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Editor's Note:

All items in green type are Midot-related.

Congratulations,

Graduates and

Class of 2012!

Have a great summer!

Congratulations to this year's winner of the Passover Card Design Competition: Aleksandra Shapiro (art pictured below).



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

Dear Parents,

A number of years ago, I attended the Harvard University Leadership Institute summer program for heads of school and school superintendents. While there, I had the opportunity to hear Dr. Lorraine Monroe, a former Deputy Chancellor of New York City schools and founding principal of the award winning Fredrick Douglas High School in East Harlem, speak. She talked about her experience taking inner city students to the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Her objective in doing so was to heighten her students' interest in and to create an appreciation for art. In explaining her approach she stated, "If you want to have their (the students') hearts, you have to put their feet there first." As an educator who strives to inculcate a love for Medinat Yisrael in his students, Dr. Monroe's remark struck me to my core. I immediately understood that our approach to teaching Zionism was missing an important element. We were teaching an idea, a concept. In order for the idea to be internalized by the learner we needed another step--we needed to make Israel a reality to our students. When the idea for an eighth grade class trip to Israel was proposed by Daniel Katz, our school president, I jumped at the opportunity. We have been taking students to Israel ever since and the reaction from students and parents has been spectacular.

Each year I have watched students return from this outstanding trip inspired by what they have seen and infused with a love for the Jewish homeland. They leave for the trip a cerebral Zionist and they return with a passion for Israel that greatly eclipses how they felt before the trip. Succinctly stated, the trip is a transformational experience.

For the first time, I accompanied the students on their Israel trip this year to witness their experience firsthand. What I saw was amazing. Millennia ago, Avraham and Sarah walked the land in order to take possession of it. I watched our students, Avraham and Sarah's progeny, reenact their ancestors sojourn as they walked the land and took possession of it. Literally. The land became theirs. "If you want their hearts, you have to put their feet there first," became a reality in front of my eyes. Exploring the Kotel Tunnels, kayaking down the Jordan and jeeping on the Golan, I saw our students absorb the mystical spirit of the land. Through walking the hills of Judea, through standing at the place of the Mishkan in Shiloh and by praying at the Cave of Machpelah, our students made a kinyan; they acquired the land and it became theirs.

The trip to Israel has become an integral part of our school's educational program and we must work together to ensure that all students can avail themselves of this extraordinary learning experience. It creates a keshet, a visceral bond, with the Land of Israel that cannot be achieved through texts or within the confines of a classroom. Without equivocation, when it comes to Hillel's eighth grade trip to Israel, no child should be left behind.

Middle School Dedication

MIDDLE SCHOOL DEDICATED AT CHANUKAT HA'BAYIT

The Middle School building was officially dedicated on March 1 during a Chanukat Ha'Bayit, featuring **Ambassador Yehuda Avner**. This event, co-sponsored by **Israel Bonds**, brought over 240 community members to the Beit Midrash for an inspirational lecture by Ambassador Avner.

This event also kicked off the *Hillel Day School Israel Bonds Savings Plan*, developed for Hillel families to invest in Israel Bonds as a tangible piece of Israel. This was also the launch of the *Hillel Day School Israel Bonds Foundation*, in which Israel Bonds are the principle, and the interest on the bonds will be used to enhance school programs.

The community at large is encouraged to donate bonds or purchase them on behalf of the school and have the bonds work to build a solid foundation for the school's future.

After the dedication ceremony, Ambassador Avner spoke and then answered questions from the audience related to his bestselling book and soon-to-be movie, *The Prime Ministers: An Intimate Narrative of Israeli Leadership*. Guests were then invited to a dessert and wine reception in the Middle School lounge, where Ambassador Avner signed books. Special thanks to **Deborah Young of Got It Covered** for coordinating every detail of the beautiful reception, to **Dr. Jackie & Rachel Tripp** for donating the beautiful flowers, and to **Elisheva Levitt** for helping with book sales.

Special thanks to those families who have already made a contribution to the Capital Campaign by dedicating one of the many naming opportunities: **Hillel PTA** (Apple/Mac Computer Lab and a Scoreboard), **Stanley & Ana Haar** (Faculty Lounge), **Jackie & Rachel Tripp** (Aron), **Anonymous** (Stained Glass Window), **Mark & Helen Cohan** (Stained Glass Window), **Mervin & Elaine Jacobs** (Stained Glass Window), **David & Joyce Muller** (Stained Glass Window), **Michael & Risa Zimmerman** (Ner Tamid), and **Isaac & Ilona Grynsztein** (2 classroom mezuzot).

For more information on Capital Campaign opportunities or on the Hillel Day School Israel Bonds program, please contact the Development Office.



Photo credit: Howard Zimmerman, ZimZoom Photography

Purim



Pesach Programs



Yom Ha'atzmaut



Matzah Factory



CHESED DAY

On Wednesday, February 22, 1st through 4th grade students of Hillel participated in Chessed Day. This program brings students together from Donna Klein, Torah Academy, Weinbaum Yeshiva and Hillel Day School, to learn about Chessed and our obligation as Jewish people to perform acts of Chessed.



The students learned about South Florida local organizations and agencies, and what their organizations do to help ease the plight of those who are ill, homeless or most unfortunate. Students from Hillel walked the seven-minute walk to Zinman Hall where all the schools gathered to hear words of inspiration before breaking into small groups to work jointly on projects.



Grades 1-4 decorated boxes, wrapped small lap blankets and wrote cards, which were then put into the beautifully decorated boxes. The children intermingled from the various schools and had fun talking among themselves and becoming acquainted. When it was time to leave, some students even exchanged email addresses!

The organizations that will benefit from this program are Chai Lifeline, Joe Dimaggio's Children's Hospital, St. Mary's Children's Hospital and Family Promise.

Many thanks goes to the Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County for their involvement in this project and especially Mrs. Marilyn Nachman for coordinating this event.



Such events and programs educate our children to care and become involved in the needs of others. This lesson shall remain memorable with the students for years to come. Please ask your child about this wonderful day!



Mazal Tov to the winners of this year's *Chidon Parshiot*: Yosef Fruhman, Jonah Gabor, Aaron Gross, Ariella Gross, Daniel Gross, Shmuel Gross, Eli Lome, Ruth Nadav, and Akiva Rosenthal. Students from grades 1-5 volunteered to participate in the *Chidon Parshiot* (parsha contest).

Tu B'Shevat



Lag Ba'omer



Sea Camp 2012

In April, the 6th graders enjoyed three days in Big Pine Key snorkeling, swimming with sharks, and learning about marine wildlife at the annual SeaCamp trip. It was a fun learning and bonding experience certainly to be remembered by all who attended!



7th Grade Washington D.C. Class Trip



Log onto our YouTube channel at <http://www.youtube.com/user/HillelTube> to view all of the videos from the Israel trip and much more!



I recently had the great privilege of joining the 8th grade on their graduation trip to Israel. This phenomenal experience is the ultimate culmination of a Hillel Day School education. Once you read through the highlights of the itinerary below, you will see why!

Yom HaZikaron in the city of Ariel, Yom Ha'atzmaut at the Beit Elazraki Children's Home, The Ayalon Museum, leadership training ropes course, Shiloh – where the Mishkan stood, Migron – a settlement in danger of being dismantled, Chevron – Maarat Hamachpeilah, Elijah's Path – in memory of Elijah Webberly A"H, Kever Rachel, Yad Vashem, Machane Yehuda marketplace, Shabbat in Yerushalayim, the Davidson Archeological Park, Southern Wall Excavations, Ir David, Chezkiah's water tunnels, The Kotel, Border Guard training base, Kotel Tunnels, Malcha Mall, Sderot, Air Force base, Masada, boat ride on the Kinneret, Naot factory, jeep ride in the Golan, Misgav Am – the Lebanese border, Tel Dan Nature Preserve, Banyas Waterfalls, Bental – the Syrian border, Arbel hike, Independence Hall...and more!

Enjoy these photos and have a wonderful summer!



COLOR WAR 2012

Color War broke out this past February for Middle School students. Four different teams, each of a different color, competed in various competitions including: Crazy Olympics, Sports, Learn About Your Mitzvah/Divrei Torah, Minute to Win It Teacher's Edition, Megillah Reading, Banner Competition, Flash Mob, and Song and Cheer Competition.





Whose earliest memories don't center around their childhood playground? I refer to that concrete fantasyland right outside the classroom doors, where we rushed eagerly to line up as soon as the teacher yelled, "RECESS!" It was the same place where we made our best friends, learned to shoot a basket, and perfected the art of pumping our legs so that our swing could be the fastest and reach the highest!

As adults, we don't spend as much time as we should thinking about the time our kids spend on the playground. We're just happy they're outdoors, getting exercise. We don't always see the crucial elements within the playground setting that lend themselves to creating sound, imaginative play, where our children have the freedom to explore their universe, navigate socially, and dream big dreams. A playground can be a place full of learning and growing both emotionally and physically. That's why our Playground Project has become such a vital project for me personally as well as many of our teachers and parents. Countless hours were spent on planning, designing, and perfecting the new Hillel playground so that it could be functional, yet beautiful, fun, yet educationally sound. It was carefully designed so that a variety of ages would enjoy, and a multitude of activities could be discovered.

Thank you to everyone who participated in making this dream a reality. Thank you for your positive feedback and all of your support. This has been one of the most satisfying fundraisers I have been privileged to be a part of for the simple fact that while a playground may often seem like an insignificant school accessory, often going unnoticed by adult passersby, to children it opens up a whole new world of possibilities. All children will benefit from this crucial environment as a hopping, jumping, balancing, running outlet that affords them the freedom of exploration and amazement at the world around them. Imagine the pure thrill of being able to reach the sky on a swing.

I would like to specifically thank **Cheryl Mirsky** and **Pam Gene** who were our teacher representatives for our Playground Committee. By visiting several playgrounds and looking through more catalogs than one would think possible, they were critical in making this happen. Additionally, I would like to thank **Rachel Tripp**, who served as our parent representative. Her endless and amazing positive attitude, creativity and drive to make this a success are remarkable.

INCREDIBLE PEOPLE!

Ms. Zemel's *Incredible People III* movie starring 2nd grade was a spectacular event. The students had a blast dressing as different characters and creating individual movie clips for this premiere. The audience was awed as they met famous presidents, women, scientists, musicians, explorers, inventors, magicians, athletes, and other famous Americans.



Thank you Playground Supporters

(as of 6-11-12)

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Abramovitz, Samuel & Naomi | Flics, Martin & Ileana | Pinkis, Eric & Lisa |
| Adler, Daniel & Liora | Freedman, Benjamin & Cara | Rosenthal, Daniel & Sara Goldberg |
| Anonymous | Glaun, Russel & Lauren | Rudensky, Dan & Rachel |
| Anonymous | Greenbaum, Avi & Laura | Saida, Eric & Sabrina |
| Anonymous | Greenbaum, Neil & Rachel | Saketkhou, Benjamin & Diane |
| Beim, Ari & Cara | Greenfield, Steven & Keri | Scher, Herschel & Dvora |
| Belizon, Avraham & Elana | Gross, Jeffrey & Naomi | Shapiro, Evan & Orly |
| Bensmihen, JB & Lisa | Gugenheim, Nancy | Shapiro, Reid & Naomi |
| Berkeley, Steven & Rebecca | Hillel PTA | Skoczylas, Leor & Ana Gabriela |
| Berman, Errol | Hollander, Jonathan & Aliza | Smolarcik, Rabbi Mordechai & Hadassah |
| Bernstein, Ari & Andrea | Kaminetzky, Jerry & Gigi | Sommers, Ross & Hadas |
| Blanka, Avi & Tami | Kaminetzky, Noam & Jill | Stein, Gil & Lysee |
| Michael & Mirta Brown | Katz, Daniel & Caroline | Stern, Josh & Stephanie |
| Cohen, Eli & Orlie | Kay, David & Sharona | Struhl, Ted & Phyllis |
| Cohen, Lance & Robyn | Klein, David & Batsheva | Tripp, Benjamin & Donna |
| Dimont, Chayim & Michele | Landau, Evan & Ilana | Tripp, Jackie & Rachel |
| Dimont, Rochelle | Levine, Rabbi Samuel & Beatrice | Wirtschafter, Ari & Shoshana |
| Early Childhood Staff | Levontin, Elliot & Shari | Young, Evan & Deborah |
| Ehrlich, Richard & Julie | Mayer, Daniel & Maren | Zucker, Nathan & Andrea |
| Englander, Rabbi Adam & Shira | Mergui, Mendel & Chanie | |
| | Mirsky, Simon & Cheryl | |
| | Mizrahi, Sara | |
| | Parker, Robert & JoAnn | |

TEDDY BEAR DAY

Mr. Dimont keeps the anticipation of Teddy Bear Day alive as students find their Teddy Bears have moved into their classroom.



3RD GRADE BOOK CLUB

By: Cara Beim & Ranana Berger



The 3rd Grade Book Club, under the direction of **Mrs. Rebecca Gross**, has read 3 excellent novels during the second half of the year. The first book that the class read was *Chocolate Fever* by Robert Kimmel Smith. That first Book Club meeting was held at **Jessica Berger's** house. The meeting began with an in-depth discussion about the book by the students. Then the children did various activities related to chocolate including making s'mores, which was the most delicious part. The second book that the group read was *Socks* by Beverly Cleary. **Matthew Beim** was the host of that meeting. Once again the group began the meeting with a comprehensive discussion of the book. The children were asked many comprehension and critical thinking questions. The next activity that the group did was decorating socks and making them into puppets. The children really showed off their creative side! The third and final Book Club meeting was held at **Hadass Gerlitz's** house. The novel that was read was *Amber Brown is Green With Envy* by Paula Danziger. We had such a great time reading and discussing all 3 books. Thank you, Mrs. Gross, for all of your support and teaching!

**PTA ANNUAL LUNCHEON:
A TRIBUTE TO ATHLETIC EXCELLENCE**

Attendees had a ball at the Annual PTA Luncheon honoring HDS **Athletic Director Maia Shaffer** and **Coach Moishe Aquart**. The immeasurable impact that these talented individuals have made at HDS drew a crowd of fans to the event. The PTA also welcomed five new members and thirty-seven returning members to the Guardians of Learning program. The annual luncheon, held at JARC on May 31, featured JARC's delicious food choices. Guests were delighted to receive complimentary sunscreen samples generously donated by **Dr. Charles Griff**, as well as BPA-free Hillel Lions water bottles sponsored by the PTA.

Laughter, warmth, and a sense of camaraderie permeated the room as **Naomi Abramovitz**, the luncheon speaker, discussed her joy in having this year's honorees as part of the HDS community. Naomi cited Rambam and the Ba'al Shem Tov's views on proper health and strength being a precursor to the proper performance of Torah and Mitzvot. She described Ms. Shaffer and Coach Moishe's establishing and running a great P.E. program, creating and leading numerous winning sports teams, and instituting a series of after-school and weekend sports clinics for the entire community, as supporting the level of physical fitness and exercise referred to by these leading Jewish Rabbis. Naomi also highlighted the honorees' commitment to proper middot, both in terms of how they conduct themselves and the values of good sportsmanship and teamwork they instill in their students. For these two gifted athletes, the greatest win is demonstrating exemplary behavior and treating others with kindness and respect.

Born in Bulgaria, Ms. Shaffer joined HDS eleven years ago, after attaining a Master's Degree in Physical Education from the National Sports Academy in Bulgaria, as well as attending the American School in Kuwait. As HDS Athletic Director, Ms. Shaffer's many contributions include coordinating and coaching games, tryouts, clinics, and practices. An incredibly calm multi-tasker, she also does an outstanding job teaching gymnastics as part of the HDS Kids Time after school program, and teaches a full roster of P.E. classes.

Coach Moishe was born in Jamaica where coincidentally, he attended a school named Hillel Academy. He later attended college at Florida Atlantic University, where he played semi-professional soccer. By the age of twenty, Coach Moishe began teaching. During his eight years at HDS, he has become beloved to nearly every student from EC-2 through 8th grade and knows virtually every student by name. Coach Moishe can also be credited with more recently taking the Hillel Lions Boys Soccer team, once in need of "rebuilding," to winning the school's first sports championship in 2011. Coach Moishe tirelessly teaches P.E. classes throughout the school day, runs after-school soccer programs, and coaches Sunday Soccer.

The honorees were excited to receive their Appreciation Awards, presented by **Sharona Kay**, PTA President. Next, **Guardian of Learning Chair Caroline Katz** recognized the many women who choose to participate in this important program. Caroline thanked our new Guardians of Learning, who will receive pins, as well as those who renewed their commitment to the program. Renewing Guardians of Learning receive an additional diamond for their existing pins. Caroline also thanked **Sabrina and Salomon Romano** for producing and providing the pins and diamonds at cost each year.



Moishe Aquart, Naomi Abramovitz, Deborah Young, Caroline Katz, Sharona Kay and Maia Shaffer.



~New Guardians of Learning~

Julie Ehrlich • Ileana Flics • Bruria Kodsi • Shaani Splaver • Deborah Young

~Renewed Guardians of Learning~

Leslie Abady • Naomi Abramovitz • Liora Adler • Anonymous • Elana Belizon • Lisa Bensmihen • Batzi Berman • Helen Cohan • Laura Cohen • Orlie Cohen • Anne Deakter • Sheryl Dennis • Michele Dimont • Elise Dolgow • Shira Englander • Lauren Glaun • Yocheved Goldberg • Laura Greenbaum • Simone Griff • Ilona Grynstzein • Ana Haar • Caroline Katz • Jean Katz • Stace Katzman • Sharona Kay • Beatrice Levine • Linda Levy • Sara Markowitz • Joyce Muller • Jill Rose • Dvora Scher • Dana Schechter • Naomi Shapiro • Hadassah Smolarcik • Phyllis Struhl • Shoshana Wirtschaffer • Risa Zimmerman

The PTA applauds Luncheon Chairs **Naomi Abramovitz** and **Deborah Young** for the beautiful job they did planning this successful event.

The 2011/2012 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.

WINTER BREAK ACTIVITIES



A discounted trip to Legoland® offered the building blocks for a day of fun during the January Yeshiva week break. Thank you to **Rabbi Samuel J. Levine, Alan and Lisa Houben, and Zipora Rindsberg** for working tirelessly to organize this memorable day, which was enjoyed by dozens of HDS families.

PESACH BREAK ACTIVITIES

Pesach vacation activities organized by **Dvorah Eisen and Zipora Rindsberg** provided fun times with friends—at discounted rates. Students enjoyed a safari tour, zoo, rides, miniature golf, and more at Lion Country Safari during Chol Hamoed.



School Spirit Days



Throughout the year, women enjoy zumba at HDS during weekly classes led by instructor **Hanna Cohen** and organized by **Dvorah Eisen**. On March 4, they enjoyed a special treat, a Mother-Daughter zumba class to help raise funds for the eighth grade Israel trip. The PTA thanks **Deborah Young** for her help coordinating this special exercise session.
Photo Credit: Wendy McDaniel



Students show school spirit and team pride wearing their **ROAR** t-shirts on School Spirit Days. Thank you to **Dvorah Eisen** and **Keri Greenfield** for organizing the t-shirt orders and distribution.



The grand opening of the PTA's Uniform Shoppe on May 21-24 was a great success, with special discounts offered on Hillel Day School and HDS tops and bottoms. The PTA thanks **Dvorah Eisen** and **Zipora Rindsberg** for leading the sale, and thanks all of our volunteers: **Keri Greenfield, Orah Moshe, Ilana Rindsberg, Zippora Rindsberg, Tzippi Rosen, Sara Rosenthal, Lea Saida, Deborah Young**, and to staff members **Leslie Ani, Susan Herr, Gail Marcus, and Suzanne Rice**. Because the PTA is assuming responsibility for storing, managing inventory, and ordering and selling the shirts, we are able to provide students with wholesale prices on a regular basis.

HDS FOOD DRIVE BENEFITS FAMILIES IN NEED



HDS was proud to once again lead the annual food drive to benefit the Forster Family Kosher Food Pantry. This year, several other local Jewish day

schools—including Donna Klein Jewish Academy, Torah Academy of Boca Raton, and Weinbaum Yeshiva High School—joined our efforts to stock food and toiletry items on the shelves of the only kosher food pantry in Palm Beach County.

“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 PTA thanks the families and teachers community wide who supported this worthy cause and commends **Pam Cohen** and **Cara Freedman** for their outstanding leadership. We applaud our HDS families for enhancing the Drive by also donating kosher for Passover items to the Pantry after Passover. Thank you to the 7th grade for helping to sort and package the food items, and to **Cara Zimmerman**, Food Pantry Director, and **Shaya Griner** for their support. Cara Zimmerman's tour of the Food Pantry and update on its mission were highlights of the drive.



SEMI-ANNUAL BOUTIQUE

On the evening of March 22, the Boca Raton Synagogue (BRS) bustled with excitement as hundreds of shoppers took a break from Passover cleaning to attend the HDS PTA's Semi-Annual Pre-Holiday Boutique—hosted in conjunction with BRS. The many vendors provided shoppers with clothing, hats, jewelry, Judaica, vitamins, and so much more, often at discounted prices.

The PTA commends **Orlie Cohen**, **Rachel Harow**, and **Reut Aber** for their outstanding work in coordinating and organizing the event, and also thanks our volunteers: **Sharon Fein**, **Chani Katz**, **Sara Mizrahi**, **Dvora** and **Sarit Scher**, **Deborah Young** and **Andrea Zucker**. We also thank **Gila Stern** and **Euro Fusion** for donating wine for the evening, and express gratitude to **Matthew Hocherman**, BRS Executive Director, and his staff, for their support.

MAH JONGG AND GAME NIGHT

HDS parents, family, and friends caught ‘wind’ of the excitement at the PTA's annual Mah Jongg and Game Night. Held March 12 at **The Gelato Shoppe**, the fun evening included multiple rounds of Mah Jongg, Rummikub and other games, unlimited gelato, delicious coffee, and other desserts. The PTA extends a winning hand to the event co-chairs, **Andrea Bernstein** and **Andrea Zucker**.



With summer approaching, the PTA is already thinking ahead to fun and exciting initiatives and activities for the 2012-2013 school year. If you're looking for an easy way to get involved with HDS, consider enlisting in the PTA Troopers—and find the type of volunteer opportunities that are just right for you! Please email sharonakay@mac.com today to join and learn more!

With Praise, Thanks, & Admiration...



Thank you to **Rabbi Mordechai Smolarcik** and **Rabbi Philip Moskowitz** for their inspiring adult education classes throughout the year, and to **Rachel Greenbaum** for organizing this wonderful program.

Congratulations to our PTA Volunteers of the Month, who help make the PTA's many activities and initiatives possible:

April: **Cara Freedman**

May: **Deborah Young**

Thank you to **Liora Adler** for creating much-needed snack bags for our teachers during Parent-Teacher conferences, and to **Ari Blumofe** for delivering the bags to HDS.

The PTA commends **Tzippi Rosen** for organizing our Summer Reading Book Order program.

Many HDS families added a layer of creativity and fun to their Pesach Seders, thanks to Ten Plague Bags made possible by **Beth Kaminetsky** and **Elisheva Levitt**.

The PTA applauds **Alana Shepetofsky** for leading the Carpool Brigade and thanks the many volunteers at carpool time.

The PTA thanks the **Bernstein family** for coordinating the distribution and collection of HDS tzedakah boxes. To obtain a tzedakah box, please contact Andrea Bernstein at 561-212-3072.

BOXTOPS UPDATE:

Congratulations to the **Struhl family**, our Rosh Chodesh BoxTop raffle winner, and to our grand prize winner, **Eli & Orlie Cohen and Family** from **Sarah Cohen's** lucky BoxTop! With your help, over 1,800 BoxTops were mailed out! Remember to save your BoxTops over the summer to be entered in Tishrei's BoxTops raffle. Please remember to keep bringing in your BoxTops labels. To be entered into the PTA's monthly raffle, simply write your name on the back of each BoxTop you submit. Winners receive a \$10 gift card donated by **Aspaclaria Judaica**.

TEACHER APPRECIATION BREAKFASTS

Sponsoring a Teacher Appreciation Breakfast is a great way to recognize our HDS teachers and staff. For information on sponsorship opportunities or to volunteer to help with the breakfasts, please contact Cara Freedman at 561-750-3132 or carafreedman@yahoo.com.



Save The Date

- Ice Cream Social - August 19 (1-3 p.m.)
- PTA Brunch for New Hillel Moms - August 26
- Chanukah Fair/Open House - December 2

And much more to come... Have a great summer!

The HDS faculty and staff thank the PTA for this year's end-of-year gift - Hillel Lions jackets! We will enjoy sporting these for years to come!



Special thanks to **Michele Dimont** for editing the *Hillel Herald* and to **Meira Gross** for compiling the PTA pages for each issue of the *Hillel Herald*.

HDS EMET CLUB WINNERS

E xcellent M idot E very T ime	Daniel Aber	Michael Feldman	Ari Mayzel
	Lizzy Adler	Aaron Ferber	Maia Mayzel
	Rebecca Adler	Harry Freedman	Dassie Mergui
	Jolie Aloff	Jacob Freedman	Ariel Moshe
	Moshe Amar	Sydney Freedman	Sivan Mussaffi
	David Amiel	Ben Garby	Ruth Nadav
	Noa Amiel	Hadass Gerlitz	Sapir Nadav
	Sarah Amiel	Batsheva Gil	Ariana Raab
	Amber Balis	Shira Goldberg	Amir Rindsberg
	Gabriel Beim	Hadara Goldstein	Noam Rindsberg
	Batya Belizon	Atara Greenbaum	Yarden Rindsberg
	Jonathan Ben-Josef	Jacob Greenbaum	Jennifer Rosen
	Maya Ben-Zikry	Talia Kadish	Lily Rudensky
Noa Ben-Zikry	Chanala Kahan	Chana Adina Schandelson	
Jessica Berger	Daniella Kaminetzky	Akiva Scher	
Nava Berkeley	Aiden Kaner	Shoshana Sides	
Caleb Berman	Reese Kaner	Shuey Silkin	
Alec Beylus	Katie Katz	Max Silverstein	
Orly Bierly	Zevi Kay	David Skoczylas	
Sarah Cohen	Talia Kennedy	Akiva Stadlan	
Shaindie Cohen	Sofia Kestenbaum	Shoshana Stadlan	
Jake Davis	Zohara Lam	Gabe Stern	
Shai Deichman	Jacob Levinrad	Joshua Young	
Racheyl Drang	Devorah Lome	Yahav Zehavi	
Meir Eisen	Daniel Lugassy	Yaheli Zehavi	
Tani Englander	Mordechai Marcus	Sydney Zucker	



Mazal Tov to all of the winners!

OUR TEACHERS ARE ALWAYS LEARNING!

Earlier this year, **Ms. Emily Rosenstein** participated in a two-day professional development workshop called Analyzing Student Work. Ms. Rosenstein is a mentor through the Jewish New Teacher Project, the leading mentoring program for beginning teachers in Jewish day schools. Through JNTP, she mentored **Danielle Mizrachi** and other HDS teachers every week, observing the classroom and providing 1.5 hours of instructional mentoring. This work gives her an opportunity to help a new teacher gain effective teaching skills quickly, so that our kids get another great teacher at Hillel Day School.

The workshop focused on providing essential tools and processes for collaboratively analyzing student work, identifying student learning needs and differentiating instructional steps to meet identified needs. Emily learned how to prepare Ms. Mizrachi for the Analyzing Student Work process and how to develop her habit of mind and practice for differentiating instruction. We are proud to include JNTP as part of the opportunities we afford our teachers, ensuring that our teachers are professionally satisfied and remain in the profession and that our children learn from the best possible teachers.



5th graders represent each of the 13 colonies at the annual 13 Colonies Fair.



On Thursday, February 23, Hillel hosted a Consortium of Jewish Day school teachers and principals to learn about a new Chumash program being developed for students in grades 2-4. This was a great opportunity for professionals to come together to discuss ideas and to network for the future. Twenty-five professionals came to the conference and we were so proud to showcase Hillel and the wonderful programs and facility that we have here.



KIDS FOR KOSHER FOOD DRIVE

Students in 1st through 5th grades participated in the Kids for Kosher Food Pantry food drive, a program of Ruth Rales Jewish Family Service's Forster Family Kosher Food Pantry. During the months of February through May, each grade was responsible for collecting designated items for the drive.

This effort resulted in over 350 items collected for the needy and the **3rd grade** won a pizza party for collecting the most donations. Thank you to **Cara Zimmerman**, Forster Family Kosher Food Pantry Coordinator, **Hadassah Smolarcik**, **Liz Stadlan**, **Cara Freedman** and **Shoshana Wirtschafter** for their help with this program.

Jewish Education Leaders Gather For 2012 North American Jewish Day School Conference

More than 700 leaders and educators at Jewish day schools gathered together for the third annual North American Jewish Day School Conference (NAJDSC) in Atlanta on January 15-17. Attending on behalf of Hillel Day School were **Rabbi Samuel J. Levine, Rabbi Adam Englander** and **Chayim Dimont**.

Jointly planned by RAVSAK: The Jewish Community Day School Network, the Institute for University-School Partnership at Yeshiva University, the Schechter Day School Network, PARDeS: The Progressive Association of Reform Day Schools, and PEJE, the Partnership for Excellence in Jewish Education, the conference brought together over 300 schools and professional organizations. "This conference allows people to solidify those communities in which they see themselves belonging, and at the same time expand the very notion of what a community can be by creating a safe environment for learning and collaboration within networks and without," said Dr. Scott Goldberg, Director of the YU School Partnership.

This year the conference focused on "Current Landscapes— Changing Horizons." The program featured two keynote speeches, four mini-keynotes, a special tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and nearly 60 sessions and workshops. Each organization also convened its schools for intensive sessions focused on particular issues affecting their own schools and communities. New this year were the ELI Talks, a TED-talk like format featuring dynamic, innovative speakers discussing the shared ideals and commitments of the Jewish people. Dr. Marc Kramer, Executive Director of RAVSAK, noted with pride that "with more than 700 day school leaders and supporters convening in Atlanta, we have solid evidence that the day school movement is anything but stuck in neutral. The vibrancy and importance of day schools is more evident than ever before."

Conference sessions addressed topics such as 21st century skills, the Jewish day school value proposition, re-imagining and sustaining day schools, and innovations in Jewish education. Equally important was the networking time that allowed participants to meet and hold in-depth discussions with other practitioners, funders, and education professionals. "I cannot overstate the importance of collaboration in today's marketplace," asserted Amy Katz, Executive Director of PEJE. "I hope that our coming together will demonstrate to the field the power of uniting behind a common interest."

"This exciting conference highlighted current issues and challenges that are shared across the broad field of Jewish day school education," remarked Dr. Elaine Cohen, Director of the Schechter Day School Network. "We are asserting that the future is now and that together we can advance the field through innovative practices, big picture thinking, and an energized commitment to excellence in teaching and learning."

SUPER-HERO SUNDAY!

Thank you to everyone who volunteered for the Jewish Federation's Super Sunday this past March. Hillel Parents, **Jeffrey and Jodi Harris**, co-chaired this annual fundraiser for the Federation, which allocates funds to Hillel Day School and other beneficiaries and agencies.





Maia Shaffer,
Athletic Director

It is hard to believe that another great year has come to an end. This however has only increased our experience and fostered wonderful growth in our athletes. It is with great pleasure that I summarize how well our athletes did in the sports program during the year! The highlights include our Flag Football team making it one step away from the playoffs, our Girls Soccer team winning second place in the league, our Boys Basketball team improving tremendously since last year, and our Tennis team winning the championship undefeated. We are very happy with the outcome and growth of our sports clinics as they strengthen the athletes and hone their individual skills. I would like to thank **Coach Jeff Harris** for volunteering his time and effort to build a confident and always improving Girls Basketball team. I would also like to thank **Coach Moishe, Coach Grubbs, Coach LJ, Coach Nadav, and Coach Rosenstein** for their hard work and dedication to the student athletes. I want to also thank the parents for all of their support at the games and especially **Sharona Kay and Greta Baum** for their constant effort to improve the sports program. Let's look forward to an even greater next year! Go Lions!



JUMP ROPE FOR HEART

Jump Rope for Heart is one of the favorite fundraising events for many students, raising a total of \$3,182. Most importantly Jump Rope for Heart helps students learn about the benefits of regular physical activity and heart health while raising funds to fight heart disease and stroke. The event was filled with great music, competitions, and rewards for outstanding performance.

Winners (each raising \$250): Joshua Bernten and Michael Rosen (4th grade). 4A, 4B, and 4C are the winners by grade. The total amount they raised was \$1,730. Based on the money raised this year, \$3,182, the American Heart Association will reward us with a \$200 gift certificate, which will help us purchase new equipment for our PE Department.



TENNIS TEAM UNDEFEATED!

By: Coach Art Snow

We had a great turnout with 30 kids trying out for the team. We were undefeated in league play, winning all our matches 5-0 except one match we won 4-1. We added many matches to increase play and were also undefeated participating in our extra matches. It was a great season! We won the first round in playoffs against Boca Christian 5-0 and won 3 matches vs DKJA. Congratulations to **Sam Glaun** for going undefeated for the two years and **David Abady** for being undefeated this season.



GIRLS SOFTBALL PLACE 2ND OVERALL

By: Coach Moishe

The Girls Softball team had a great season. Even though we placed second, the team showed character and great sportsmanship, and only lost by a few runs. The team was led by **Sarah "The Boss" Haar, Maya "The Brain" Borzak, and Chaya "Spunk" Cohen.**

BOYS BASKETBALL

By: Coach Brennen Grubbs

The boys' middle school basketball team suffered a tough loss in the semi-final game after a very successful season. The team finished with an overall record of 6-3 which is a major improvement from the previous year. The team's success was not a miracle though. It came from hard work in practice, and an intense defense that made opposing teams fold under pressure. The team was led by 7 seniors who all have the capability to play basketball at the next level. **Elie Zaghi** led the team in points while **Judah Baum** proved he was the best center in the league, averaging more than 12 rebounds a game. **Tani Kay** and **Noah Brown** contributed on the offensive and defensive end in each game they played. **Jacob Henschel** held down the paint on defense as being the team's vocal leader and showed he has ice in his veins as he sunk free throws to clinch game wins. **Sammy Baum** showed he was a player with unlimited heart as he continued diving after balls in the semi-final game even though the team was down by several points. All in all, the team played tremendously and a coach could not ask for more.

GIRLS SOCCER

By: Coach Moishe

The Girls Soccer team had a phenomenal season. They were North Division Champions, with a perfect record and no goals scored against them. They won their playoff game against BMA and were paired once again against St. Marks in the Championship match. Even though the girls lost by a narrow margin, it was a game filled with so much excitement that the score did not tell the story. It was a great season, and we look forward to next year.



GOLF TOURNAMENT IN REVIEW

Mazal Tov to **Ted Struhl** and **Michael Zimmerman** for their efforts once again in co-chairing an extremely successful Golf Tournament, held Monday, May 7, at Stonebridge Golf & Country Club. In addition, thank you to the leadership and collaborative efforts of **Rabbi Samuel J. Levine**, **Sal Abady**, **Avraham Belizon**, **Orlie Cohen**, and **Daniel Katz**.

And the winners are....

1st Place Gross: **Steven Cohen, Anthony Harris, Trevor Meyerowitz & Wayne Ostrovsky**

1st Place Net: **Donny Cohen, Rabbi Brian Galbut, Eric Galbut & Eric Pinkis**

2nd Place Gross: **Jarrett Levy, Robby Levy & Robert Parker**

2nd Place Net: **Kevin Goch, Ben Henschel, Jeff Henschel & Neal Henschel**

Longest Drive: **Glen Golish**

Putting Contest: **Trevor Meyerowitz**

Closest to the Pin: **Steven Cohen**

Closest to the Line: **Robby Levy**

Thank you to our sponsors, supporters and everyone who participated by either golfing or purchasing a raffle ticket. We could not have raised over \$65,000 without your support: **Daniel & Caroline Katz, Bruce Gendelman Insurance Services, Daniel & Liora Adler, Butters Construction & Development, Dr. Barry Schechter/Florida Eye Microsurgical Institute, Jerry Cohen, Risa & Michael Zimmerman and Family, Phyllis & Ted Struhl/Boca Executive Realty LLC, Dr. Adam Splaver/HealthwoRx, Dr. Rebecca Stern/Stern Comprehensive Women's Healthcare, Dr. Avraham & Elana Belizon, Joseph & Lisa Bensmihen, Haar Capital Management LLC, Jeffrey & Jodi Harris and Family, Sheldon Hills, Kosher Marketplace, David & Joyce Muller, Dr. Meyer Cohen & Dr. Jeffrey Gross/Premier Medical Associates, Dr. Hillel Cohen & Dr. Joshua Stern/South Florida Gastroenterology Associates, Ari & Shoshana Wirschafter and Family, Our Community Rabbis – Rabbi Yaakov Drang, Rabbi Adam Englander, Rabbi Joshua Flug, Rabbi Efreim Goldberg, Rabbi Meir Kessler, Rabbi Chaim Lanner, Rabbi Samuel J. Levine, Rabbi Philip Moskowitz, Rabbi Mordechai Smolarcik, and Rabbi Perry Tirschwell.**

Every Parent Campaign Update



By: *Gila Stern, Every Parent Campaign Chair*

This year's campaign stands at 68% participation from the parent body. This campaign is based on any donation to the Annual Campaign, no matter the gift amount. These financial gifts provide scholarship assistance to those families who cannot afford a Jewish education for their children. Watch the thermometer, located in the lobby, continue to rise as we track the participation of families in the EPC.

Presently, financial assistance totaling \$1,574,264 is extended to 194 Hillel students. The school also raises money, beyond tuition revenue, to enable technological advancements in the classroom, facilities enhancements and staff development. Our Annual Fund Campaign provides the critical dollars necessary to bridge the gap in our budget. Because of the challenges we face individually and as a community, we must continue to support Jewish education and observe the mitzvah of tzedakah. That means everyone's donation, from \$1 to \$1 million, is more important than ever.



Extra special thanks to our volunteers: **Deena Borzak, Mirta Brown, Orlie Cohen, Dennis Donohue, Jill Kaminetzky, Caroline Katz, Lea Saida, Deborah Young** and **Risa Zimmerman**. Special thanks to **Jeremy Lurie** for his efforts on this year's raffle,

prizes and *Savings Booklet*, to **Elise Cohen** for designing the *Savings Booklet*, to **Deborah Young** for her overall assistance with this year's tournament, and to **Augusto Saldarriaga, Joseph Stern** and **Mr. Reed** for their help with transporting supplies.

Raffle Winners:

Larry Pomeranz: \$2,000 towards HDS tuition

Mordechai & Suri Spolter: 2 Flight Certificates (provided by JetBlue)

Patrick & Leah Amar: 46" Flat Screen TV (provided by Best Buy)

Meyer & Laura Cohen: 4 Disney One-Day Hopper Passes (provided by Walt Disney World Community Relations)

Marc & Laura Feinberg: 4 SeaWorld Orlando Tickets (provided by SeaWorld)

Neil & Annette Shachter: Foursome of Golf at Stonebridge Golf & Country Club (provided by Stonebridge)

Aaron Gil: 2 Miami Dolphins Tickets (provided by the Abady Family)

Thank you to **Ted & Warren Struhl's Successories** for donating the plaques, to **Dr. Eli Cohen** for donating the sunscreen, to **Michael Zimmerman's Court Liquors** for donating the cigars, and to **JM Lexus** for underwriting the Hole-In-One insurance.

Also thank you to our gift card sponsors: **Asia, Avigdor's Mozart Cafe, Boca Pita Express, Euro Fusion Restaurant & Bar, The Gelato Shoppe, Kosher Marketplace, Publix, and Winn Dixie**. Thank you to **Golish Financial Group, Inc.** for donating a portion of the participant raffle prizes and to **Golfsmith** for the bag stuffers.

This annual major event raises funds for HDS Scholarship Aid and those families who otherwise could not afford a quality Jewish education.

Every contribution, no matter how large or small, makes a difference in the lives of our children. For those families who have already made their annual gift, we thank you. For those who have not, please help our thermometer climb to 100%!

Savings Booklets are available for sale for \$36 and include over \$250 in savings coupons good through 12/31/12. Merchants include Boca Pita Express/King David Hall, The Gelato Shoppe Petrini, Asia, Cohen's Judaica, Mozart Cafe, Carvel and Chaya's Vitamins.

If you would still like to make a donation to the Annual Campaign or purchase a *Savings Booklet*, please contact Suzanne Rice, Director of Development, at 561-470-5000 x225 or email suzanner@hilleldayschool.org.



Name that Biography

Can you correctly identify these 4th grade biographies?



Answers to Biography 1) Jane Goodall 2) Abraham Lincoln 3) Molly Brown 4) Bill Gates 5) Louis Braille 6) Jim Henson 7) Mia Hamm 8) Neil Armstrong 9) Elvis Presley 10) Anne Frank 11) Alexander the Great 12) Albert Einstein

Teachers of the Month



Morah Tzippy Wolf
March 2012



Morah Lea Friedman
June 2012



ETGAR hosted its annual Author's Tea and the authors dazzled the audience with a variety of wonderfully composed stories. Each of the students shared their experiences with confidence and expertise. Following the readings, there were book signings and delightful refreshments. The authors should be commended for their fabulous writing!

Congratulations Athletes of the Year:

Maya Borzak
Sarah Haar
Tani Kay



Atara Greenbaum and Eva Markowitz made a lemonade stand to raise money for the American Heart Association. They were joined by Mira Rudensky, Tehila Zaghi, Abigail Ovdia and Sydney Freedman.



SCAN THIS CODE WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE OR READER AND LINK DIRECTLY TO THE HILLEL WEBSITE TO MAKE AN ONLINE DONATION. Thank you to Cindy Zemel for creating this QR code.

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.

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