grand finale of the evening was the comedic performance of MODI, who had attendees laughing at his Jewish humor.

The ad journal, the school's major source of funding, was co-chaired by Eli & Orly Cohen and Nancy Markovitch. Thanks to their efforts, and to everyone who helped solicit ads, valuable funds were raised in the name of Jewish education. Also, thank you to: Michele Dimont, Ad Journal Editor, who was instrumental in helping to produce a beautiful journal, Caroline Katz, for her professional photography, Rabbi Josh Broide, Rabbi Mordechai Smolarcik and Boca Raton Synagogue, for technical assistance, and ASI For You, Inc., for printing the journals and programs.



l-r: Daniel and Caroline Katz, Nancy Markovitch, Eli and Orly Cohen (not pictured: Sal & Leslie Abady)

Finally, we would like to thank the many Hillel families, grandparents, faculty, community members, students and alumni who participated, through their financial contributions, in making this event such a success.

Photo Credits: Caroline Katz

To make a donation to the Annual Campaign, please contact Suzanne Rice, Director of Development, at suzanner@hilleldayschool.org or call 561-470-5000 and help support Jewish education.



“Yoni” has arrived at Hillel. In case you are not familiar with “Yoni,” he is a fictional character who teaches us Middot as he travels around the world. Students in grades 1-5 have worked on the Middah of Zerizut (doing things quickly) and now are following Yoni through England as he teaches them the Middah of Emet (being truthful). Ask your children to share what they learn each week with Yoni.

Friday mornings have taken on a new dimension, as Mr. Chaim Parchi comes to sing with the students. Each Friday morning there are two assemblies. The Early Childhood program begins at 10:30am and the next assembly for students in 1st through 5th grades begins at 11:00am. Students sing Shabbat songs and are developing quite a repertoire, which I hope they share at the Shabbat table! Parents are invited to come and watch the children as they sing along with Mr. Parchi.

Students in 3rd grade prepared a beautiful program of Chanukah songs under the direction of Mr. Chaim Parchi and their teachers Morah Gali and Morah Tova. The students were then driven on our new school bus to the Brighton Gardens Home for Assisted Living, where the students performed for the residents. The residents were truly moved by this beautiful presentation. Students enjoyed Chanukah programs galore at Hillel during the week of Chanukah.

To begin the day, each morning the students gathered together to light the tall Chanukiyah. Students in all grades were treated to different culinary treats. Levivot and Sufganiyot were made many different ways, depending on whether the teacher is of Ashkenazic or Sephardic descent! We have some very talented chefs at Hillel!

Teachers hosted Chanukah parties at their homes or in school. Make

sure you look at the Chanukah video on youtube.com/hilleltube.

Shooby Doob also came to visit us at Hillel. Students sang along with songs they have learned over the years with Shooby. It is so amazing to watch the children as they interact with their friend, Shooby Doob Shloimy. They have developed an amazing relationship with him and enjoy his performances when he is in town.

Yaasher Koach also to Rabbi Shai and the B’not Sherut. They performed a skit for the students on Chanukah depicting the ambition of the Greeks to subdue the Jews and have them adapt to the Hellenistic lifestyle. The students enjoyed interacting with the performers. After the skit, students of grades 3-5 watched as the Chanukah Chidon took place. It was exciting to hear the children answer questions presented to them in a most creative fashion, thanks to Rabbi Shai. Winners of this contest were Daniel Gross (fourth grade) and Rebecca Rosen (fifth grade). Yasher Koach!

Another contest that took place was the Chanukiyot contest where students created Chanukiyot with recyclable materials. The grand winners were Noah Mamann and Noah Bernton. Good job!

On Thursday, December 9th, the students of Hillel, Donna Klein, and Torah Academy joined together for “Chesed Day.” Students joined together to create projects that were then distributed to six local Chesed organizations. Representatives of these organizations came and introduced themselves and their programs to the students. The students heard about what Chesed is, and why it is so important for us to be involved with Chesed always (see page 9 for photos).



Shooby Doob Shloimy entertains HDS students at a special Chanukah concert.



Lighting the menorah each morning during Chanukah.



Chanukah fun and ruach.



Lower school Chanukah programs.



Dear Friends,

In our busy and complex lives, we often forget to focus on that which is most important.

Healthy parent-child communication is crucial for the proper development of all children but especially for those in their middle school years when life begins to get really “complicated.”

Sadly, research has shown that parents and children spend less time together than ever. The good news is that there are relatively simple steps to take that can make a huge difference in the quality of your relationship with your children. Dr. Lawrence Kutner, a leading expert on child development and parent-child communication, emphasizes the following:

- **Make the Time.** Formal meetings are not necessary but even a little time to talk while you are driving or working around the kitchen can be very meaningful.
- **Listen to the Little Stuff.** Kids will know if you are really listening to them. Pay attention to the small talk so that your children will be comfortable approaching you about more sensitive topics.
- **Listen between the Lines.** Pay particular attention to the emotions and not just the details of the conversation.
- **Ask Their Opinion.** Children love being asked for their opinion and it doesn't have to be about important issues.
- **Don't Interrupt.** Children often feel that their parents don't give them a chance to explain themselves. Give your children the opportunity to explain their opinion or desires even if you think you know what they are going to say.

As Torah-committed Jews, we have the beautiful blessing of living lives with built-in “family time” (Shabbat, Yom Tov, etc.) and recognizing the importance of passing on our Mesorah (Torah tradition) to the next generation. Let's all commit ourselves to grow in this area and communicate more effectively with our children.



Rabbi Adam Englander and HDS students create tzedakah boxes at the Jewish Federation's FedStock event in Mizner Park.

KAR²E Kolumn

By: Rabbi Mordechai Smolarcik, KAR²E Coordinator



Hillel Day School of Boca Raton has implemented its newest program to promote positive values and behaviors in all aspects of student life. The latest refinement to the existing KAR²E Program (Kindness Always, Respect and Responsibility Everywhere), which instills

values of midot through a series of ongoing programs and curriculum, are KAR²E Circles for middle school students, who spend 25 minutes each week participating in small student/teacher groups that offer a safe, non-judgmental atmosphere for the discussion of ethical issues and moral dilemmas. Topics of discussion include social inclusion, chesed/volunteerism, honesty, respect for parents and peer pressure. Most importantly, these discussions are largely driven by the students themselves.

Having students initiate a discussion about a value that is relevant to them and allowing them to discuss the topic among themselves in a non-judgmental atmosphere allows for a deeper and longer-lasting level of moral and ethical education. The students really seem to enjoy the KAR²E Circle discussion groups and the teachers involved also give new insights into the issues that their students struggle with in their everyday lives.

KAR²E Circle topics have included: “How to Choose a Career” and “Dealing with Stress in Our Lives.”





Dear Parents,

I want to highlight a project that the students in K-3rd grade and I have been working on together. As many of you might be aware, over the last several weeks we have been meeting in individual classes to discuss the **Seven Habits of Happy Kids** by Sean Covey. Each week I read a story from the book that is related to one of the habits and then we discuss how we can use that habit to improve upon our Ben Adam L'Chaveyro and Ben Adam L'Makom interactions (how we engage with our friends and how we engage with Hashem).

When discussing the habit of being *Proactive*, the children shared how they could take more initiative in their own lives. For instance, it is their responsibility to entertain themselves if they feel bored, a common complaint among kids. The children also came up with their own ideas of how they could be more helpful in preparing for Shabbat, cleaning up after dinner or helping to take care of younger siblings.

Beginning with the End in Mind and *Put First Things First* were also great discussion topics, helping children realize that they need to have a plan (*Beginning with the End in Mind*) and prioritize (*Put First Things First*) for the things they want. This helped empower the children to feel that they could have appropriate control over their lives. They came to the conclusion that if they planned appropriately, whether studying daily for a test or saving up to buy that special toy, they could achieve their goals.

Our *Think Win-Win* and *Seek First to Understand, Then be Understood* conversations were something the children really took to heart. Having disagreements with those around us is inevitable,

however, if we can go into a conversation thinking “win-win” (compromise so everyone is happy), or try and understand the other person’s perspective before speaking (*Seek First to Understand, Then be Understood*), then disagreements tend to get solved much quicker. It is amazing to hear children having a disagreement at recess and then hear one say, “Let’s think win-win;” from that point forward the tone of the discussion changes for the positive.

The children really loved using our habit of *Synergize*, or using your assets to create better team work. As children get older they tend to realize what they are best at. Using individual talents to best help out your team is a great way to help everyone. If, for example, you are a computer whiz or a great artist and you are working on a group project, then use that asset to help the group. Of course, this comes with a caveat—we should always keep our minds open to trying new things even if we don’t think we are good at them.

Lastly, we discussed *Sharpen the Saw*, or creating balance in our lives. We talked about how we must use our body, soul and mind to create balance, e.g., exercising not only our bodies, but our Neshamas and brains as well, in order to maintain optimum physical, spiritual and intellectual health. By only focusing on one, we will not be giving ourselves the proper balance, and without balance we cannot truly be healthy. The children talked about how: Tefilah and learning Torah (relating to our Neshamas), reading and going to school (involving our minds), and running around at recess (concerning our bodies), all link together to help us create the proper balance in our lives. I strongly urge you to continue these conversations with your children, as I will do in school. These are not just lessons for now; they are lessons for life.



Miss Rita of Dramantics always has a great story to tell and it is always a treat for the children. She also performed at the Chanukah Fair in November.



3rd Grade Experiences Skype Visit
By: Ms. Berger and Ms. Lavoie

On November 12, the 3rd graders were presented with an amazing opportunity to speak to a new and upcoming children’s author, Lisa Graff. Through the implementation of technology, the students were able to interact with Ms. Graff over Skype and discuss her novel, *The Thing About Georgie*, which the students had recently read. They learned firsthand about the writing process and all of the dedication it takes to write a book. With this being Ms. Graff’s first novel, she was able to share her three-year journey of becoming a published author. The students asked Ms. Graff questions relating to the novel and her career as a writer. Ms. Graff generously shared her thoughts about character and plot development, as well as her plans for upcoming stories. We would like to commend all of the 3rd graders for their hard work while reading the novel, their attentiveness during the Skype visit and their continued enthusiasm. We would also like to thank Ms. Graff for providing this wonderful experience to the students of Hillel and Mr. Dimont for spearheading this interaction.

P.T.A.

A CHANUKAH FAIR TO REMEMBER

Boundless enthusiasm resounded at the HDS annual PTA Chanukah Fair and Open House. Boasting a terrific turnout—as prospective parents and current HDS families entered the Milton B. Katz Campus in droves—the long-awaited December event was a grand success.



From activities for children of all ages to shopping venues and ample food choices, this very special day offered something for everyone. Outside, the front lawn was a hub of entertainment, as squeals of joy emanated from the bounce house and oversized inflatable slide. Toddlers and siblings in need of some winding down time hopped aboard an all-time Chanukah Fair favorite, the color-block train, which circled the carpool lanes in the Early Childhood parking lot.

With the much appreciated help of Middle School students, Weinbaum Yeshiva High School students, and parent volunteers, this year's Chanukah carnival included an array of fun challenges: a balance beam, bowling, a dreidel dig, face painting, a lollipop tree, and much more. Little ones also had the opportunity to hear stories from Ms. Rita the Storyteller. The carnival also featured creative balloons by Nachum Braverman.



And that's not all. While the sun was shining outside, the indoor Lowenstern Cafetorium radiated with excitement. Students enjoyed four choices of arts and crafts activities organized by Lisa Pinkis and hosted by our B'not Sheirut volunteers, Yael Berkowitz and Shoham Malul. Parents and students also enjoyed a varied assortment of shopping stations: Caketory, Chaya's Vitamins, Child ID booth with New York Life, Creations in Design, Exclusive Jewelry by Fran, FrumFun Stationery, Greta Baum Hats, JCC membership booth, Jody's Clothes, Judi's handmade knitted hats, Pampered Chef with Erica Stein, Puerto Fino Hats, Rae Designs, Scholastic Book Fair, Sleeveless skirts and tzniut accessories by Tanya Reinfeld, Talya Ovadia accessories, Taylor Orthodontics, Watch Concept USA, and What's Your Fancy.



When it was time to refuel from shopping and playing, Cook Extraordinaire Steve Lugerner's heavenly hot dogs and chicken nuggets really hit the spot, supplemented with latkes, french fries, and ice-cold beverages. Dessert and snack options included the highly popular Sno-Kones, sufganiyot (jelly doughnuts) and popcorn.

Prospective parents enjoyed informative tours of the campus from Rabbi Samuel J. Levine, Head of School, Rabbi Adam Englander, Upper School Principal, and Chayim Dimont, Lower School Principal, who gave them a glimpse into the quality Jewish education their children can receive at Hillel.

The day concluded with the annual raffle, with winners receiving everything from store gift certificates and South Florida attraction tickets to complimentary salon services, sports lessons with Coach Moisha, and much more. We thank all of our vendors for contributing such generous prizes. The PTA commends Sara Goldberg for taking the lead in finding these vendors and also thanks Rachel Yudewitz, Stephanie Stern, and Shira Englander, for their support.

While the day offered much fun and prizes, it also provided other rewards—the joy that comes with giving back to the community. As children kept busy, adults fulfilled a very important mitzvah by donating blood. In fact, this year HDS had one of the greatest donor turnouts in the event's history. Thank you to Beth Janock for arranging this opportunity.



The day also typified the sense of commitment that permeates the HDS student and parent body. The dedication of the many student volunteers was greatly appreciated and the PTA applauds Rina Lanner for coordinating this effort. In addition, countless parents assumed shifts at the ticket booths and fair venues. We thank you so much for your support and, in particular, would like to mention Lisa Houben for recruiting volunteers and arranging schedules.



Most importantly, a hearty yasher koach to the Chanukah Fair co-chairs: Cara Beim, Simone Broide, Devorah Marcus and Tammy Pickholtz. We are so sincerely grateful to you for organizing such a spectacular day. Hope to see you all again next year!

ONGOING HAPPENINGS

Help support someone in need and protect the environment by dropping new or used shoes in the **Shoes for the Cure** bin just outside the main school doors. If your family has difficulty affording new shoes, please let **Nurse Robin Noble** 561-470-5000 know the shoe sizes you need and we can request assistance from Shoes for the Cure.

Celebrate your child's birthday with a gift to the class that can be opened again and again. For further details about the **Birthday Book Club**, please contact **Lisa Friedman** at nycrangers@comcast.net or **Tzippi Rosen** at LRosen_1@hotmail.com.

Congratulations to the **Levitt family** on being the **Box Tops** winner for December, winning a \$10 gift certificate to **Aspaclaria Judaica**. We encourage families to keep bringing in Box Tops labels!

Come exercise and enjoy time with friends at **Zumba** class, held in the Cafetorium on Tuesdays from 2:30-3:30 p.m. and led by Zumba Instructor **Hanna Cohen**. For more information, please contact **Dvora Eisen** at contact@chayasvitamins.com or 561-208-1201.

If your children have gently worn uniforms they are no longer able to wear, please bring them to **Nurse Robin** so another family can benefit from them through the PTA's **Uniform Swap Shop program**. If your child is in need of uniforms, please stop by Nurse Robin's office at your convenience. Parents are welcome to take the uniforms for free or for a small donation to the PTA.

The PTA is pleased to remind you about our ongoing **adult education classes**.

Rabbi M. Smolarcik

Mondays, 8:15 a.m.—Parenting & Parsha

Rabbi P. Moskowitz

Tuesdays, 8:15 a.m.—How, As Friends, We Can Win Friends & Influence People

Sessions are held in the conference room near the front desk. No sign-up or commitment necessary.

The B'nai/B'not Mitzvah Fund enables parents to provide Bar/Bat Mitzvah presents that benefit tzedakah and HDS. A variety of gifts are available to choose from, and you can designate any of several charities as the recipient of your donation. To learn more, please contact **Lori Gabor** (561-893-0590) or **Sara Rosenthal** (561-451-9255) regarding 6th grade gifts or **Liz Stadlan** at (561-362-8604) regarding gifts to 7th graders.

Parashat Vayeitzei Tzedakah Box Collection



The PTA thanks Andrea Bernstein for initiating and coordinating the First Annual Parashat Vayeitzei Tzedakah Box Collection, which raised \$1,165.33. Thank you so much for your generosity and for helping our children understand the importance of tzedakah. Keep collecting!

TEACHER APPRECIATION

Sponsoring a Teacher Appreciation Breakfast is a great way to recognize our HDS teachers and staff. We thank those families whose generosity helps make the breakfasts possible:

Annual Sponsors

Abady, Abramovitz, Bensmihen, Berman (Rabbi Gur & Ira), Borzak, Cohen (Eli & Orly), Freedman (Ben & Cara), Friedman (Lisa & Howard), Goldstein, Greenbaum (Neil & Rachel), Haar, Katzman, Kay, Krawatsky, Muller, Scher, Skoczylas, Stadlan, Struhl and Tansman families.

November: Honoring 1st and 4th grade teachers and B'not Sherut **Brown, Deakter, Silverstein, Wirtschafter and Zimmerman families.**

Chanukah/December: Honoring EC3, ETGAR, and 5th grade teachers

Bernstein, Cohn, Dimont, Gad, Gurvitch, Jason, Kaskel, Levontin, Siedler and Zucker families.

The PTA extends its gratitude to **Cara Freedman** and **Naomi Shapiro** for their detailed planning of the breakfasts, as well as to the numerous volunteers who assumed a hands-on role at these events: **Naomi Abramovitz, Joshua Bakst, Roz Falkoff, Cara Freedman, Mr. Fried, Adela Gad, Pam Immerman, Batsheva Klein, Sarah Mizrahi, Elana Mordechai, Ellen Nadler, Ezra and Cheryl Saragossi, Chani Schiffman, Naomi Shapiro and Susie Siedler.**

TRENDSETTERS



The Imagine Negative Ion Sports Watch, which has become a hit with sports enthusiasts across the globe, is now available through the PTA in a variety of colors for just \$10. For more information, please contact Rachel Yudewitz at rstern418@aol.com.

Featuring built-in clips, uniquely designed **Klipped Kippahs** are on sale for \$15 in a variety of designs and styles. HDS Flexfit brand baseball caps are also available for just \$10. Supplies are limited. To order, please stop by the front desk.

Thank you to the countless volunteers who lead and support PTA projects on a daily basis. Your dedication has enabled the PTA to make the following contributions to HDS over the past few months:

- Purchases:** Chanukah candles for all of our students, Sweet City challot every week for Early Childhood students, a scoreboard for the Haar Athletic Field (Go, Lions!)
- Sponsorships:** Middle School Oneg Shabbat programs, Chanukah parties in teachers' homes

WITH PRAISE, THANKS & ADMIRATION...

The PTA extends its heartfelt gratitude to the 147 HDS families who participated in this year's Chanukah gift to faculty and staff. Thank you also to **Cara Freedman** and **Sharon Fein** for organizing the gift collection.

Staying connected with your friends at HDS has never been easier, thanks to the second edition of the *Hillel Hello Pages*. The PTA thanks our outstanding editorial and layout editors, **Michele Dimont** and **Deena Lurie**, and also commends **Dvora Scher** on leading an incredible advertising effort. Special thanks also to the following individuals whose time and dedication helped make the publication possible: **Rabbi Samuel J. Levine, Chayim Dimont, Jill Kaminetzky, Sharona Kay, Gail Marcus, Suzanne Rice**, and the advertising committee: **Elana Belizon, Sarah Bersson, Vanessa Brooks, Orly Cohen, Leslie Davis, Dvora Eisen, Keri Greenfield, Meira Gross, Miriam Grunhaus, Tova Kutzker, Lori Landa, Devorah Marcus, Tanya Reinfeld, Gila Stern, Stephanie Stern and Shoshana Wirtschafter.**

The PTA would like to acknowledge **Dvora Eisen** for all her hard work organizing this year's Scholastic Book Fair. Her unwavering commitment and determination made the fair a tremendous success.

Thank you to **Aliza Ben-Shimon, Galit Freedman and Tanya Reinfeld** for the many hours they spend each week photocopying for our teachers.

The PTA expresses its gratitude to **Gila Stern** for arranging the PTA's holiday ice cream events—at Yogurt Rendevous and New York Café. Thank you to both of these stores for their generous donations during these events.

Thank you to **Dvora Eisen** for coordinating a special PTA event at Monkey Joe's during Chol Hamoed Sukkot.

The PTA was pleased to provide each of our students with a box of candles in honor of Chanukah. Coordinating this year's treats was **Naomi Shapiro**. Thank you also to our volunteers: **Orly Cohen, Ilona Grynzstein and Gila Stern.**

Special thanks to **Sharon Fein** and **Sara Rosenthal** for coordinating Class Picture Day and retakes with Lifetouch® photography on December 31. Thank you also to our volunteers: **Naomi Abramowitz, Rachel Greenbaum and Devorah Marcus.**

The PTA expresses its gratitude to **Liora Adler** for creating teacher gift bags during Parent-Teacher Conferences. We also thank **Dovid Halbstein** and **Tani Kay** for delivering the bags to our teachers.



HDS Happenings

HDS EMET CLUB WINNERS

E xcellent M idot E very T ime	Rebecca Adler	Sophia Golberg	Amir Rindsberg
	Daniel Agus	Tamar Goldberg	Yarden Rindsberg
	Michael Aharon	Max Goodman	Abigail Rosenthal
	Sara Amiel	David Greenbaum	Lily Rudensky
	Shira Bar-Chaim	Jacob Greenbaum	Dafna Saketkhou
	Matthew Beim	Ariella Gross	Chana Adina Schandelson
	Batya Belizon	Brian Gross	Lauren Schechter
	Kayla Bensmihen	Anna Frieda Grynsztein	Eliana Shapiro
	Liron Ben-Zikry	Gavin Haber	Ariella Sides
	Noa Ben-Zikry	Amitai Harow	Yosef Siedler
	Nava Berkeley	Gavriel Hollander	Shuey Silkin
	Caleb Berman	Aiden Kaner	Max Silverstein
	Hila Blanka	Shayna Kaskel	Shayna Silverstein
	Diana Brizel	Pearl Katz	Mishael Sommers
	Benjamin Cohen	Sofia Kestenbaum	Noah Sonnenberg
	Jojo Cohen	Aryeh Kovack	Sam Stern
	Shaindie Cohen	Raphael Krawatsky	Ethan Wirtschafter
	Leora Cohn	Meir Lanner	Rebecca Wirtschafter
	David Dahan	Jacob Levinrad	Nitay Zahavi
	Jake Davis	Devorah Lome	Gili Zamosh
Racheyl Drang	Elinor Lugassy		
Tani Englander	Jade Miller		
Kayla Friedlander	Franki Noble		
Hunter Gately	Matan Ovadia		
Hadass Gerlitz	Dalya Pickholtz		
Hilla Gerlitz	Ariella Pinkis		
Hodaya Gerlitz	Naomi Reichenberg		

Mazal Tov to all of the winners! (as of 1/17/11)



Members of the 5th grade class received a grant through the Efraim Zvi Gil Scholarship Fund (Naomi Abramovitz's father), to plant a vegetable garden for the 1st grade to use for educational purposes both in the Judaic and secular curriculum. The vegetables will be used to teach the brachot and how seeds grow vegetables.



The school has invested in a compost bin. The 5th graders have painted a garbage can, "Compost Only," which will be placed outside the Cafetorium. The compost will be used to fertilize the vegetation around the school and for the vegetable garden afforded by the Zvi Gil Scholarship Fund grant for the 1st grade. The compost bin is located outside the cafetorium close to the gym. Thank you for your cooperation in ensuring that only fruits and vegetables are disposed of in the "compost only" can.

A Magical Adventure in Learning

By Emily Rosenstein, English Department Chair

Magic beguiles the mind's eye. As a young girl, I was spellbound by the magician's rabbit unflinchingly conjured by each incantation of abracadabra. Over time, I became more difficult to impress until Lewis and Carroll awakened me to the literary experience. Fascinated by the little cakes and potions that make Alice grow and shrink, I realized that I may not fall through a rabbit's hole, but life is an enchanted forest of magical discovery.

Seeking adventure like Alice, Alicia Lavoie, Judy Weinstock, Stacey Kaner and I recently attended the 100th Annual Conference for the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE). As Florida teachers at a conference in Orlando, we, unlike many conference attendees, were impervious to the compelling allure of Mickey Mouse ears decorating the ubiquitous Disney signs. Although removed from the joyful cacophony of theme-park goers, we engaged in activities much the same. We systematically planned the day's itinerary, stood in long lines to meet illustrious stars, and hoarded varieties of souvenirs. Night after night, we sifted through the cornucopia of available sessions in the conference planner; this ritual emerged as our looking glass. Reflecting on our teaching and our curricula, we held our pedagogical convictions and instructional practices up for constant examination and reconsideration. Learning from experienced practitioners and legendary authors like Lois Lowry and Gary Paulsen, we were exposed to new approaches and insights to fortify and invigorate Hillel's English Language Arts curriculum. Captivated by the magnanimous value of mentor texts as well as picture books when teaching writing concepts, we were urged to blur the lines—to merge the instruction of craft and grammar, reading and writing,

editing and revision. We also uncovered the merit and beautiful parallels of literacy instruction alongside music and art. Additionally, for some, one of the best sessions provided a "reading teacher's toolbox" through which critical thinking will become an even more seamlessly integrated curricular component in our elementary levels.

For me, as my second year attending this conference, I found great fulfillment not only observing how Ms. Lavoie, Mrs. Weinstock, and Mrs. Kaner gleamed with satisfaction and enthusiasm but also sharing this experience with colleagues who echo my passion and my vision. Their radiant expressions and inspired chatter each evening energized me and illustrated the magical effect of the conference, only further evident by the new lessons already seeping in to each teacher's instructional repertoire. While true evidence of change comes with time, forever engrained in my mind is Mrs. Kaner's comment on our final day in Orlando. She declared "I'm revamping my entire curriculum and starting fresh;" I knew then that she had discovered some magic.

Alice is clearly not the only one who wanders through wonderland. Though Alice's adventures end as she wakes, conveying a mere dream-induced fantasy world, her story transcends the page. Alice reveals that magic is not only reserved for storybook characters or sorcerers. We teachers are magicians. We enchant students with the power of words. We wave our magic wand, dazzling them with the lyricism of language and empowering them to write like the greats: Cleary, Shakespeare, and Golding. We amaze them with the complexities of a text, and the author's purposeful choices in shaping meaning. Now, let us all gaze into our crystal ball and embrace the magic of learning anew.

HDS Happenings



13 Colonies Fair

By: Jodi Deichman

The 5th graders created interactive projects, persuasive essays and PowerPoint presentations, including advertisements about the 13 Colonies to share with the 3rd, 4th and 8th graders during the 13 Colonies Fair.



CHESED PROJECT

Our 6th grade girls, organized by Morah Rina Lanner, got into the Chanukah spirit and utilized their artistic talents by decorating a candle, which was part of a menorah for the Friendship Circle, an amazing organization for children with special needs. What a chesed!



The objective of this project was for the colonists (5th graders) to convince the prospective settlers (the visiting students) to move to their colonies.

The 8th graders, as part of their social studies/multi-media project, interviewed the 5th graders about the advantages of moving to their colonies, and created a video.



STRIDE & RIDE

Over \$2,000 was raised for the Muscular Dystrophy Association's Annual Stride and Ride this past October. As many of you may know, one of our 7th grade students, Corey Reichenberg, suffers from Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. In an effort to educate our students about neuromuscular diseases and raise money for this worthy cause, our school participated in this fundraiser.

Chesed Day 2010

Hillel students joined students from Donna Klein Jewish Academy and Torah Academy of Boca Raton to create projects distributed to six different Chesed organizations. The events was coordinated by the Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County.



FALL SPORTS

Boys Soccer Wins IAL Championship



By: Coach Moishe Aquart

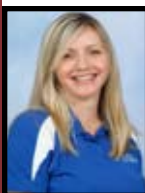
The boys soccer team has improved each year, getting closer to the goal of making the playoffs. This year, they surpassed this goal by winning the championship against all odds.



The first hurdle was keeping players healthy. The second hurdle was playing the semi-final game against the number one seeded team, Hillel North Miami Beach. The game was intense and without the heroics of Judah Baum and Jordan Stauber we would not have prevailed.

Now the Championship was set, against our main rivals, BMA. The game was a see-saw battle, with a dramatic penalty shootout, which resulted in Hillel raising the Championship trophy for the first time.

The team, led by Jordan Stauber, Doni Fixler, Brian Agus and the rising star Judah Baum, helped make this amazing season possible. Special thanks to Coach Carlos, Coach Josh Agus, Athletic Director Maia Shaffer and to the numerous parent supporters. We have set the bar high and will continue to show the quality of our sports program.



Maia Shaffer,
Athletic Director

The late Fall season has been one of the most exciting and victorious seasons for Hillel's athletics. Not only have the wins been great, but the number of spectators has grown tremendously. Even during one of the coldest days this year, many parents and friends showed up to share the team spirit as well as a cup of hot chocolate. The girls basketball championship game the day after had the bleachers completely packed with fans excited and cheering for a win.

It is with great pride that I congratulate our boys soccer team and girls basketball team, as well as their outstanding coaches. This year, for the first time in Hillel's history, both teams made it to the championship! The boys soccer team, led by Coach Moishe and Assistant Coach Carlos, skillfully won the final game and put our Lions at the top. The girls basketball team, led by Coach Harris and Assistant Coach Bassie, came very close to victory this year and continue to improve. This is a tribute to the coaches and to the fantastic teamwork that both teams have demonstrated throughout the year.

Now that we are entering the winter season, we will be switching to girls soccer and boys basketball. Please continue to support these teams as you have the past season. I look forward to seeing all of you out at the games!

Girls Soccer Makes The Finals

By: Coach Jeffrey Harris

For the second year in a row, the girls basketball team had an amazing season! Although we fell a few points short of the championship this year (congratulations to BMA for a great season and for winning the championship), the Lions went 9-2, won its quarter-final and semi-final playoff games, and made it to the championship game. With 300 fans in attendance, the championship game had Hillel's gymnasium packed with fans from both schools and HDS did not disappoint. Maital Citron, Jessica Griff and Emma Harris did their part on offense to keep the game close along with great defense from Kayla Petrover and Maital. At half-time the game was tied 10-10. As the game continued through the 3rd quarter, it was a two-point game going into the 4th. HDS gave a valiant effort but BMA pulled away by a few points midway through the 4th quarter. HDS kept the game close with some great 3-point shooting by Maya Citron, but in the end, lost by 7. Although we would love to have come home with the win and the championship, the girls played an awesome game and were very proud of their effort and their season, which was filled with some great



moments. A highlight of our season was playing in the American Airlines Arena with our Middle School cheering us on. The girls had a great time, played a terrific game and brought back a win that I am sure they will never forget. In



fact, the HDS Lady Lions were selected that night to be on the floor of the Arena to high-five the Miami Heat as they were coming out for their game; how cool is that? Making it to the championship game the second year in a row, after losing our top 7 players from last year, was a great accomplishment. Those players that are coming back next year can't wait! Those that are graduating were part of a team that competed at the highest level, won a championship last year and came in 2nd this year; not a bad 2-year stretch! This year's team was led by its captains, Kayla Gross and Kayla Petrover, who were both terrific role models for the girls throughout the season (they also played great as well). Maya Citron, our floor leader, did a fantastic job of running the offense while Maital Citron, Jessica Griff and Emma Harris contributed with strong scoring and defense. We were very fortunate to have inspired play off the bench from Ellin Gurvitch, Hannah Katz and Sara Haar, who were one of the keys to our success throughout the year. Most importantly, both Coach Bassie and I were so proud of the sportsmanship that all of our girls displayed throughout the year; we could all learn a thing or two from these young women. Last but not least, I wanted to thank Maia Shaffer for all of her efforts throughout the season. Maia, we could not have done it without you! My only regret is that we now have to wait until October 2011 to do it all again... I can't wait!



EPC Thermometer on the Rise

By: Gila Stern, Every Parent Campaign Chair

This year, we continue to turn up the heat on our annual Every Parent Campaign (EPC)! To date our EPC thermometer has reached 45%, with a goal of 100% participation of all HDS families through a meaningful donation to the Annual Campaign, no matter the gift amount. These financial gifts provide scholarship assistance to those families who cannot afford a Jewish education for their children. Watch the thermometer, located in the lobby, continue to rise as we track the participation of families in the EPC.

Presently, financial assistance totaling \$1,551,000 is extended to over 35% of Hillel students. Given the current environment, this number is bound to grow. The school also raises money, beyond tuition revenue, to enable technological advancements in the classroom, facilities enhancements and staff development. Our Annual Fund Campaign provides the critical dollars necessary to bridge the gap in our budget.

Because of the challenges we face individually and as a community, we must continue to support Jewish education and observe the mitzvah of tzedakah. That means everyone's donation, from \$18 to \$18,000, is more important than ever. Every contribution, no matter how large or small, makes a difference in the lives of our children. For those families who have already made their annual gift, we thank you. For those who have not, please help our thermometer climb to 100%!

You can participate in the Every Parent Campaign with a contribution to the Hillel Annual Fund Campaign any time during the year, including the purchase of a raffle ticket for our golf tournament (you need not be present to win).

Our EPC Phone-a-thon will take place on Tuesday, March 8, calling those families who have not yet made their annual gift. For more information or to make a donation, contact Suzanne Rice, Director of Development, at 561-470-5000 x225 or email suzanner@hilleldayschool.org.

We look forward to our thermometer reaching 100%!

HDS ANNUAL RAFFLE

Chance to win \$2,000 toward your HDS tuition or \$1,000 CASH

Tickets: 1 for \$100 or 3 for \$250

Drawing to be held on March 28 at the Golf Tournament.

Need not be present to win.

Purchase of a raffle ticket fulfills your EPC responsibility.

Hillel Day School of Boca Raton

Annual Golf Tournament

**Monday, March 28, 2011
22 Adar II 5771**



Alumni Corner

Mazal Tov to Justin Isaacs and his siblings on the engagement of their sister, Rebecca Isaacs (Hillel Class of '03), who is engaged to Michael Feldman of New Hyde Park, NY.



Teacher of the Month



Ms. Cindy Zemel

December 2010

Student Council Tzedakah Campaign

By: Rabbi Aaron Levitt

After the recent forest fires in Israel, our Middle School students felt the need to respond and do something to help. When they learned that one of the victims was a childhood classmate of our own Rabbi Shai Ovadia, they knew what to do. Rabbi Ovadia spoke to the students about his friend, Rabbi Uriel Malka. He shared stories of Rabbi Malka's great sense of humor, and told us how Rabbi Malka, a rabbi in the paratrooper's unit of the IDF, volunteered to serve as a prison chaplain to help fellow Jews on their Teshuva process. The Student Council organized a tzedakah drive to help Rabbi Malka's wife, Ortal, and their 5 children, and \$540 (15x Chai) was raised to help the family. Our students learned the importance of "Kol Yisrael Areivin Zeh Lazeh," that all Jews are responsible for one another. And they learned that by working together you can accomplish great things.

Save These Dates:

Federation's Super Sunday - March 27, 2011

Annual Golf Tournament - March 28, 2011



If you have information to include in a future *Hillel Herald*, please e-mail suzanner@hilleldayschool.org.

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2010-11 Calendar At-A-Glance

February

21 □ Presidents Day (school closed)

March

1 □ Grades 1-8 Parent/Teacher Conferences (evening)

2 □ Grades 1-8 Parent/Teacher Conferences (day); regular school day EC2-Grade 5; no school for grades 6-8

11 □ End of Second Trimester

17 □ Fast of Esther (2:15pm dismissal grades 6-8)

20 □ Purim

27 □ Federation Super Sunday

28 □ Annual Golf Tournament

April

4 □ SATs through April 8 (grades 2-8)

18 □ Pesach Break begins (school closed through April 27)

28 □ Classes Resume

May

2 □ 8th Grade Israel Trip (through May 11)/ Yom Hashoah

9 □ Yom Hazikaron

10 □ Yom Ha'atzmaut

16 □ 6th Grade Sea Camp Trip

17 □ 7th Grade Trip to Washington, DC

18 □ Parent/Teacher Conferences (evening) EC2-K

19 □ Parent/Teacher Conferences (day) EC2-K; regular school day for all grades

22 □ Lag B'Omer

27 □ Final Exams for Grades 7 & 8 through June 6

30 □ Memorial Day (school closed)

June

1 □ Yom Yerushalayim

5 □ 8th Grade Graduation (11:30am) / Kindergarten Graduation (4pm)

7 □ Erev Shavuot/Last Day of School (noon dismissal)

Hillel Day School is a "Makom Torah," a place where Torah is studied. As such, dress should conform to what would be appropriate when visiting a synagogue.



JEWISH FEDERATION
of South Palm Beach County

To Life.



SACSCASI
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools

TORAH UMESORAH
National Association of Hebrew Day Schools

