

# The Hillel Herald

Hillel Day School of Boca Raton



Home of the Hillel Lions



בס"ד

Winter 2010/5770

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

*Congratulations to Tani Kay,  
winner of the Chanukah  
Card Design Competition  
(pictured below).*



### *A Message from the Head of School*

Dear Parents,

Can you quickly identify our school's largest classroom? Need a hint? It is approximately 17,000 square feet and can accommodate hundreds of participants and spectators. The classroom to which I refer is, of course, our new gymnasium. You may ask why I refer to a sports facility as a classroom. Can you equate a gymnasium where children play basketball, volleyball and a host of other sports to a classroom? The answer is an emphatic, yes! The lessons learned in the gymnasium profoundly affect our students and how they live their lives. Our gymnasium is a living laboratory where children learn lessons of leadership and develop their character. The behaviors and responsibilities of students in the gymnasium are not markedly different from the behaviors students must demonstrate in their regular classrooms, albeit sometimes under more difficult conditions and circumstances.

Using the new gymnasium as a giant midot classroom, our students learn the lesson of sportsmanship under the able tutelage of our teachers and coaches. Sportsmanship has been described as playing fair, losing without complaint and winning without gloating. If, as adults, our graduates can navigate life's challenges demonstrating good sportsmanship in everything they do, they will live lives of integrity and character. Our children will grow up to be courteous and generous in both victory and defeat.

Our new gymnasium, on a daily basis, provides our students with a state-of-the-art facility where they can hone their athletic skills and apply the lessons of sportsmanship provided by our teachers and coaches. It was with great pride that we watched our Middle School Girls Basketball Team win Hillel Day School's first league championship. Throughout the season, the girls constantly strove to improve. Their coaches worked diligently with the team to improve their basketball skills and teamwork. But more importantly, they set an example for our students to emulate during stressful and challenging situations. When calls went against the team, Coach Jeffrey Harris showed them how to accept these decisions with equanimity. When other teams sometimes displayed behaviors not in keeping with good sportsmanship, he and his assistant, Basya Orzechowitz, encouraged the team not to reciprocate, to take the high road.

Lessons of sportsmanship are not limited to team sports but are an integral part of the physical education program at Hillel. Coaches Maia Shaffer and Moishe Aquart do not abide taunting, trash talking or intimidation. They constantly remind students that a bad pass, more often than a bad call, will lose a game. Students who engage in negative behaviors during physical education classes quickly find themselves sitting. I have heard our P.E. teachers lauding students for their interpersonal skills far more frequently than for their athletic prowess.

Hillel Day School Athletics seek to teach lessons of trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and good citizenship. Chazal teach us (Avot 2:1), "What is the proper path that a person should choose for himself? Whatever is a credit to him and earns him esteem from his fellow man." Our P.E. program gives our students another opportunity to apply this important Rabbinic dictum to everyday life.

### **Save These Dates:**

**Annual Journal Event - February 24, 2010**

**Super Sunday - March 14, 2010**



**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.**



## Holidays at HDS



The B'not Sherut have the honor of lighting the HDS grand Menorah.

**Chanukah Programs  
were fun learning  
experiences  
throughout the  
Festival of Lights**



Look - no hands! Middle School donut-eating contest.



Shooby Doob performs a special concert for students.



One of many EC2A Chanukah activities.



Morah Gali's menorot project had 3rd graders create Chanukiot.



The 2nd grade Chanukah program.

**Giving Thanks...**  
Students celebrated Thanksgiving with various programs in their classes.



EC2A gets ready for Chanukah with a creative project.





## What's Happening

By: Morah Hadassah Smolarcik



It is hard to believe that half the year is already over as this academic year seems to be progressing so quickly. This must be because so many wonderful and fulfilling experiences are taking place in Hillel. Positive energy and enthusiasm is felt in the classrooms each day thanks to the hard work and effort that the teachers put forth. In order to enhance the already excellent curriculum, new programs have been added and the positive

effects are already being felt in many areas. An area of concern brought up in the last parent survey, was Midot (character building). We are presently utilizing a curriculum in which the teachers focus on various Midot, applying them to the suitable age and emotional level of the students. For example, the teachers may be teaching "Savlanut," patience. In younger grades it may simply be waiting your turn in line. In older grades, it may translate to having patience for a fellow classmate who may be having difficulty in the classroom. This is a constant work in progress and we will monitor this area to develop and stress refined Midot.

Approximately one month ago, we began an Oneg Shabbat program for 1st through 5th grades, held each Friday morning. We focus on Parsha questions, a story, and the "Grand EMET" winner (to further recognize good Midot). This has been positively met by the students! If you pull up to Hillel in the morning and walk into the building, you will hear music playing. This is thanks to our new sound system that functions inside and throughout the entire campus! It is so nice to come and hear music playing early in the morning. Many programs took place in honor of Chanukah. Teachers hosted classes in their homes, some classes performed on the Hillel campus in the evenings and some performed during the daytime for parents to attend as well. Besides the class Chanukah programs, the B'not Sherut worked hard to coordinate programs for 1st through 5th graders each day of Chanukah. The 7th and 8th grade classes celebrated Shabbat with our annual Shabbaton held on the Hillel campus. The theme of the program was "Teamwork" and the activities coordinated by the teachers all involved stressing the importance of cooperation and working together for a common goal. The children had an amazing time and the food was delicious! During Chanukah, 4th through 8th graders were treated to an amazing appearance by Tamir

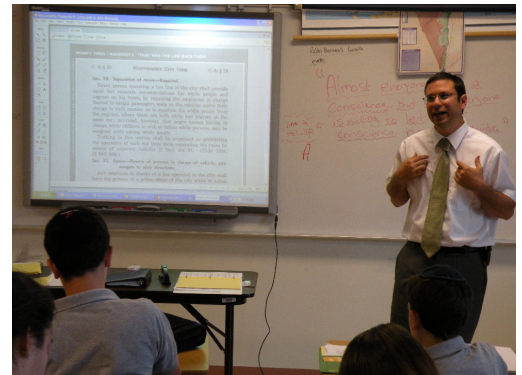
Goodman. He gave an inspirational talk to the students about his experience in choosing to give up playing for a Division I college basketball team because Shabbat comes first! He did workshops with the classes and treated them to autographs. Surely his message hit home! Shooby Doob paid us a visit and entertained the children! They sang along to his many favorite tunes, including Rabbi Levine's favorite, "It's Shooby Doob Time." The Chanukah Fair was a huge success as the campus was filled with parents and students having a wonderful time. Many thanks to the volunteers who worked so hard to make Hillel shine for the many families that came to tour Hillel. Feel free to communicate or come visit any time.



**Parashat Noach** By: Morah Elana  
EC2A children learned the story of Noach and designed their own rainsticks by using stickers and painting a papertowel roll. This was an excellent activity for motor skills and coordination as well.



Chanukah party and Erev Limud for 1st and 3rd graders.



## Talmud & Technology

By: Rabbi Gur Berman

On a daily basis, teachers of Talmud at Hillel Day School use the latest technology to bring ancient texts to life in their classrooms. The school utilizes SMARTBoards™ as part of teaching technology, which allows teachers of Mishna and Talmud to integrate the eternal wisdom of our tradition with the most modern technology currently available. Students can experience and learn about life in ancient Israel and Babylonia through the use of a cutting edge Talmud curriculum, Gemara Berurah, as well as the Internet, videos and other tools available on the SMARTBoard™. For students and teachers of Talmud and Mishna in the 21st century, the SMARTBoard™ is an indispensable tool.



Morah Tovah's 2nd grade class invited grades 2-5 to come to the "Ohe! (tent) of Avraham. The class practiced the Mitzvah of Hachnassat Orchim (inviting guests) in honor of Parshat Vayera.



Oneg Shemesh (yes, that is his name), a musician who plays the Jewish music of the famous Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach, will be visiting school and putting on short performances for our students.



I regularly take this opportunity to inform you about the exciting, creative, inspirational and ever-changing programs that take place in the Upper School. As the programs are varied, so are their goals. Some seek to bring laughter; others seek to evoke tears. Some encourage character development; others inspire acts of chesed. All of the programs promote a love for and appreciation of Judaism. This year, however, we have chosen to enhance a particular category of programs. Some examples of the types of programs I am referring to follow:

- 4th grade had an after-school Chanukah party with Rabbi Shai.
- 5th graders had a Chanukah party at Rabbi Drang's home.
- 6th grade boys and girls had Friday night onegs (Shabbat parties) at the Englander's and Lanner's, respectively.
- 7th grade boys had a Friday night oneg with Rabbi Levitt while the girls had one at Rabbi Berman's house.
- 8th grade boys had a great time at their Chanukah party at the Levitt's and the girls had a blast at the Smolarcik's.
- An amazing Shabbaton (weekend retreat) was arranged for the 7th and 8th grades.
- We had our first ever Simchat Beit Hashoeva (Sukkot party) during the Sukkot vacation.
- Teachers have been regularly inviting students to their homes for Shabbat meals.

Don't our students see enough of their teachers during the school day? Why do teachers create programs that infringe upon students' private time and even bring students into their homes? The answer is that, ultimately, it's all about relationships. Whether you are searching through Torah sources or modern day educational literature, both are replete with information that highlights the importance of healthy teacher-student relationships. A truly productive and enjoyable education simply cannot be had without it, particularly when the curriculum is values-laden. We believe strongly that programs such as these, which allow for students and teachers to connect with each other outside of the classroom environment, help accomplish this lofty goal. The strong bonds that have been created and fortified during this school year are not just between our students and the Judaic faculty members. It is not uncommon to see students spending out-of-class time with all their teachers. Our popular lunch labs, which provide students with extra help in Ivrit, science, English and math, have also become places for teachers and students to just "hang out." We are truly blessed to have such wonderful faculty members who go above and beyond for their students.

## KAR<sup>2</sup>E COLUMN

By: Rabbi Mordechai Smolarcik

Over the past few months the Middle School students have been involved in a variety of activities designed to enhance their pro-social behaviors and attitudes. During the month of November they learned about the concept of not being an "innocent bystander" but rather ones who seek out productive ways to get involved when they witness injustice in the world. This theme was introduced to the students on the anniversary of Kristallnacht, and they were asked to think about what they would have done had they woken up in Boca Raton on the morning of November 10, 1938, and found out what was happening to the Jews of Europe. The student provided interesting feedback showing that they were engaged in the theme.



This month's KAR<sup>2</sup>E theme is designed to enhance the students' Jewish pride. To kick off the theme, we invited the "Jewish Michael Jordan," Tamir Goodman, to speak to our students about how he dealt with the national spotlight when he was recruited by the University of Maryland Basketball program and how he had to turn it down because of his Shabbat observance. His talk was filled with examples of how he maintained his Judaism and of how proud he was that he stuck to his principles in the face of the pressures of stardom and success.

We look forward to sharing other great KAR<sup>2</sup>E news with you soon.

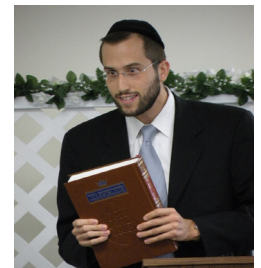
## Ropes Course at FAU



HDS parent J.B. Bensmihen visited HDS' KAR<sup>2</sup>E Program to discuss overcoming challenges and the importance of inclusiveness. Afterward students engaged in a fun activity that brought the lesson to life.



Thanks to One Israel Fund (an organization that helps victims of terror in Israel and wounded soldiers of the IDF), Izzy Ezagui told his story to Middle School students. Izzy made Aliyah from Florida several years ago. He joined the IDF and lost an arm during last year's operation in Gaza. This organization is trying to help provide Izzy with a highly advanced prosthetic arm that will help him lead a normal life. As part of this program, we will be kicking off an 8-week tzedakah project to encourage our students to raise money for this worthy cause.



Rabbi Yaakov Gibber visited HDS Middle School students after davening.





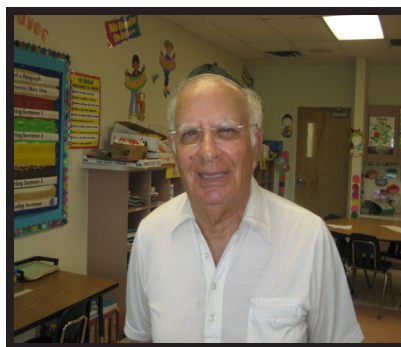
The past months have been a whirlwind of activity inside and outside the classrooms. Thanksgiving was a great way for students to learn not only about the historical significance of the holiday, but also a wonderful reminder to be thankful to Hashem for all that we have. This lesson was enforced during the plentiful Thanksgiving feasts the children enjoyed, the artistic costumes created, and the wonderful songs the children sang.

From the plethora of glowing chanukiyot and festive dreidels that filled our gorgeous bulletin boards, to the proud little Maccabees who sang their hearts out before parents and friends, it was easy to see how joyfully busy both students and teachers had become in preparation for and during the celebration of Chanukah. Visitors who stopped by during this time were greeted with what has now become a staple at Hillel during the month of Kislev—ECE's signature mouth-watering levivot (latkes) and sufганиyot! Lower School was not left out of the festivities either, as they partook in extra fun activities led by the B'not Sherut! Many students were privileged to be entertained by Shooby Doob Shloimy.

The Chanukah Fair Open House, organized by Cara Beim, Simone Broide, Devorah Marcus, and Tammy Pickholtz, and helped run by the countless devoted parent and student volunteers, was an unbelievable success! Many new families as well as Hillel families enjoyed everything from bounce houses and a train, to delicious barbecue, arts and crafts, and vendors, to our annual weeklong Book Fair. I am grateful to all our hardworking volunteers for a job well done!

Thanks to Drs. Naomi and Jeff Gross and Dr. Meyer and Laura Cohen, our students were given the opportunity to learn crucial safety skills during the KidSafe course. Not only did the children take home skills to be and stay safe from experts Cherie Benjoseph and Sally Berenzweig, but they each earned a certificate upon completion of the class. While we hope no one ever has to utilize the tactics taught, what a vital asset this course has been in educating our children to be smart about their surroundings!

## Volunteer Spotlight



*Ted Friedman, 83, volunteers in Ms. Zemel and Ms. Firestone's 2nd grade class. He was born in New York and is a huge Yankee fan.*

Our 2nd graders are always excited to welcome Mr. Ted Friedman into our classroom. He is a wonderful volunteer who makes his way into our class each week. He is eager to join in on any activity we are involved in and he is always ready to help both groups of children and individuals.

We are glad the boys and girls have the opportunity to interact with this kind and patient gentleman. Here's what Ted has to say about his volunteer work:

"Since I'm in the twilight of my life, I feel as seniors that we have more to



HDS parent **Dr. Binny Hahn** visited Mrs. Weinstock's 4th grade class to demonstrate how the human skeletal system works. He also donated "Jeff the skeleton" to the class and showed children how a cast is applied.

accomplish. My idea is to ask seniors with plenty of leisure time to attend any public or private school and donate 2 hours of their time twice a week. We have the experience and knowledge and it is very rewarding. If we can instill any of our wisdom, we may help them to catch up with their peers. This can help make better citizens when they become adults and they can compete in our great country and the world."

Thank you Ted for being part of our Hillel family. We appreciate your time and commitment.



The KidSafe Personal Safety Education Program, generously sponsored by **Drs. Jeffrey & Naomi Gross** and **Dr. Meyer & Laura Cohen**, teach children valuable life lessons.



## P.T.A.

### A CHANUKAH FAIR TO REMEMBER

Boundless enthusiasm resounded at the HDS annual PTA Chanukah Fair and Open House. Boasting one of the greatest turnouts in Hillel history—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. Little ones flocked to the

fair's annual petting zoo while 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 and parent volunteers, this year's Chanukah carnival included an array of fun challenges: bowling, a dreidel toss, the chance to shoot some hoops, and much more. For the first time ever, the carnival also featured creative balloons by Nachum Braverman. Attendees also had a ball on the Haar Athletic Field and in the gymnasium, enjoying varied sports activities for parents and children organized by Coach Moishe Aquart.

And that's not all. While the sun was shining outside, the indoor Lowenstein Cafetorium radiated with excitement. Students enjoyed four choices of arts and crafts activities organized by Lisa Pinkis and hosted by our Sherut Leumi volunteers. Parents and students also enjoyed a varied assortment of shopping stations: the Scholastic Book Fair, BRS Mikvah cookbook sale, Chaya's tableware, Chaya's Vitamins, children's clothing by Rachel Lamm, complimentary massages and helpful information from Yocheved Hande, display of shades, blind, and flooring by Discount Mike, health-related information from Ora Moshe, Hebrew music by Adam Kotok, Mary Kay cosmetics—presented by Carol Hordish, Michelle's flip flops and personalized items, Pampered Chef by Chaya Tabor, pocketbooks by Noga, stationery and invitations by Melissa Wiesel, and more. In

addition, a PTA table featured the latest in HDS couture, including HDS Klipped Kippot, HDS sportswear, and Maia Shaffer's sports shirts.

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



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 and Early Childhood Director, 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 and 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.

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. Thank you to Beth Janock for arranging for this opportunity.



The day also typified the sense of commitment that permeates Hillel's 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. Thank you also to our deejay, David Hordish, who handled announcements and music.

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!



## PTA PROGRAMS

### B'NAI MITZVAH FUND

Do you find it hard to select the perfect Bar or Bat Mitzvah gift? The B'nei/B'not 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 used again and again. For further details, 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? Consider donating them to the PTA's 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.

### 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.

### TRIBUTE CARDS

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



## 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. Sponsoring a Rosh Chodesh breakfast is a great way to recognize our HDS teachers and staff, while cultivating a joyous atmosphere to start the month off just right. For information on upcoming sponsorship opportunities, please contact Cara Freedman at 561-750-3132 or carafreedman@yahoo.com. To help with shopping or set-up of the breakfasts, please contact Naomi Shapiro at 561-477-5279 or nshap75@yahoo.com.

We thank those families whose generosity helped make our Rosh Chodesh breakfasts possible.

### **Cheshvan:** Honoring EC4 and 3rd grade teachers

The Abady, Andron, Becker-Rubin, Bensmihen, Berman, Bierly, Cohen (Coco & Pam), Cohen (Eli & Orly), Epstein, Freedman (Benjamin & Cara), Friedman (Howard & Lisa), Greenbaum (Neil & Rachel), Griff, Haar, Hollander, Kay, Shapiro, Stadlan, Stern, Struhl, Sweet, Tansman, Wirschafter, Zucker, & Zimmerman families.

### **Kislev:** Honoring 1st and 4th grade teachers & B'not Sherut

The Abady, Abramovitz, Andron, Becker-Rubin, Bensmihen, Berman, Bierly, Braverman, Cohen (Eli & Orly), Eisen, Freedman (Benjamin & Cara), Friedlander, Friedman (Howard & Lisa), Glaun, Greenbaum (Neil & Rachel), Haar, Hollander, Kay, Scher, Siedler, Struhl, & Tansman families.

### **Tevet:** Honoring ETGAR & 5th grade teachers

The Abady, Andron, Baum, Becker-Rubin, Bensmihen, Berman, Bierly, Braverman, Cohen (Eli & Orly), Freedman (Benjamin & Cara), Friedman (Howard & Lisa), Greenbaum (Neil & Rachel), Gurvitch, Haar, Hollander, Jason, Kaskel, Kay, Schandelson, Siegel, Struhl, & Tansman families.

The PTA extends its gratitude to Cara Freedman and Naomi Shapiro for their detailed planning of the breakfasts, as well as the numerous volunteers who assumed a hands-on role at these events: Naomi Abramovitz, Adina Allswang, Cara Beim, Orly Cohen, Chani Katz, Jackie Lome, Tanya Reinfeld, Cheryl and Ezra Saragossi, Susan Siedler, and Chani Schiffman.

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

**Rabbi Mordechai Smolarcik**  
**Mondays @8:15am--Parsha**

**Rabbi Barak Bar Chaim**  
**Tuesdays @ 2:30pm--Tefillah**

Sessions are held in the conference room near the front desk. No sign-up or commitment necessary. Missed a class? You can now access Rabbi Bar Chaim's classes online at [http://www.brsonline.org/audio\\_rbbc.php](http://www.brsonline.org/audio_rbbc.php). For further information, please contact Rachel Greenbaum at [rachelgreenbaum@yahoo.com](mailto:rachelgreenbaum@yahoo.com).

## PTA Fundraising Programs Biannual Rebate Report

The PTA thanks the many HDS families who continually support our local and national corporate fundraising partnerships. So far, up to and including the 2009-2010 academic year, HDS has earned \$7,288 through these ongoing and seasonal incentive programs. We believe that we can raise much more over time by continuing to spread the word about these initiatives to friends and family in the HDS community.

### Ongoing Fundraising Programs

Program	HDS Earnings*
Prep Connection	\$2,500
Office Depot®/ OfficeMax®/Staples®	
Printer Recycling	\$1,000
Box Tops Clippings/ Box Tops Marketplace	\$869
Albertsons®	\$629
Target®	\$429
Bravo Academy	\$150
Feet Rite	\$91
Chaya's Vitamins	\$36
Boca Confections	\$27

### Seasonal Fundraising Programs

Program	HDS Earnings*
Boomers/Strikes	
(Chol Hamoed)	\$888
Cash for Gold	\$300
Farmer's Market (Pesach)	\$105
Cohen's Judaica (Tzitzit)	\$65
Cohen's Judaica (Oils)	\$188
Field of Flowers (Pesach)	\$57
Fifth Avenue Bakery (Shavuot Cheesecake)	\$57

\*Dollar amounts reflect ONLY payments remitted to HDS/PTA and do not include pending payments. Therefore, the total raised through HDS/PTA's partnership with an individual vendor may in actuality be higher than listed above.

**WEE MOZARTS:** Watch your tot march to the beat of his/her own drum at weekly music classes led by Hillel Music Director Lorraine Marks. This innovative, eight-week course is designed to teach music appreciation to children ages 12-24 months. For more information, please contact Ana Haar at 561-447-4586. Space is limited so be sure to enroll soon!

**BABY EINSTEIN DVDs:** Remember to bring your Disney Baby Einstein DVDs to the front desk—and help support HDS. Disney is offering a \$15.99 refund on DVDs purchased between June 5, 2004 and September 4, 2009. Original packaging is preferable. For more information, please contact Dvora Scher at [Dvora@dwpalaw.com](mailto:Dvora@dwpalaw.com).

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

**FLEXFIT BRAND BASEBALL CAPS:** HDS Flexfit brand baseball caps are on sale 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](mailto:sharonakay@mac.com) or 561-212-6352, or stop by the front desk. Proceeds benefit the PTA.



## HDS Happenings

### HDS EMET CLUB WINNERS

**E**xcellent  
**M**idot  
**E**very  
**T**ime



#### UPPER SCHOOL

Mira Becker  
Maurice Bensmihen  
Gabi Englander  
Azarya Jason  
Shira Levitt  
Netanya Meyerowitz  
Avi Muller  
Lana Rosenthal  
Noah Solomon  
Ariel Tsarfati

#### LOWER SCHOOL

Al Dimont  
Tani Englander  
Meital Fixler  
Yaniv Fixler  
Kayla Friedlander  
Reut Gare  
Samuel Gerstein  
Atara Greenbaum  
Yitzi Greenbaum  
Yair Gritzman  
Gavin Haber  
Orly Hahn  
Aiden Harow  
Meir Hoffman  
Leah Houben  
Chani Kaminetsky  
Jordan Kaner  
Binny Krawatsky  
Rafi Krawatsky

Coby Light  
Elinor Lugassy  
Yosef Marcus  
Ruth Nadav  
Franki Noble  
Naomi Reichenberg  
Yakirah Rosen  
Jonah Sacher  
Mayrav Sakethkou  
Isaac Shapiro  
Shoshana Stadlan  
Izak Stern  
Aerin Tripp  
Atara Tripp  
Ethan Wirtschaffer  
Tehila Zaghi

**Mazal Tov to all of the winners!**

### Congratulations, Teachers of the Month



**Morah Gali Nadav  
September 2009**



**Morah Beth Kaminetsky  
Morah JoAnn Parker  
December 2009**



Middle School students from Mrs. Rose's Art Institute take their sketchpads outdoors to capture nature as art.



Hillel students sold lemonade to raise money for HDS. Their efforts raised over \$13.



HDS 4th grade students show off the centerpieces they created for the "5th Annual Dottie Lipson Education Journey," a program of the Dorothy Seaman Women's Department of Philanthropy of the Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County.

Students created their own endangered species that lived in the sea, built out of recyclable materials from Mrs. Rose's Art class. They then wrote descriptive pieces about their project in Mrs. Deichman's class, and Ms. DiGuilio taught about adaptations, what an endangered species was, and about the zonation of the oceans. They had to include all of this information in their writings.





## HDS Happenings



In honor of Parshat Chayei Sarah, EC3B celebrated Yitzchak and Rivkah's wedding by having their very own mock wedding in the classroom! The children got dressed up, baked and decorated a wedding cake and made their own chuppah for the event! They had a great time celebrating and dancing at the wedding!



### Quest Program/ Reading and Language Arts Support

By: Mrs. Rebecca B. Gross, M.Ed.

"We Love Reading" and "We are a Team" greet you at Mrs. Gross' door as you enter a caring, warm, and fun-filled reading environment! A "Smiles are Contagious!" poster, which is seen as you sit down to begin your reading lesson in the Reading Room on the 2nd floor.

Every Kindergartener, 1st, 2nd and 3rd grader who receives individualized reading/language arts instruction is treated in a very special manner. The specific educational goals of each student are met. Incentive charts, which offer snacks and treasures from "The Treasure Box," are rewarded to those boys and girls who listen and learn in the appropriate way, following the classroom rules. Magical transformations occur changing caterpillars into beautiful butterflies, as students change their attitudes and reading abilities. Remember...."Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body."



Science lab gives hands-on experience to young scientists.

### Sam Simon Hypnotizes Audience

Thank you to everyone who supported the Sam Simon event this past January. With almost 150 in attendance, the event raised over \$8,000 for Hillel Day School and provided a great night out with lots of laughs.

Thank you to Miriam Grunhaus for making this event possible, for her creative design and marketing, and for all of her hard work. Thank you to our sponsors: Dr. Rebecca Stern, Chani & Jordan Katz of Discount Mike's, Lisa & JB Bensmihen of Boca Home Care, Dr. Barry Schechter and the Florida Eye Microsurgical Institute, Dev Ramgoolam of Sunshine Party Rental, Avi Frohlich of Frohlich Financial Group, Warren Struhl of Successories, Neil & Rachel Greenbaum, Avi & Laura Greenbaum, Eyal Cohen of Diamonds by Eyal, Josh Light and Ari Wirtschafter of Ear, Nose and Throat Associates and Gwen Cohan of Unique Poetry.

We also thank our raffle donors for adding extra excitement to the evening: Lisa & JB Bensmihen, Yocheved Hande, Kosher Marketplace, European Cafe, Asia and Fitness First.

And we could not have done it without all of our diligent volunteers. Thank you to everyone who helped out! We hope to bring you more "fun-raising" events such as this in the future.

The 5th grade experienced fractions firsthand with a pizza/fraction party. The students now have a solid understanding of equivalent fractions, not-to-mention full tummies!



Photo Credit: Lauren Simmons Photography



## SPORTS: Home of the Hillel Lions

### Boys Soccer Finishes With Best Record Ever



### Boys Soccer Wrap-Up

*By: Coach Moishe Aquart*

The Hillel Boys Soccer Team reached great heights this season, with the best record in boys Middle School soccer history! They ended their season with a 7-3 record and were edged out of the playoffs by one point. The team showed a lot of growth and character and pushed further to our goal of winning the championship. The team captains were **Ethan Harris** (8th grade) and **Ari Clements** (8th grade), who were superb the whole season. The defense of **Or-El Ben-Shimon** (8th grade) and **Avi Schneider** (8th grade) were consistent and determined. The offense was led by **Jordan Stauber** (7th grade), who orchestrated the mid-field and allowed **Tani Kay** (6th grade) and **Jacob Katz** (6th grade) to be the leading scorers. The rookie of the season was **Sam Baum**, who was the first 5th grader to start on a regular basis. Overall it was a great season, and with the help of **Assistant Coaches Rabbi Shai Ovadia** and **Gil Ovadia**, it was a successful season. I would also like to thank the **Agus family** and the staff of **Asia** for a great end-of-season banquet.



**"Yes, yes, yes we do! We've got team spirit; what about you?"**



### Hillel Lady Lions Bring Home the Title!

*By: Coach Jeffrey Harris*

For the first time in our school's history, the Girls Basketball Team won their league championship! To be in a position to play for the title, the Lady Lions had to travel to Weston (along with 120+ of our Middle School students) to play Sagemont which was 9-0 going into our playoff game with them. We came out of the gate roaring and took a 10-0 lead in the first quarter. As the game continued, Sagemont's defense got much better and with less than a minute to play Hillel was winning 13-10. With about 15 seconds left, Sagemont was trying to score to take the game into overtime. They shot and missed but the rebound bounced out and a Sagemont guard grabbed the ball behind the 3 point line and shot it with no time on the clock. The shot went in and they tied the game sending it into overtime! Our girls came back to the huddle and were determined not to let this game get away. In overtime, the girls played great and pulled away for a 20 to 13 win. The next day the girls were playing for the championship against Brauser Maimonides Academy. The girls were both excited and nervous since they had lost to BMA the week before by a score of 24-21 but were confident that if they played well they could win it all. Great defense was played by both teams in the first half as the half ended with the score of 5-4 in our favor. In the 3rd quarter we started to pull away, and by the middle of the 4th quarter we were ahead by a score of 16 to 5. The girls did a great job over the last 2 minutes of the game making sure we did not give BMA a chance to get back in the game and the final score was 16 to 7 Hillel. The gym erupted with excitement since there were over 200 people in attendance and most of the fans were there to support our Lions.



Our girls earned this championship. The team, led by our captains **Talia Mamann** and **Sophie Rose**, worked hard (many weeks having 3 practices and needing to be at the gym early Sunday morning) and came together as a team. It was great to watch the camaraderie of the girls as everyone pulled for and supported each other throughout the season. **Allison Dennis**, our playoff MVP, played her best basketball of the season when it counted most. **Arielle Wernick** and **Sophie Rose** were tremendous defensively and seemed to grab every rebound, helping to keep our opponents scoring to a minimum. **Shira Clements** and **Kira Dennis** were our floor leaders and did a great job in running our offense. We also were fortunate to have inspired playoff of the bench from **Danielle Dennis**, **Kayla Gross**, **Emma Harris** and **Talia Mamman**. Most importantly, all of our girls exhibited the type of good sportsmanship that we, as parents, and teachers, were very proud of. Last but not least, a special thanks to **Maia Shaffer** for all of her efforts on behalf of the team.

**Go Lions!**



November 2, 2009 - Stonebridge Country Club  
Photo Credits: Caroline Katz

## Golf Tournament Recap

And the winners are...

### 1st Place Gross

Peter Forman  
Stu Levine  
Daniel More  
Gary Pretner

### 2nd Place Net

Sal Abady  
Al Begas  
Lloyd Berkowitz  
Alan Fisher

### Grand Prize Raffle Winner

Dr. & Mrs. Carmi Stadlan

### Other Raffle Winners

Mr. & Mrs. Sal Abady  
Mr. & Mrs. Marc

### Closest to the Pin

Alan Fisher  
Daniel More

### Krawatsky

Dr. Gil Lichtshein  
Dr. & Mrs. Herschel Scher  
Ted Struhl  
Dorothy Zimmerman

### 1st Place Net

Rabbi Samuel J. Levine  
Aaron Shapiro  
Ted Struhl  
Ari Wirtschafter

### Longest Drive

Stu Levine

### 2nd Place Gross

Sid Cohen  
Rabbi Dr. Brian Galbut  
Trevor Meyerowitz  
Marty Schmeer

### Straightest Drive

Ken Schlacter

### Putting Contest

David Kay

Congratulations to all of the winners and thank you to all of our sponsors, participants and volunteers! The golf tournament raised over \$75,000.



## Dor L'Dor: Grandparent & Grand-Friends



We are off to a great start. Over two dozen enthusiastic grandparents came to our first grandparent event of the year. As many of you remember, we had decided this year that rather than having just one Dor L'Dor event we are planning to have several opportunities throughout the year for grandparents to connect with our school and to see their grandchildren in action, doing what they do on a regular basis in school.

Our bobbies and zaydies were so pleased to see their progeny learning. One grandfather, who added an extra day onto his visit to Boca from Seattle just to attend this event said, "Everyone seemed so relaxed and content. We found a most pleasing atmosphere here at Hillel." We are planning other opportunities like this and will send detailed information as they are confirmed. If you did not have a visit with your grandchildren this time but would like to in the future, please call the office at 561-470-5000 and speak with Suzanne Rice, our Director of Development, and she will make sure your name is on the list.

In addition to the visits with the kids, our grandparents were given a tour of our state-of-the-art new gymnasium. They heard from Rabbi Samuel J. Levine, our impressive Head of School, who openly stated, "Good is not what we strive for --- We must be great.!" We also heard from our hard working and committed school president, Daniel Katz, and had a chance to chat with both school leaders. Our wonderful day school is so encouraging to our generation to get

involved, to be relevant--- volunteer to read stories to our young students, help with the understaffed library which needs our touch, etc. and contribute in any way you can to the financial challenges we face at Hillel. One grandparent suggested \$1/ day. That's great ! And \$10/ day is also great.

We also learned from one of our Bubbies, Bonnie Weinreb, about a personal history project that she'd like to encourage through guidelines in a well-received booklet she wrote. We hope to pursue this with another grandparent gathering which will really enhance our connections to our children and grandchildren. Genealogy and personal history programs for a school like ours are so important. They add another enduring dimension to learning in general and Jewish learning and connectedness, in particular.

Please don't miss the next "ruach- filled" Hillel event, the Annual Journal Event , the main fundraising event of the year (see below). We will be there and would love to see all of you there, too. Please be in touch with us any time. Questions, comments, suggestions . . . we are happy to hear from you.

Shalom,

Helen Cohan (561-350-5721) and Anna Freedman (561-392-1183)

## Hillel Day School of Boca Raton Annual Journal Event

Wednesday, February 24, 2010 ~ 10 Adar, 5770 ~ King David Hall, Deerfield Beach

Honoring

Glen & Rosa Golish

Tomchei Torah Award

Dr. Michael & Sheryl Dennis

Oht Hameseroot ~ Faculty Dedication Award

Roberta Cidoni ~ Tami Gerlitz

Featuring the Comedy  
of Joel Chasnoff

~  
Come in festive Purim  
costume attire!

Co-Chairs:  
Steven & Rebecca  
Berkeley  
and  
Benjamin & Diane  
Saketkhou



## A Thinking Expedition: Journey into the Unknown

By: Emily Rosenstein, English Department Chair



Just a few days before families gathered for a joyful Thanksgiving, I traveled to Philadelphia for the 99th Annual Conference for the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE). To my astonishment, upon entering the Convention Center, the surge of people filling the grandiose hall and filing in and out of conference rooms resembled frantic holiday shoppers searching for the perfect gifts. As I assimilated into this group, attending the first session, I further assessed my initial classification of my peers; I realized how similar we English teachers were to holiday shoppers on a treasure hunt of our own. While we

were not gallivanting around the nation's malls in pursuit of presents and swiping our credit cards in attainment of our finds, we were trepid explorers with a literary map, searching for our own gilded treasures. For four days, we sailed from session to session, meeting like-minded colleagues and preeminent authors, determined to discover new techniques, tools, and materials for the teaching of language and literature. With these guides as a compass, English teachers of today renewed existing convictions and gained pioneering, inventive skills to better navigate through the uncharted waters that await in the school years ahead. I was that explorer; I am that English teacher.

So I sailed along the literary sea, cramming my four days with experiences that not only inform the teaching of the disciplines within an English Language Arts curriculum but also impact its instruction across the many grade levels at Hillel Day School. Day after day, I listened to remarkable, even legendary, authors like Gordon Korman, Nicholas Sparks, and Julie Andrews share their perspectives on reading and writing. I attended over a dozen sessions led by accomplished, innovative practitioners as well as principal researchers in the field. As I gained unparalleled exposure to various and harmonious research-based theories unanimously indicating a necessity to focus on high-order thinking skills, I reflected on my practice. Are my students thinkers? Do they think critically? Do they think enough? I wondered if we, at Hillel, are shaping our students to be thinkers. Since Hillel is among the nation's educational mosaic, I believe it is our responsibility to not simply prepare our students for the next linear level of schooling; rather, it is our duty to equip them with a personal repertoire of creative skills to navigate the unknown oceans of our ever-changing and ever-growing technological world. Somewhere along the way, we have neglected the student's own dialogue with his learning; we have ignored his voice.

Through my experience as a participant in this year's NCTE conference, I uncovered a new mantra: as a teacher I am more than a conduit of knowledge. It is my role to guide my students and empower them to ask their own questions. For example, when students read a piece of literature, they typically respond to a list of questions we, the English teachers, provide; yet, first and foremost, I realize that students must read the text with meta-cognitive awareness. Students should confidently and consistently "talk-back" to the book, writing on post-its or in the margins about what they are noticing, feeling, thinking, and even beginning to infer. These are the ideas that typically lie dormant during reading since students wait to be told what is important or what is right. Learning though is not merely a journey of correctness; it is a journey of discovery. From reading to writing to each area of the English language arts curriculum, teachers can model thinking skills. Critical thinking is teachable. Therefore, with my newly enthused commitment to the field and to our school, I pledge to steer Hillel's young minds on a thinking expedition, sailing into a rapidly changing tomorrow today.

If you have information to include in a future *Hillel Herald*, please e-mail [suzanner@hilleldayschool.org](mailto:suzanner@hilleldayschool.org).

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## 2009-10 Calendar At-A-Glance

### February

- 15 ▫ Presidents Day - school closed
- 24 ▫ Annual Journal Event
- 25 ▫ Fast of Esther
- 28 ▫ Purim



### March

- 5 ▫ End of second Trimester
- 14 ▫ Federation Super Sunday
- 25 ▫ Pesach Programs
- 29 ▫ Pesach Break Begins - school closed through April 7



### April

- 8 ▫ Classes Resume
- 11 ▫ Yom Hashoah
- 18 ▫ Yom Hazikaron
- 19 ▫ Yom Ha'atzmaut



### May

- 2 ▫ Lag B'omer
- 19-20 ▫ Shavuot - school closed
- 22 ▫ Yom Yerushalayim
- 31 ▫ Memorial Day - school closed



### June

- 7 ▫ Kindergarten Graduation - last day of school for Kindergarten
- 8 ▫ 8th Grade Graduation - Last Day of School - regular dismissal
- 9 ▫ Teacher Work/In-Service Days
- 10 ▫ Teacher Work/In-Service Days
- 11 ▫ Teacher Work/In-Service Days



**Men's Basketball League**  
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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.



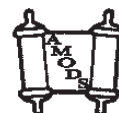
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