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Editor's Note: All items in green type are Midot-related.

Congratulations to Simcha Stadlan, winner of the Passover Card Design Competition (pictured below).



A Message from the Head of School

Dear Parents,

I am writing for the final *Hillel Herald* of the year which means that I am also making my annual plea to parents, asking them to make certain that their children read over the summer. The importance of summer reading cannot be overstated as the following statement indicates: "Regardless of other activities, the best predictor of summer loss or summer gain is whether or not a child reads during the summer" (McGill-Franzen, Allington, 2010). Studies reveal that children from disadvantaged families show a significant loss in reading skills over the summer, primarily because children from such families, for various reasons, do not have access to books over the summer. It would be a terrible shame for any of our students, who live in homes that place such a high value on learning, to experience a summer reading loss because we have not included reading in our children's daily activities.

For those parents who are blessed to have children who are avid readers, this task is more easily accomplished than for parents whose children are reluctant readers. To help children who are not voluntary readers, parents must find books that "fit." Giving students overly-challenging books to read will sap the joy out of the reading experience and will contribute to a word-by-word struggle to figure out unfamiliar words. This type of reading does not engage the student in reading and ultimately proves to be counterproductive. Lower-achieving readers and reluctant readers should be asked to read regularly from books that can be read easily and with good comprehension. Such reading will allow students to consolidate gains achieved over the course of the school year and will also promote a better attitude toward reading.

Studies show that students who read as few as six books over the summer maintain their reading levels, and that more reading can actually lead to reading gains over the summer. We, who seek to give our children every advantage in life, must make certain that books are readily accessible to our children, whether through visits to the library or the book store. As parents, we must follow through on our obligation to make certain our children read regularly during the summer.

Please accept my best wishes for a healthy and restful summer. If you are in the neighborhood, drop in and say hello. We would love to see you.

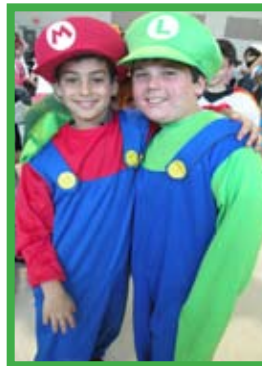
*Sincerely,
Rabbi Samuel J. Levine, Head of School*

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER! Congratulations, graduates!

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.

Purim Festivities

The B'not Sherut planned activities for Chodesh Adar, including a Purim play and carnival, and every day was a different theme: Fancy Day, Color Day, Opposite Day, Scavenger Hunt Day, Hat Day and Blue & White Day (each class made their own Israeli flag). They also decorated the school with M&M Purim pictures, because the 4 mitzvot of Purim all start with the letter n (M).



EC4B enjoyed a seder for their pre-Pesach program.



Different Israeli cultures, including the Israeli Army, were highlighted during Yom Ha'atzmaut.



Rabbi Shai's 4th graders made masks in honor of Purim.



Kindergarten pre-Pesach fun.



Students visited Menorah House and interacted with residents.



2nd and 4th graders learn about Tu B'Shevat at a Tu B'Shevat seder.



Students also learned about the various Israeli Army units and decorated balloons to illustrate their themes.



Students give Mishloach Manot for Purim to our security guard.

Yom Ha'atzmaut Events

Happy 62nd Birthday Israel!

A parade of 1500 students and 250 teachers and parents from Hillel Day School, Torah Academy, Weinbaum Yeshiva High School and Donna Klein Jewish Academy marched in the Joint Day School Parade coordinated by the Jewish Education Commission.



WYHS students davened with HDS students during a morning program.



The evening Yom Ha'atzmaut Celebration was co-sponsored by Hillel Day School and Boca Raton Synagogue. Performances by 4th and 5th graders were followed by a fireworks display by Zambelli Fireworks. Thank you to the Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County and Palm Beach Fire and Rescue for making this event possible.



The B'not Sherut prepared a special program for 5th-7th grades in honor of Yom Hazikaron, remembering Israel's fallen soldiers.





With the help of Hashem, another successful year of growth and learning has come and gone. For the Upper School in particular, it was an outstanding year. A new Toshba curriculum, more lunch labs in more subjects, a KAR²E program every month, enhancements to daily tefillah, amazing, educational trips (check out all the pictures!), unprecedented successes in the athletic department, inspirational holiday programming and cutting edge improvements to the overall educational program are just some of the highlights. In a short time, you will hear about some of the exciting initiatives that have already been planned for the 2010-2011 academic year. I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge our amazing faculty members who really make it all happen. I hope that you and your family have an enjoyable and restful summer and I look forward to welcoming you back in August.

Rabbi Adam Englander, M.S. Ed.,
Upper School Principal



(above) Color War kicked off at the American Airlines Arena after the HDS Lions basketball team defeated their opponents.



(left) Mark Cherney and Marci Bezark, social workers from Ruth Rales Jewish Family Services, spoke to students about cyber bullying.



A very special ceremony took place for a very special middle school student as he put on tefillin for the first time.



Congratulations to our 5th grade winner, who placed 3rd in the Pollution Prevention of Palm Beach County poster contest. John Barlow (left) presented her with a certificate at the award ceremony.



Norman Frajman, a Holocaust survivor, speaks to Middle School students in commemoration of Yom Hashoah. See Mr. Frajman's letter to HDS students on the right.

Dear Rabbi Englander,
On April 12 of this year I had the privilege to address your students on Yom Hashoa. I must say that the behavior and respect that I was shown was exemplary. When I first entered the classroom I was concerned looking at the ages of the young people and being afraid that my presentation will be much too graphic. As I always say that the Holocaust was a tragedy and can not be sanitized. It was a time of brutality and carnage against our 6 million innocent brothers and sisters who gave their lives of Kiddush Hashem. Yet in the course of my speech I noticed the intensity in their faces wanting to know and to hear the witness to the beastly atrocities endured by the Jewish people. I must commend you and your faculty in educating the students and preparing them in ways of prevention of the catastrophe of the Holocaust in the future. I have heard it say that "History is capable on repetition," but judging by the intensity of their concentration of this historical subject, I know that we are in for a better tomorrow. This short note is an expression of thanks to all of you at the Hillel Academy for a job well done, With best regards, Norman Frajman, Survivor

KAR²E COLUMN

By: Rabbi Mordechai Smolarcik, Coordinator

This year's KAR²E program has included activities, special field trips and a variety of educational programs designed to make a real impact on the level of our students pro-social behavior and moral reasoning. It is our hope that these efforts have resulted in a change in our students, both in school and in their interpersonal relationships, and in their level of Judaic commitment at home and in our communities.

Toward this end the final KAR²E program of the year was designed to allow the students to think about how some of the rules we enforce in school would also be beneficial to them in various other settings in which they may find themselves. Along with the rules governing basic "menchlichkeit" we also wanted the students to consider some of the rules which govern their religious observances in order to recognize the importance of these ideas and the incorporation of them into their everyday lives.

During the month of May the students discussed with their Judaic Studies teachers about how the school rules of Kashrut, Tzniut, Kippot, Tefillin, Tzitzit, and the recitation of Brachot, Birkat HaMazon and the daily Tefilot could effect a positive influence on their daily existence. Each teacher and administrator shared with the students a personal story or example of how adherence to these rules has improved their own lives. The students were then asked to write some thoughts about how keeping the rules at all times could help them accomplish more in the "real world."

As with any type of learning, lessons that are reinforced by actions have a better chance of being retained. This is not only true of math, science, Chumash or Torah SheBaal Peh, but it is equally true of lessons on morality, ethics and religious observance. As we approach the summer vacation it behooves us all to review with our children the importance of all that they have learned so that the efforts of the teachers and staff and the financial and emotional investment of the parents do not go to waste.

Some practical suggestions for the summer include having continuing discussions with your children about moral and ethical standards. This could take the form of the discussion of a theoretical scenario around the Shabbat or weekday dinner table or a review of real life moral and ethical dilemmas that may have presented themselves to you or your children. Another suggestion is for parents to make every effort to maintain the children's religious observances throughout the summer months. The most effective way of doing this is to set personal examples for them. In addition there are a plethora of quality books written for teens and pre-teens which promote positive morals and Torah observance. Such books will not only help the students improve their reading skills but will also help to reinforce all that they have learned this year. Wishing you all a restful and productive summer!

Lower School News

Chayim Dimont, M.S. Ed., Lower School Principal



It is hard to believe that another school year has come to a close. Each year I am amazed at the growth of our children. They come into school eager and proactive learners and leave stronger, more able independent students. However, the learning process should not end because the "school year" has come to a close. As parents, it is our jobs to make sure that our children continue to learn Torah with the same zeal as they have in school, maintain the Kavanah in Tefillah that they have grown to enjoy during the school year, and continue to cultivate the love of reading. Although the summer is a time for relaxation, vacation, and fun, the learning process should never stop. Continue to empower you children by making sure they understand that learning and the joy of knowledge is a 12-month adventure. Have a wonderful summer!

Chayim Dimont, M.S. Ed., Lower School Principal



Rabbi Efrem Goldberg, Marah D'Atrah of Boca Raton Synagogue, accepted a check from 2nd graders on behalf of Tomchei Shabbos. This was one of the many charities to which the class dispersed funds of almost \$1,000. Other charities included Multiple Sclerosis, Chai Lifeline, and Sharsheret. Mazal Tov to these young fundraisers who have learned the meaning of tzedakah.

3rd Grade Book Club

By: Jill Kaminetzky

What started as an idea to get my daughter interested in reading, has become something much more. Back in November, Mrs. Gross' 3rd grade class, made up of six girls, started a book club.



Five months and five books later, this group of girls has grown to appreciate and love reading while developing better reading and comprehension skills. Oh, and as an added plus, they are having fun while doing it! Every book club meeting starts with a project relating to the book, then a discussion about the book and then ends with an ice cream party as a celebration for finishing the book. One of the students said, "I would not have read a book if it wasn't for the book club." Each student takes a turn picking a book (approved by Ms. Berger, Mrs. Gross, and parents, of course). The students take turns hosting the meeting as well. They can't get enough of reading and look forward to finding out what will be the next book. This project will not end in June. We hope to continue this not only over the summer, but also for years to come. I want to thank Jeff Silkin for being my partner in crime in helping to organize the projects and discussions at the book club meetings. I would also like to thank Mrs. Gross and Ms. Berger for their constant support of this endeavor.



Transportation Day

Vehicles participating in this year's Transportation Day included a fire truck/paramedic, Magen David Adom Ambulance, sheriff patrol car, police horses, S.W.A.T. Team, motorcycle, mail truck, mouse mobile, cement truck, Publix truck, tow truck, ice cream truck and a mobile fitness center. Thank you to Judy Becker Rubin for coordinating this event.



EC3A learned about Lag B'Omer and the importance of being good friends. Students squeezed lemons to make homemade lemonade and made fruit salad. We now know that Mr. Romer, our security



guard, is a good friend because he helps to keep us safe. It was fun to share our snack with him.



8TH GRADE ISRAEL TRIP

Photo Credits:
Rabbi Mordechai Smolarcik



Leaving HDS.



Har Arbel.



Har Bental.



Kfar Kedem.



Rafting on a source of the Jordan River.



Independence Hall.



Beit Elazraki Children's Home.



Kfar Kedem.



Feeding the poor.



Latrun Tank Museum.



Watching a Torah being written atop Masada sponsored by Warren & Robin Struhl and Family.



Tzuk Menara.



Tel Dan.



The Ayalon Institute - 1948 secret bullet factory.



Exploring the Dead Sea.



Yerushalyim - Old City.



Machaneh Yehuda.

An e-mail sent by Susan Levine of Ganei Tal to Rabbi Mordechai Smolarcik:

It was an absolute pleasure to welcome the students of Hillel Day School to Ganei Tal on the eve of Yom HaZikaron. As you know the evening is a difficult one for the community that has lost so much and so many in recent years. The attention and respect shown by your students was simply incredible and gave tremendous chizuk to a community that, now out of the headlines, often wonders if the Jewish world cares about their situation. I hope you will share our gratitude and appreciation with the parents and teachers of these remarkable students.



Yad Vashem.

7th Grade Washington, D.C. Trip

Photo Credits: Rabbi Aaron Levitt



On the Capitol steps with Senator Ted Deutch.



Inside the U.S. Capitol.



At the Smithsonian Museum of American History.



At Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum.



From the Lincoln Memorial.



Martin Luther King, Jr. at Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum.



At the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.



The "money" shot.



At the U.S. Capitol.



In front of The White House.

6th Grade Sea Camp Trip

Photo Credits: Jessica DiGiulio



HDS Happenings

HDS EMET CLUB WINNERS

Excellent
Emidot
Every
Etime

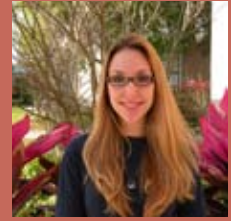
- | | | | | |
|------------------|------------------|---------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Daniel Agus | Tani Englander | Mia Hahn | Yosef Marcus | Elana Silkin |
| Jolie Aloof | Shoshana Epstein | Leah Houben | Ashira Meyerowitz | David Skoczylas |
| Shira Bar-Chaim | Yaniv Fixler | Justin Isaacs | Jason Mizrahi | Shoshana Stadlan |
| Dalya Baum | Jacob Freedman | Azarya Jason | Izy Muller | Jake Stalander |
| Batya Belizon | Batya Fruhman | Yanki Kahan | Ruth Nadav | Izak Stern |
| Liron Ben-Zikry | Yosef Fruhman | Chani Kaminetsky | Franki Noble | Aaron Stoller |
| Joshua Bernten | Isabella Furst | Daniella Kaminetzky | Abigail Ovadia | Danielle Stone |
| Isabelle Bersson | Hailey Gately | Jordan Kaner | Naomi Reichenberg | Sammy Struhl |
| Ezra Bierly | Samuel Gerstein | Pearl Katz | Noam Reinfeld | Amitai Tokayer |
| Leila Brown | Yitzi Greenbaum | Rafi Krawatsky | Simcha Rosen | Atara Tripp |
| Eliana Cohen | Jeremy Griff | Ethan Lam | Elee Rubin | Jonah Tripp |
| Jojo Cohen | Yair Gritzman | Dovid Lanner | Lily Rudensky | Jeffrey Vine |
| Sam Cohen | Ayelet Gross | Yitzy Lanner | Malya Sacher | Russell Wolff |
| Shaindie Cohen | Shmuel Gross | Aden Light | Sarit Scher | Yoni Yudewitz |
| Zachary Cohen | Noa Grunhaus | Devorah Lome | Yosef Scher | Gili Zamosh |
| Jake Davis | Pamela Gurvitch | Alex Lurie | Talia Shapiro | |
| Shai Deichman | Gavin Haber | Yehuda Marcus | Elizabeth Sides | |



Mazal Tov to all of the winners!

EMET winners as of April 30, 2010.

Congratulations, Teacher of the Month



**Ms. Courtney Berger
April 2010**



BIO BUNCH

These 4th graders presented biographies this past January. Can you name them all? See how you score. See the answers to the right.



- Answers to Bio Bunch:**
- (1) Neil Armstrong
 - (2) Betsy Ross
 - (3) Pedro Jaime Martinez
 - (4) Lucille Ball
 - (5) George S. Patton, Jr.
 - (6) Jane Goodall
 - (7) Pablo Picasso
 - (8) Annie Oakley
 - (9) Phineas Barnum

**Biographies Photo
Credit: Caroline Katz**

Earth Day

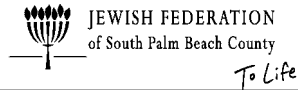


HDS parent Ira Gurvitch (below) speaks to students about masks that protect us from dangerous elements.



Super Sunday 2010

Thank you to everyone who volunteered at the Jewish Federation's Super Sunday. Our local Federation allocates a significant portion of scholarship dollars required to educate children at Hillel Day School.



Thank you to the 5th grade students and Art Institute students, under the direction of Mrs. Rose, for decorating the festive Purim masks, which were used as the centerpieces of this year's Annual Journal Event.



The **Matzah Factory** visited HDS as one of the pre-Pesach programs.



Faculty and staff starred in a special Purim play for students.



Congratulations to this year's **Brachot Bee** winners!



1st Division Winners



2nd Division Winners



David New and his seeing eye dog, **Carmichael**, visited the 2nd grade. David showed students how he uses interesting gadgets to help him do everyday tasks without being able to see.

3rd grade students created booths of the 50 States during the Annual "State Fair" project.





PTA Annual Mitzvah Day

The success of the *2nd Annual PTA Mitzvah Day* reflected the commitment of HDS faculty, parents, and students to helping their peers and the broader community. Held Sunday, March 7, the event offered HDS families the chance to fulfill a host of mitzvot *bein adam la-chavero* and participate in other meaningful activities. During the earlier

part of the morning, families gathered in the Loewenstern Cafetorium to learn about various organizations, such as **Chai Lifeline**, **Yachad**, and the **Palm Beach County Parks Department**, with information presented on posters created by HDS' very own middle school students. They also learned about the **Children's Village of Jerusalem**, a support and counseling center in Israel for children at risk. Attendees also enjoyed sending meaningful letters and pictures to Israeli soldiers. EC4A students, under the supervision of HDS teachers **Cheryl Mirsky** and **Ofra Struogano**, drew cheerful pictures for the residents of the **Regency Park Nursing Home**, a project idea suggested by **Lily Greenfield** (EC4).

Next, families split into groups to participate in an array of activities. These included bowling at **Strikes@Boca** with children from Chai Lifeline, planting at **Daggerwing Nature Center** with Yachad members, cleaning up at **Gumbo Limbo Nature Center**, participating in a concert/sing-a-long with residents of Regency Park Nursing Home—with the help of HDS music instructor, **Lorraine Marks**, and musician, **Maurice Kelhoffer**—and cutting/donating hair to **Children with Hairloss**.

The PTA commends fifth grade teacher **Jodi Deichman** for conceiving of Mitzvah Day, and **Tzippi Rosen** for partnering with her to bring this wonderful idea to fruition. We also express our gratitude to the planning committee: **Keri Greenfield**, **Sara Schandelson**, and **Laurie Braverman**. Thank you also to **Phyllis Struhl** for her help, **Sara Goldberg** and **Daniel Rosenthal** for the use of their home for haircuts, and **Kosher Marketplace** for sponsoring a scrumptious breakfast for Mitzvah Day participants. Special thanks to **Ronnie Menashe**, catering manager for **Kosher Marketplace**, **Willy Flowers**, executive chef of **Kosher Marketplace**, and **Stan Smith** of **South Florida's Bikor Cholim**, for going far beyond the call of duty to support this event. Yasher Koach to the many families who joined us for this memorable day.

PTA Annual Tennis Tournament

The PTA's *2nd Annual Tennis Tournament* 'served' up hours of fun for HDS women. Held at The Country Club at Boca Raton on April 13, the event welcomed players of all skill levels to round robin-style games under the guidance of Tennis Director **Art Snow**. Attendees also enjoyed breakfast from **The Gelato Shoppe** sponsored by **Mirta Brown**, and lunch catered by The Gelato Shoppe as well. The day included raffles with great prizes, such as a free tennis lesson with **Art Snow**, laser hair removal sessions with **Dr. Rebecca Stern**, a one-hour European facial with **Mirta Brown**, a one-hour interior design consultation with **Robin Struhl**, a Michael Eram gift set donated by **Loren Stein**, and gift certificates to **Asia**, **Boca Pharmacy**, **Boca Pita Express**, **King David Catering Hall**, **Kosher Marketplace**, **Skin Apeel**, **Stuart's Tennis Shop**, and **The Gelato Shoppe**. Congratulations to **Libby Rombro** and **Ilona Grynsztein**, our first and second place winners, respectively.

The PTA thanks **Leslie Abady**, **Evelyn Begas**, and **Loren Stein** for coordinating the tournament and is grateful to all of our participants and spectators, who raised over \$1,000 for HDS. Thanks also to **Caroline Katz** for photographing the event.

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

PTA Purim cards were a great success this year, raising approximately \$1,000 for Tzedakah. We are grateful to **Vanessa Brooks**, **Sharon Fein**, and **Deena Lurie** for all their hard work.

The PTA thanks **Krazy Katz Costumes** for offering discounts to HDS families prior to Purim and the HDS Annual Journal Event, and for donating a percentage of sales to the PTA. This initiative raised \$200 for our school.

Storytelling at the Pesach seder was enhanced by "10 Makot Boxes," creatively designed and assembled by HDS teachers **Beth Kaminetsky** and **Elisheva Levitt**. These two Morot gathered toys to represent each of the makot and also wrote an accompanying educational guide. The PTA applauds their creativity in helping to teach our younger students about the events preceding Yetziat Mitzrayim.

Pre-Holiday Shopping Spree

On the evening of March 15, the Boca Raton Synagogue bustled with excitement as hundreds of shoppers took a break from Passover cleaning to attend the PTA's pre-holiday shopping spree. This semi-annual event, which HDS hosts in conjunction with **Torah Academy of Boca Raton**, **Boca Raton Synagogue**, and the **Boca Raton Mikvah**, raised over \$1,400 for HDS. Over 22 vendors participated, providing shoppers with clothing, hats, jewelry, Judaica, vitamins, and so much more to choose from, often at discount prices. The PTA commends **Orlie Cohen** and **Rachel Harow** for their outstanding work in coordinating and organizing the shopping spree and also thanks our parent volunteers: **Cara Beim**, **Ana Haar**, **Sara Haar**, **Chanoch Harow**, **Sabrina Romano**, **Rachel Yudewitz**, and **Andrea** and **Nathan Zucker**. Special thanks also to **Rabbi Josh Broide** and **Linda Gordon** of BRS who helped make it all possible.

HDS Food Drive Benefits Families in Need

HDS was proud to once again participate in an annual food drive to benefit the **Forster Family Kosher Food Pantry**. After the overwhelming success of last year's drive, several other local day schools also participated in this year's efforts to stock the shelves of the only kosher food pantry in Palm Beach County with food and toiletry items.

"The drive clearly demonstrates that by working together, we can make a real difference for our community," said **Pam Cohen**, who spearheaded the effort with **Cara Freedman**. "It is important that our children recognize the needs of Jews here, in Israel, and around the world, and understand that lending a helping hand is an integral part of being Jewish."

The Forster Family Kosher Food Pantry, a beneficiary agency of the Federation, was created in 1996

to "alleviate the burden of hunger in our community." The Pantry delivers non-perishable groceries, some fresh fruits and vegetables, and challah every other week free of charge to people experiencing serious financial difficulties. The Pantry has recently experienced a further increase in local requests for food, with more than 400 families in need of this invaluable service. The average monthly cost for goods is \$7,000.

The PTA thanks our HDS families and teachers for supporting this worthy cause and commends Pam Cohen and Cara Freedman for their outstanding leadership. We applaud all of you for enhancing your participation in this year's drive by also donating kosher for Passover items to the Pantry after Passover. We are grateful to our students and congratulate the fourth grade for collecting the greatest number of non-perishable goods.

Thank you to the HDS 7th grade for helping to sort and package the food

items, and to **Cara Zimmerman**, food pantry assistant, and **Shaya Griner** for their support. Cara Zimmerman's tour of the food pantry and update on its mission were highlights of the drive.

The Forster Family Kosher Food Pantry is one of many Federation programs that provide support to community members in need. To learn about volunteer opportunities and other ways to assist with Federation initiatives, please visit the Federation website www.jewishboca.org. For more specific information on the Forster Family Kosher Food Pantry, you can also check out www.kosherfoodpantry.org.



Annual Mah Jongg Event



Held March 17 at the home of **Liora and Daniel Adler**, the fun evening included multiple rounds of Mah Jongg, a scrumptious dairy dinner, and great raffle prizes, including gift certificates to kosher establishments and local attractions.

This year's teams included experienced players, newcomers, and several women who had learned to play Mah Jongg at last year's PTA event. Congratulations to **Vanessa Brooks**, the highest-scoring player of the evening, who won a gift certificate to **Massage Envy** in West Boca. The PTA extends its gratitude to the event co-chairs, **Sara Goldberg** and **Andrea Zucker**, and to all of our participants and raffle donors.

HDS mothers, friends, and members of the broader community all caught 'wind' of the excitement at the PTA's *Annual Mah Jongg*

Shoes for the Cure

Help support someone in need by dropping new or used shoes in the Shoes for the Cure bin just outside the main school doors. **Adam Levine**, vice president of **Shoes for the Cure**—a professional recycling company specializing in collecting new and used footwear—will repair and donate shoes on your behalf. If your family has difficulty affording new shoes, please contact Nurse Robin Noble at 561-470-5000 to let her know the shoe sizes you need and we can request assistance from Shoes for the Cure. Thank you to all the families who have participated in this effort. For more information about Shoes for the Cure, visit www.shoesforthecure.com.

Shabbat Clothing Share Program

If you have Shabbat clothing your family members can no longer use, please consider donating them to the Shabbat Clothing Share Program. This incentive helps provide clothing to families in need in our community. If you are seeking specific clothing sizes, please contact Nurse Robin Noble at 561-470-5000 to let her know what your family needs.

Tzedakah Boxes

Remember to bring your full HDS Tzedakah boxes to Susan Herr at the front desk. To obtain a Tzedakah box, please call Ana Haar at 561-447-4586.

Teacher Appreciation Rosh Chodesh Breakfasts

The Torah teaches us that Rosh Chodesh is a mini festival, to be celebrated with the sound of trumpets and special sacrifices. Although we no longer have the service in the Beit Hamikdash, sponsoring a Rosh Chodesh breakfast can be a great way to recognize our HDS teachers and staff, while cultivating a joyous atmosphere to start the month. For information on upcoming sponsorship opportunities, please contact Cara Freedman at 561-750-3132 or carafreedman@yahoo.com. To help with shopping or setting up the breakfasts, please contact Naomi Shapiro at 561-477-5279 or nshap75@yahoo.com.

We thank those families whose generosity helps make the Rosh Chodesh breakfasts possible. Our annual sponsors include: the **Abady, Andron, Becker Rubin, Bensmihen, Bierly, Cohen (Orlie & Ely), Freedman (Cara & Ben), Friedman (Lisa & Howard), Greenbaum (Rachel & Neil), Haar, Hollander, Kay, Struhl, and Tansman** families, and **J. Morgan Flowers**. Thank you also to the **Baum, Gurvitch, Kaskel, Jason, Schandelson, and Siegel** families for sponsoring the Chanukah breakfast in honor of Etgar and 5th grade teachers; the **Berman (Ira & Gur), Bersson, Borzak, Dimont, Fein, Glaun, Gurvitch, Schandelson, Stern, Wirtschafter, and Zucker** families for sponsoring the Adar breakfast in honor of EC2 and 6th grade teachers, the administration and administrative staff; the **Abramovitz, Griff, Hoffman, Linzer, Schandelson, Scher, and Siegel** families for sponsoring the Nissan breakfast in honor of 7th grade teachers and the HDS specialty staff; and the **Baum, Cohen (Elise & Eyal), Dennis, Gerstein, Harow, Lugassy, Schandelson, and Wirtschafter** families for sponsoring the Iyar breakfast in honor of our Kindergarten and 8th grade teachers.

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, Adina Allswang, Cara Beim, Orlie Cohen, Chani Katz, Jackie Lome, Tanya Reinfeld, Tzippi Rosen, Cheryl and Ezra Saragossi, Chani Schiffman, and Susan Siedler.**

Israel Coupon Book

The PTA is pleased to offer the Israel coupon book, which has coupons good for use in Israel at restaurants, tourist attractions and more, throughout 2010. A coupon book costs \$25, which you can make back with the cost savings provided. Even better, Summit Israel (whose programs include foster care and psychiatric rehabilitation for youths in Israel) and the PTA will benefit from your purchases. To purchase a coupon book or for further information, stop by the front desk or contact Tanya Reinfeld TanyaReinfeld@yahoo.com. Please make checks payable to Hillel Day School. Feel free to pass along this information to family and friends.

Klipped Kippahs

Featuring built-in clips, uniquely designed Klipped Kippahs are on sale for \$15 in a variety of designs and styles. Supplies are limited. To order, please contact Sharon Kay at sharonakay@mac.com or 561-212-6352, or stop by the front desk. Proceeds benefit the PTA.

Flexfit Baseball Caps

HDS Flexfit brand baseball caps are now available for just \$10. Students may wear these comfortable caps, featuring the HDS school name logo, during recess and PE. To order, please contact Sharon Kay at sharonakay@mac.com or 561 212-6352, or stop by the front desk. Proceeds benefit the PTA.

Challot

The PTA is pleased to sponsor challot from Sweet City for our Early Childhood weekly Shabbat programs.

HILLEL HELLO PAGES

The PTA is currently accepting ads for the second edition of *The Hillel Hello Pages*, our official school directory, featuring administration, faculty, parent, and student contact information, as well as class lists and birthdays. This popular and easy-to-use publication is size 8.5x11, allowing ads of any size to look professional and impressive. There are 1/8, 1/4, 1/2, and full page ads available at fantastic prices. For more information, please contact Dvora Weinreb Scher at dvora@dwpalaw.com.

Tribute Cards

Honor someone you know with personalized Tribute Cards from the PTA. For more information, please contact Dvora Scher at dvora@dwpalaw.com.

B'nai Mitzvah Fund

Do you find it hard to select the perfect Bar or Bat Mitzvah gift? The B'nai Mitzvah Fund enables parents to provide Bar/Bat Mitzvah presents that benefit tzedakah and HDS. That means you save time on shopping and have the opportunity to support a valuable cause. 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 Libby Rombro at 561-862-0896 or Liz Stadlan at 561-362-8604.

Birthday Book Club

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 Tzippi Rosen at 561-364-1416 or LRosen_1@hotmail.com.

PTA Book Share

Do you have books at home that your child has outgrown? Are you looking for books that are more appropriate for your child's reading level? The PTA is pleased to sponsor Book Share. Parents can drop off used books on the shelves just beside the front desk or can take books from the shelves home to their children. A small donation is requested when taking books. For more information, please contact Rachel Tripp at 561-843-2564 or racheltripp@comcast.net.

Annual PTA Luncheon

By Naomi Abramovitz and Lori Landa



This year's annual PTA Luncheon honored extraordinary volunteer **Sabrina Romano** and invaluable HDS teachers **Aviva Kenagen** and **Cindy Halbstein**. All three women

have served HDS for many years and have been important assets to the school community. The PTA also welcomed seven new members and 30 returning members to the HDS Guardian of Learning program.

Once again, the luncheon was held at JARC and enjoyed by all. JARC's sunlit ballroom lent itself beautifully to the lavender-scented, gerbera daisy-themed décor and party favors, creating a relaxing atmosphere. Its close proximity to HDS allowed various teachers and staff to stop in to honor their colleagues and grab a quick lunch, while other guests lingered over food and conversation. Everyone had the opportunity to personally congratulate the honorees and take pictures. Attendees also savored JARC's delicious healthy food choices.



The speeches introducing the honorees were based upon themes in *Pirkei Avot Perek Dalet*. This *Perek* teaches, among many other lessons, that a wealthy person is someone who rejoices in whatever he or she

has. The luncheon speakers made it clear that the PTA certainly rejoices in having this year's three honorees as part of HDS. Sabrina was singled out for honor because of her faithful and steady service as a PTA foot soldier in a wide variety of capacities for more than two decades. Aviva was honored as one of HDS' founding faculty members and was also heartily congratulated upon her completion of a 30-year teaching career when she retires in June. Cindy was thanked repeatedly for finally accepting this long-deserved honor as one of the most beloved and admired teachers in HDS history.

The 2009/2010 PTA Board thanks **PTA President Sharona Kay**, whose outstanding leadership, boundless capabilities, remarkable creativity, and kind spirit have made the PTA an invaluable organization within the HDS community.

Following the presentations to the honorees, Guardian of Learning Chair **Caroline Katz** recognized and thanked the many women who chose to participate in this important program this year. Caroline thanked those women who joined the ranks of Guardian of Learning pin owners for the first time, as well as those who renewed their commitment to HDS by adding a diamond to their existing pins. (See list of 2010 participants below.) Caroline also thanked Sabrina and Salomon Romano for designing, producing and providing the pins and diamonds at cost each year.



~New Guardians of Learning~

Anonymous • Laura Cohen • Orlie Cohen • Yocheved Goldberg • Ilona Grynstein • Phyllis Lome • Sharon Stauber

~Renewed Guardians of Learning~

Leslie Abady • Naomi Abramovitz • Evelyn Begas • Elana Belizon • Lisa Bensmihen • Rebecca Stern Berkeley • Helen Cohan • Sheryl Dennis • Elise Dolgow • Lauren Glaun • Ana Haar • Caroline Katz • Jean Katz • Sharona Kay • Linda Levy • Debra Linzer • Sara Markowitz • Joyce Muller • Cindy Nimhauser • Dana Petrover • Libby Rombro • Jill Rose • Diane Saketkhou • Dvora Scher • Dana Schechter • Naomi Shapiro • Linda Struhl • Phyllis Struhl • Robin Struhl • Risa Zimmerman

The PTA applauds luncheon chairs **Naomi Abramovitz, Lori Landa, and Frieda Rubin** for the beautiful job they did planning this successful event.



SPORTS: Home of the Hillel Lions

It has been a fantastic year for the Physical Education Department. We started off with the Boys Flag Football coached by Mr. Domenico and the Girls Volleyball coached by Ms. Lavoie. The teams enjoyed a very exciting first quarter in the sports program. The Hillel Boys Soccer Team with Coach Moishe Aquart and Assistant Coach Rabbi Shai Ovadia reached great heights this season, with the best record in Boys MS soccer history. The boys team ended their season with a 7-3 record and were edged out of the playoffs by only one point. The highlight of the season was our dynamic Girls Basketball Team with head Coach Jeffrey Harris and Assistant Coach Basya Orzechowitz. Our dream came true when we brought home the gold trophy. The winter season began with Boys Basketball with Head Coach Jeff Baum and Assistant Coach Jeffrey Harris and Girls Soccer with Head Coach Moishe and Assistant Coach Emily Rosenstein. The two teams worked very hard and had a very competitive season with the Girls Soccer team missing the playoffs by a coin toss. The Girls Softball team with Head Coach Alicia Lavoie had a wonderful season as well. I would like to thank all the coaches for their hard work and dedication to the Hillel sports program. The sports program has seen tremendous improvements and we will continue to raise the bar with each passing day at HDS. - Maia Shaffer, Athletic Director



By: Coach Moishe

The Girls Soccer team had a great year. They missed the playoffs by a coin toss, but competed with the top schools. The team was led by Elyse Tripp, Sophie Rose, Talia Mamann and Lilly Katz. Hannah Katz and Alyson Dennis were the goal scorers, with Hannah scoring 7 goals. It was an awesome season, and the team was a little unlucky in the end run. The future looks very positive with a strong squad for next year. Thanks to coach Emily Rosenstein for her passion and dedication to the team and Athletic Director, Maia Shaffer, for her constant support.



By: Coach Baum

The boys season did not begin on a strong note as we were pitted against two of the strongest teams in our division within our first three games. As the team improved with each game, our student athletes gained the understanding and confidence that they could win games, regardless of who they were playing against. The biggest game of the season, played at the American Airlines Arena, proved triumphant. Everyone on the team got to play and was cheered on by our wonderful middle school fans. After a season of 3 wins and 5 losses, the team conquered their opponent in the season finale game. Starters Ari Clements, Ethan Harris, Noah Markovitch, Daniel Mizrahi and Raz Ben-Zikry played with fire and determination, enabling us to play all of our supporting cast, which included: Avraham Adelman, Andrew Flescher, Zachary Jacob, Moshe Levenson, Yitzzy Kaminetzky, Jordan Stauber, Brett Wolf, Judah Baum and Noah Brown. The entire team put forth a fantastic effort, which paid off. **More important than the games themselves, was the way that each and every one of the players represented our school community. Not once, did I see any of them be disrespectful to our coaching staff, the referees, the other teams or even their own teammates. That is a true Kiddush Hashem and something we should be proud of as parents.** I want to thank the entire team for their tremendous efforts, as well as, thanking my co-coach Jeffrey Harris for his help and support, and also a huge debt of appreciation is owed to Maia Shaffer for making everything possible within our Athletic Department. MVP - Ari Clements Coach - Ethan Harris Most Improved - Noah Markovitch & Daniel Mizrahi



By: Coach Lavoie

Hillel's girls softball had a wonderful season. The girls spent hours after hours perfecting their throws, hitting and fielding skills that led us to win games! As a team I know we will truly miss 8th grader team captains Talia Mamann and Sophie Rose. **Overall, this has been a great season and as a coach I am truly pleased with the positive attitude and commitment the girls displayed on the field each day.**

Adult Men's Basketball League



PRESENTING SPONSORS \$5,000

- Company name and/or logo incorporated into name of league (i.e., Hillel Basketball League presented by ABC Company) and utilized in various applications, including: Media, Publicity, Signage & Trophies
- Three (3) players per season

JERSEY SPONSORS \$3,600

- Company name and/or logo printed on jersey
- Two (2) players per season

BAG SPONSORS \$2,500

- Company name and/or logo printed on bag
- Two (2) players per season

WATER BOTTLE SPONSORS \$1,800

- Company logo printed on water bottle
- One (1) player per season



First Season of Adult Men's Basketball League is a Slam Dunk

By: Uri Yudewitz

With the opening of the new gymnasium, Hillel started a basketball league for men. Thanks to the generous sponsorship of **Reid Shapiro** and **Saveology.com**, every player received a brand new reversible mesh jersey. Under the guidance of Commissioners **Chayim Dimont** and myself, the fall season got off to a fantastic start as **Rabbi Samuel J. Levine** tossed the first jump ball in league history and the Hillel Basketball League was off and running. The team captained by **Eric Pinkis** won the fall championship in front of a raucous crowd of 50 spectators. In the spring season, a 6th team was added and it has been a very competitive season. There has been a double overtime game, a triple overtime game, a few buzzer beaters and some very exciting plays! The fall league for next year is currently in formation and if you are interested in playing, please e-mail theleagueathbl@hilleldayschool.org.

Jump Rope for Heart



This year students raised \$2,515 for Jump Rope for Heart. The top 3 students were: Mira Becker (5th grade) \$245, Avital Shapiro (4th grade) \$200, and Rebecca (4th grade) and Michael Rosen (2nd grade) \$178.

Mazal Tov

Athletes of the Year 2009-10
Girls: Talia Mamann & Sophie Rose
Boys: Ari Clements

Contact Chayim Dimont at chayimd@hilleldayschool.org for more information about sponsorships.

Annual Journal Event Exceeds Expectations

This year Hillel Day School of Boca Raton's Annual Journal Event, its major fundraiser of the year, honored Hillel parents and community members **Glen & Rosa Golish**. In addition, the Tomchei Torah Award was presented to Hillel parents **Dr. Michael & Sheryl Dennis**, of Hollywood, and the Oht Hameseroot Faculty Dedication Awards were given to **Roberta Cidoni** and **Tami Gerlitz**, both for their 13 years of service to the school.

Thanks to the over 240 in attendance and those who placed tribute ads in the commemorative journal, the fundraising goal was met. Co-chairs **Steven & Rebecca Berkeley** and **Benjamin & Diane Saketkhov** planned the Purim-themed evening, held on February 24, complete with a Seduah buffet while the guests got into the spirit by dressing in costume. The event, held at King David Hall in Deerfield Beach, also featured the comedy of **Joel Chasnoff** who entertained guests with his profound insight on his years serving in the Israeli Defense Force.

"We thank G-d for blessing our fundraising efforts. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters and the hard work of the dinner committee, we reached our fundraising goals. The money raised will help fund the increasing scholarship needs of Hillel families," stated Head of School **Rabbi Samuel J. Levine**.

Thank you to **Eli and Shula Amsalem** of **King David Hall**, **Miriam Grunhaus**, **Michele Dimont**, **Michael Zimmerman**, **Lori Landa**, **Loren Stein**, **Barbara Rose**, the **5th graders** and **Art Institute students**, and **Rabbi Josh Broide** for their efforts in making this event a success.



Photo Credits:
Caroline Katz

EVERY PARENT CAMPAIGN UPDATE

We are pleased to report that this year's Every Parent Campaign Phone-a-thon raised a total of **\$1,379** (through 27 gifts) in just 2 hours. Thank you to **Libby Rombro** and **Gila Stern**, EPC Co-Chairs, for coordinating the Phone-a-thon. Also thank you to this year's parent volunteers: **Monique Golberg**, **Keri Greenfield**, **Gabrielle Meyerowitz**, **Lisa Pinkis** and **Melinda Tansman**. We could not have done it without your help! And to those of you who have participated in our EPC with a contribution to the Hillel Annual Fund Campaign, we thank you for your support.

To date, **154** of 240 Hillel families have contributed to the Hillel Annual Fund raising a total of **\$337,176**. In addition, we continue to solicit and receive support from grandparents and community members who choose to support Torah education. To date, the Annual Campaign has raised **\$478,993**. Thank you for your continued support of Jewish Education and the future of our children.

It is not too late to be part of the campaign if you have not yet contributed! Please contact Suzanne Rice at suzanner@hilleldayschool.org or call 561-470-5000.



Rabbi Samuel Levine
Hillel Day School
Boca Raton, Florida
U.S.A.

Dear Rabbi Levine,
Shalom U'Bracha!

On behalf of the residents of Efrat, I want to express our deep appreciation and gratitude for the wonderful project which the Hillel Day School in Boca Raton initiated and expedited with the help of Gabi Snir, Shaliach.

The amazing number of approximately 1250 books which were collected will certainly improve and enhance our children's reading skills and broaden their horizons.

This wonderful project which the staff and students of the Hillel Day School took up with such tremendous enthusiasm will surely lead to the strengthening of ties and friendships between your students and ours.

Please find attached an article that appeared in the Efrat Newspaper regarding the generous donation.

We would be happy to host any group of students from your school coming to Israel or any teacher who is planning a trip. Efrat, the capital of Gush Etzion, has many wonderful sites to visit and we can also promise that there will be pleasant surprises.

All best wishes,


Oded Raviv
Mayor of Efrat

See related article below.

Dear 3rd Graders,

As our amazing school year comes to an end, we would like to thank each of you for your hard work in 3rd grade.



What a wonderful experience we had teaching such bright, kind, creative, energetic and talented children. We hope you learned a lot this year, not only academically, but about yourselves as well. As you move on to 4th grade, please remember our many discussions about thinking positively, being a good friend, working hard, being respectful and taking responsibility for your actions. You have all of the tools you need to be successful; it is up to you to use them. Make us proud next year and remember to always try your best. We hope you have a wonderful summer!

Love,
Ms. Cortney Berger and Morah Gali Nadav

תרומת ילדי בית הספר "הלל" בבוקה ראטון כלורידה לספריה באפרת
The Donation of the Children of "Hillel Day School", Boca Raton, Florida, to the Efrat Library

Around half a year ago I was sitting in the Head of School's office, Rabbi Levine, Head of Hillel Day School, Boca Raton, Florida. I was discussing with him how I as a shaliach can connect between the children of "Hillel" and the children of Israel. We looked for a hands on project that the children could really feel part of.

Rabbi Levine was very excited and supportive of the project that was decided upon. A project of collecting reading books from the children and sending them to a community in Israel was under way.

The project was supposed to last about one month. I was sure that if we would collect 250 books I would be very happy with the project.

The project started and the children were so excited and worked really hard on bringing in all the books they could collect. After a month the children collected more than 400 books, appropriate for age 3 till high school.

We decided to continue with the project a little longer, and in three months were able to collect approximately 1250 books.

When the question of how to transfer the books to the Efrat Library was brought up the school said they would take care of the shipping expenses, even though it was going to be pricy. When bringing the books into the Library I was very emotional. These kind and generous children from Hillel decided that they wanted to give away their books to children who made Aliya, and to Israelis who wanted to improve their English skills.

These days a special book shelf is being set up in the Efrat Library, which will be marked as dedicated by the children of "Hillel Day School".

I would like to thank Rabbi Levine, and Hadassah Smolarcik, for their support of the project, and a big thank you to all of the children who

של שלושה חודשים הצלחנו לגייס 1250 ספרים.

כאשר העברנו את הספרים לספריה באפרת אחזה אותי התרגשות מסויימת. ילדים מעבר לים ויתרו על ספריהם למען ילדים שיעשו עליהם וילידי הארץ שרוצים לשמר ולשפר את רמתם בשפה האנגלית.

בשלב מסוים הסתבר ששליחת הספרים יעלו סכום די רציני לבית הספר אך, אם כל זאת, בית הספר "הלל" עמד על כך שהוא יממן את שליחת הספרים לארץ.

כיום פתחה הספריה באפרת ארון ספרים מיוחד על שם ילדי בית הספר "הלל" מבוקה ראטון.

כרצוני להודות לרב לרין, לגברת הרסה סמולרסיק, ולכל הילדים החמודים מבית הספר "הלל" בבוקה ראטון פלורידה על הנכונות והתמיכה בהרמת פרוייקט מיוחד זה של תרומת הספרים לספריה מתנ"ס אפרת.

מי יתן ונראה אתכם איתנו כאן בארץ הקודש !!!

participated in the donation and collection of the books. G-d willing we will see you soon here in the Holy Land!!!

גבי שניר - שליח בפלורידה, ארה"ב

לפני כחצי שנה ישבתי עם מנהל הרב לרין מבית הספר "הלל" בבוקה ושאלתי אותו כיצד אני כשליח יכול לקשר בין ילדי בית הספר בבוקה לארץ ישראל.

הרב לרין נענה מיד לבקשה וביקש ממני לעבוד על פרוייקט של תרומת ספרים אישיים של התלמידים למען ילדים בארץ ישראל.

הייתי בטוח שאם נצליח לגייס 250 ספרים אני אהיה מאושר, הפרוייקט היה אמור להתנהל כחודש, התחלנו את הפרוייקט והילדים עבדו במלא התלהבות והמרץ לגייס כמה שיותר ספרים למטרה נעלה זו. אחרי כחודש תרמו הילדים יותר מ-400 ספרים מדהימים בערכם שמתאימים לילדים מגיל 3 עד גיל תיכון. לאחר עבודה

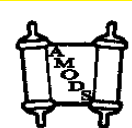
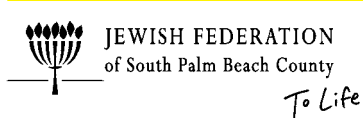


The 2nd Grade's Marvelous Mitzvah Flea Market had shoppers browsing and buying to benefit tzedakah.

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.

If you have information to include in a future *Hillel Herald*, please e-mail suzanner@hilleldayschool.org.
Editor: Suzanne M. Rice 561-470-5000 x225
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TORAH UMESORAH
National Association of Hebrew Day Schools