



Shana Tova 5773!

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



Dear Parents,

Please accept my best wishes for a sweet and healthy new year, as well as a successful year of growth for our children and school. I am sure that you will be pleased to know that Hillel Day School opened the school year with 75 new students representing 26 new families. We once again have two sections of two year olds and we succeeded in attracting 19 new students to our Middle School, which speaks to our school's sterling reputation for excellence in education at all levels. We also welcome back 11 students who left the school in past years. We truly are happy to see them return.

The new school year brings with it a number of improvements in our facilities, as well as in our educational programs. If you have not yet visited our magnificent new, state-of-the-art playground, you should surely put a visit on your "to-do list." Through a magnanimous gift of \$100,000 by an anonymous donor, as well as the generosity of our parents, grandparents and community supporters, our dream of a new playground was realized. The new outdoor play facility has long been identified as a critical need for our Early Childhood Program. The leadership of Chayim Dimont, our Lower School Principal, and his committee, chaired by Rachel Tripp, brought to fruition the playground that now provides our students in Early Childhood through the Fourth Grade with one of the premier playgrounds in Palm Beach County.

Creativity abounds at Hillel Day School. Rabbi Mordechai Smolarcik has developed a comprehensive *TOSHBA (Talmud/Gemara)* curriculum that utilizes iPads to teach *Talmud*. The esoteric nature of *Talmud* study, particularly for beginners, unfortunately has prevented younger students from enthusiastically embracing this essential area of *Torah* study. Through the use of technology combined with the application of sound curriculum/instructional theory, Rabbi Smolarcik is pioneering a new approach to *Talmud* study that does not run the risk of turning younger students off to *Gemara* before they truly begin.

The use of iPads is not limited to Middle School TOSHBA classes, however. After much planning, the school acquired 75 iPads over this past summer. The iPads, housed in three portable storage cabinets, now make regular rounds, moving from classroom to classroom throughout the school. Under the direction of Cindy Zemel, our Educational Technology Director (see article on pg. 3), iPads are now a ubiquitous learning tool available to teachers and students alike.

It is hard to believe that five years have passed since our last accreditation review by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). This February, our school will once again host a visiting SACS team. In preparation for this visit, we will undergo a vigorous self-study that will help us examine all aspects of our school and reflect upon our school mission, and the degree to which we are meeting our goals. Part of this self-study will include an extensive survey process that will include parents, students and faculty. Watch for further information regarding these surveys immediately after the chagim.

The year ahead holds great promise for all of us as we seek to realize our personal and communal goals and aspirations. May the Almighty grant us success in all we do. Shana Tova.

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

Back
to
School
Issue



Congratulations to Yarden Rindsberg, winner of the Rosh Hashanah Card Design Competition (pictured below).



The Hillel Day School Emergency Hotline number is 1-855-544-5535. Please keep this number handy so that you can access school opening or closing information in the event of any emergency, weather or otherwise.

Aunt Jessie's Playground - Open For Play

The arrival of *Aunt Jessie's Playground*, a state-of-the-art multi-functional play facility for its Early Childhood and Lower School students, culminated with a Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on September 23, 2012. **Rabbi Samuel J. Levine, Head of School**, officially cut the ribbon after speeches were made by **Chayim Dimont, Lower School Principal**, and **Daniel Katz, President**. Almost 250 children, parents, grandparents and community members gathered for the event.

Thank you to **Rachel Tripp** for coordinating this event, to **Julie Ehrlich** for presenting healthy snacks and creative decorations, to our volunteers **Arielle Lugassy, Devorah Marcus** and **Lea Saida**, and to **Elise Cohen** for designing the invitation. Most of all, thank you to our donors who made this vision a reality (see list below). A donor plaque has been placed in the corridor adjacent to the playground.

The 300 Early Childhood students and Lower School students enrolled in the Lower School are now enjoying the 15,000-square foot playground boasting a water play area, 2 basketball courts, bounce rings, snail riders, rock climbing walls, bike path and more. The playground that was replaced had surpassed its projected life-expectancy and was in a state of constant repair. The new playground will have a life expectancy of 15 to 20 years, and meets all new safety regulations and recommendations. In addition, it maximizes opportunities for many different styles of play and interaction by increasing the amount of components to enhance physical

development and creative play. The playground will also save on expenses for re-mulching by as much as 40% annually.

"Several of the features of the new playground will incorporate aspects of the curriculum and help learning extend beyond the classroom, especially the indigenous plantings and the students' garden, where the children will have the opportunity to engage with and learn about their environment," explained **Chayim Dimont**, Lower School Principal. "Our new water area will not only allow us to use our campus as a camp in the summer, but will also give our children a cool place to play throughout the year when our hot weather limits their ability to sustain outdoor activity," he added.



The Playground Campaign, led by **Chayim Dimont**, Lower School Principal, **Rachel Tripp**, Hillel parent and Board Member, and

teacher representatives **Pamela Gene** and **Cheryl Mirsky**, rallied the community and over 70 parents and grandparents who stepped up to help the cause, raising over \$150,000 in just a few weeks, in addition to an anonymous gift of \$100,000. We also acknowledge **Sara Goldberg** for her hard work over the past years in raising funds for this project. **Rabbi Samuel J. Levine**, Head of School, noted that, "the quality of the playground brings outdoor play to the standard of excellence reflected in all aspects of the school's educational programs."

Aunt Jessie's Playground Donors

DR. SAMUEL & NAOMI ABRAMOVITZ
 DANIEL & DR. LIORA ADLER
 ANONYMOUS
 ANONYMOUS
 ANONYMOUS
 ANONYMOUS
 ARI & CARA BEIM
 DR. AVRAHAM & ELANA BELIZON
 JB & LISA BENSMIHEN
 STEVEN BERKELEY & DR. REBECCA STERN
 DR. ERROL BERMAN
 ARI & ANDREA BERNSTEIN
 AVI & TAMI BLANKA
 MICHAEL & MIRTA BROWN
 DRS. ELI & ORLIE COHEN
 EYAL & ELISE COHEN
 DR. LANCE & ROBYN COHEN
 CHAYIM & MICHELE DIMONT
 ROCHELLE DIMONT
 EARLY CHILDHOOD STAFF
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 JERRY & GIGI KAMINETZKY
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 DANIEL & CAROLINE KATZ
 ELI & NAOMI KATZ
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 SNAIL RIDER
 DANIEL & BRURIA KODSI
 MARC & DR. HILLARY KRAWATSKY
 ANDREW B. & RHONDA KRIEGER
 DR. EVAN & ILANA LANDAU
 RABBI SAMUEL J. & BEATRICE LEVINE
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 ELLIOT & SHARI LEVONTIN
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 MENDEL & CHANIE MERGUI
 SIMON & CHERYL MIRSKY

IRAJ PAIMANI & SARA MIZRAHI
 SASAN PAIMANI & SOFIA PAIMANI
 ROBERT & JOANN PARKER
 ERIC & LISA PINKIS
 MARK & ZIPORA RINDSBERG
 DANIEL ROSENTHAL & SARA GOLDBERG
 DR. DANIEL & RACHEL RUDENSKY
 ERIC & DR. SABRINA SAIDA
 DR. BENJAMIN & DIANE SAKETKHOV
 DR. HERSCHEL & DVORA SCHER
 EVAN & ORLY SHAPIRO
 REID & NAOMI SHAPIRO
 JOE & SHIRA SHARP
 DR. LEOR & ANA GABRIELA SKOCZYLAS
 RABBI MORDECHAI & HADASSAH SMOLARCIC
 DR. CARMİ & LIZ STADLAN
 GIL & LYSEE STEIN
 DR. JOSHUA & STEPHANIE STERN
 TED & PHYLLIS STRUHL
 DR. BENJAMIN & DONNA TRIPP
 DR. JACKIE & RACHEL TRIPP
 DRS. ARI & SHOSHANA WIRTSCHAFTER
 EVAN & DEBORAH YOUNG
 URI & RACHEL YUDEWITZ
 NATHAN & ANDREA ZUCKER

HDS EMET CLUB WINNERS

E	xcellent	Jolie Aloof	Rafi Krawatsky
		Uriel Berman	Meir Lanner
		David Bernstein	Andy Levontin
M	idot	Hila Blanka	Daniel Lugassy
		Jake Davis	Eva Markowitz
		Nava Davis	Ariella Mayer
E	very	Ezra Dimont	Ari Mergui
		Meir Eisen	Adi Nadav
		Rivka Englander	Meira Pickholtz
T	ime	Yaniv Fixler	Tova Pilichowski
		Judah Frohlich	Akiva Scher
		David Greenbaum	Eytan Shapiro
	Joe Greenbaum	Gilad Shimovitz	
	Brennen Gumper	Shuey Silkin	
	Joshua Haik	Michal Skoczylas	
	Aliyah Harow	Leora Tripp	
	Leah Houben	Daniel Yudewitz	
	Shuey Kahan	Tehilla Zaghi	
	Eitan Kaminetzky		
	Talia Kodsi		

(as of 10/12/12)

Mazal Tov to all of the winners!



Educational Technology

By: Cindy Zemel, Educational Technology Director

Hillel Day School aspires to use the latest educational technology in the classroom. This year, the school invested in 3 iPad carts that hold 75 iPads, which can be used by both teachers and students at all grade levels. This initiative has helped to enrich the curriculum with the use of technology infused throughout the curriculum. The students are highly engaged in learning when utilizing technology such as Web 2.0 tools and Google Chrome/Apple applications both in their classrooms and in the computer lab. The iPad is an ideal learning companion which continues to compliment daily lessons that are presented to our students. The students use the iPad as a tool, which allows them to discover new information at their fingertips. Students have explored many applications in the various subject areas such as language arts, math, science, and social studies. These applications reinforced skills and concepts learned in school and have allowed teachers to further differentiate instructions. One of the highlights was practicing spelling words in a fun way by playing "matching" and "fill in the blank" games by using the Spelling City app on the iPad. Another popular app is Stack the States. Stack the States is a stimulating program that teaches the students about geography and will help prepare the third grade for their State Fair. The individualized Rosh Hashanah cards that were created by selected classes gave the students the opportunity to utilize the iPads, while illustrating and sharing their ideas with the Story Kit app. All of these apps have helped expand the students' capacity to learn. The use of visual, auditory, and tactile technological tools will continue to assist our students in becoming 21st Century learners and better prepare them for the future.

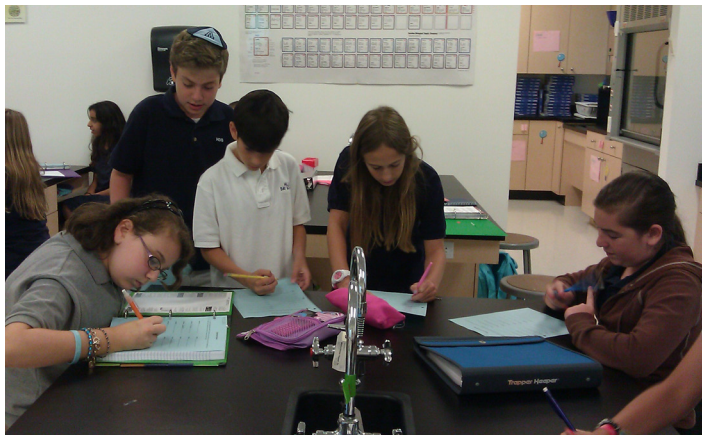
Art Department Announces Holiday Card Contest Winners

Mazal Tov to the winners of the Art Department's Annual Holiday Card competition, under the direction of Mrs. Barbara Rose, Art Specialist.

This year's winners are:

- Yarden Rindsberg** - Rosh Hashanah (pictured on cover)
- Hannah Garby** - Chanukah
- Rebecca Wirtschafter** - Passover (1st place)
- Daniel Gross** - Passover (2nd Place)

The winning art works are displayed on the lobby bulletin board. Congratulations to our artists.



During the first week of school, middle school science students partnered up to complete a "Getting to Know Your Science Lab" scavenger hunt.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

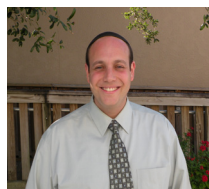


This past summer Ms. Danielle Mizrahi participated in a professional development seminar in Boston on the topic of "Facing History and Ourselves." Below is an excerpt from her experience:

"I am so thankful for the opportunity for having participated in the Facing History program. It was a truly meaningful and invaluable learning experience, and it was so nice to share this experience with other educators from Jewish Day Schools across the country. Facing History helped me to develop a deeper understanding of the Holocaust. The program instructors did an excellent job to engage all the educators with such sensitive subject matter but also created an environment where we could brainstorm and share ideas with one another. The instructors were truly phenomenal, and we all truly benefited from learning various strategies to best present the Holocaust to our students. I am so happy that I participated in the Facing History program and undoubtedly recommend it to any educator who is expected to present the Holocaust to a classroom of young students."



Teachers using Twitter for professional development.



Hillel Day School of Boca Raton – “Where Excellence in Torah and Secular Studies is Our Passion.” This slogan does not exist to look pretty on our entrance

doors; it defines who we are and what we are all about. Excellence has no end. There is no pedestal to stand upon and no medal to wear. It is an ongoing commitment to being better than we were yesterday. With that said, I am proud and excited to share with you just some of the “excellence indicators” that are new to the Upper School.

- Technology: Our recent leasing of 75 iPads has dramatically enhanced our ability to engage students more effectively and creatively all while teaching them crucial 21st century skills. Teachers can bring the iPad carts into the classroom and many have the ability to mirror their iPads onto their classroom SmartBoards. Ms. Cindy Zemel is now working with our students and teachers on integrating these technologies into the classroom experience.
- Toshba (Talmud) Curriculum: Rabbi Mordechai Smolarcik, our Toshba Department Chair, has written a fabulous Toshba curriculum which all 7th and 8th grade students use daily on the iPads. The traditional concepts and skills are taught in a highly engaging format and there is more opportunity than ever to differentiate for students who are at different levels. The excitement and enthusiasm for learning are palpable in every Toshba class! This

curriculum is the first of its kind and is the envy of Jewish day schools everywhere.

- Great New Teachers: Rabbi Yosef Kassorla and Mr. Charlie Boodman are outstanding educators who have just joined the Upper School family. Read about them in the new faculty section of this edition of the *Hillel Herald!*
- Middle School Director of Student Activities: Mrs. Dannie Grajower, one of our fantastic middle school Judaics teachers, has taken on the role of Director of Student Activities. She has already infused our program with top notch speakers and activities for the month of Elul with much more in store for the rest of the year.
- Torat M.S. Weekly E-Newsletter: Make sure you are receiving our stunning, easy-to-read e-newsletter sent every Friday highlighting the excitement and high level learning that is the hallmark of the HDS middle school experience. A Dvar Torah, sports updates and a “week in review” are included. Follow us on Twitter @HDS_MS!
- Elective Program: Our extremely popular elective program from last year has been enhanced further! New offerings include Jazz and Classical Music Appreciation, Creative Movie Making (on the iPads) and Advanced Photo Editing (in the Mac Lab).
- KAR²E: Our essential “midot program” which stresses kindness, respect and responsibility, has been further improved with more creative programming, a return to the announcement of KAR²E highlights, and significantly smaller “KAR²E circles” so students can discuss pertinent issues in a more intimate environment.
- Hashkafa Class: How do we know that G-d exists? Why do bad things

happen to good people? These and other fundamental issues will be dealt with in this brand new, once a week course for 8th graders. Understanding Judaism and appreciating the awesome benefits of a Torah lifestyle are the essence of the course.

- So Many New Students! We are thrilled to be able to welcome 32 new students to the Upper School! After speaking with each and every one of these students and their parents, it is clear that they are very happy with their decision. I look forward to sharing more exciting news with you in future editions of the *Hillel Herald!*



Graphic Design & Photo Editing

9/11 Remembered

Gina Cayne, sister of Mrs. Sari Vine, spoke to Middle School students about her family’s tragic loss on 9/11.



Creative Movie Making



Scrapbooking



Students look at artifacts from the 9/11 tragedy.



Cooking Kosher, Cooking Healthy



Jewelry Making

Gina Cayne, shows students the Olympic torch she carried during the 2002 Olympics, in memory of her husband.





Dear Parents,

What an amazing start to the school year! While I'm sure I say that every year, this year is particularly exciting with so many wonderful happenings around campus.

The playground, which many of you have heard me talk about for the past four months, is finally open! But it's not just the students who are thrilled at their new play space—it's the parents and teachers as well! In planning this playground, we kept true to our commitment of bridging beauty and function. The children now have a space where their physical bodies are challenged through fun activities that take into account all of their needs. It has truly been a labor of love. As I walked out each day during construction and watched this magnificent space come to life, I could not help but think of the quick journey it took to get here. In speaking with **Connie Brown**, our playground company representative, I learned that most playgrounds are toiled over for at least one year, if not more. She was truly shocked at how quickly our parents, teachers and supporters rallied around this enormous undertaking. It is our commitment and generosity that made this happen. In particular, I would like to thank **Rachel Tripp** for her support and dedication in chairing this committee. Her vision for our beautiful gardens was a true inspiration to the overall design.

Additionally, I want to thank **Cheryl Mirsky** and **Pam Gene**, who represented all of the children's and teachers' wish lists, ideas and "think big" attitudes.

Although the playground would have been enough exhilaration to start our year, we did not stop there. Our dedication and commitment to the use of technology in teaching children got underway with the exciting introduction of iPads as another meaningful way to help our children learn. Whether it has been used to teach letter recognition or handwriting in Early Childhood, or math concepts in 3rd grade, we will continue to help balance education with technology and cooperative learning.

As we continue through our first trimester, I urge everyone to get into a routine of learning and studying. Realizing that the transition from the summer vacation affects each child differently, please know routine is a source of stability. By making sure our children have a procedure for homework, or evening expectations, it will help our children learn the importance of time management. As educators we help children with this process when we compartmentalize skills or give homework that reviews material taught in class. With your continued support in assisting children with time management—not managing them, but teaching them to manage themselves—in time (which I promise it will) you will be giving your children tools for life.

I wish all of us a happy and healthy successful school year!



3rd graders learn about the Sounds of the Shofar on iPads.



The B'not Sherut perform a play that teaches students a lesson about sharing.

Congratulations to our EMET logo design contest winners: **Alex Lurie** and **Sarit Scher**.



The 3rd graders give a thumbs-up to the start of a great school year.



EC2A prepares for Rosh Hashanah.

A Refreshing Summer-End Treat: Annual PTA Ice Cream Social

What better way to start off the new school year than to gather with family, friends and teachers on a Sunday (or should we say sundae?)! On August 19, parents and students attended the Annual PTA Ice Cream Social, excited to reunite with friends, meet teachers and staff, and, most importantly, welcome new families to HDS. The PTA thanks **Chuck** from our neighborhood **Carvel** store on Glades Road for generously donating the ice cream and toppings. We applaud **Lysee Stein** for whipping up this exciting event, and thank all of our volunteers: **Max Abramovitz, Naomi Abramovitz, Cara Beim, Liora Louis, Donni Prince, Stephanie Stern** and **Rachel Yudewitz**.



Annual New Mothers' Brunch

The PTA thanks **Liora Adler** and **Lisa Houben** for once again organizing the annual PTA New Mothers' Brunch. Over 30 women gathered at the Adler home on September 2 for a delicious breakfast, mingling with old and new friends, and learning more about the role of the PTA and exciting volunteer opportunities.



PTA Troopers

Looking for an easy way to get involved with the HDS PTA but not quite sure which job is right for you? Consider enlisting with our dedicated volunteer group—the PTA Troopers. PTA Troopers help out when the PTA needs someone to go to a store for supplies, to set up a Teacher Appreciation breakfast, to run a PTA booth at a boutique, host a special event, and much more. E-mail sharonakay@mac.com to join!

Semi-Annual Pre-Holiday Shopping Spree

On the evening of September 5, the Boca Raton Synagogue bustled with excitement as hundreds of shoppers took a break from their busy schedules to attend the HDS PTA's Pre-Holiday Shopping Spree. The semi-annual event raised funds for HDS, while bringing business to our community vendors and providing one-stop shopping for our patrons. Over 20 vendors participated, selling clothing, hats, housewares, jewelry, Judaica, paper goods, toys, children's accessories, chocolate baskets for the holidays, and so much more—often at discounted prices. The PTA commends **Orlie Cohen** and **Rachel Harow** for their outstanding work in coordinating and organizing the shopping spree and also thanks our parent volunteers: **Reut Aber, Chani Katz, Sara Mizrahi** and **Andrea Zucker**. We also express our gratitude to **Matthew Hocherman** and his staff for their help setting up the event.



Right On Target



The PTA expresses its appreciation to all of the families who took time to vote for HDS in Target's Facebook gift card giveaway. Your efforts raised \$365 in gift cards for our school, and brought us to first place in Boca Raton! Thanks also to the families who registered for and use Target credit cards – the HDS PTA has received a \$1,700 check from Target! With a Target card, shoppers get 5% off all purchases. Even better, if your card is linked to HDS, the school earns 1% on all purchases (in addition to your 5% back). HDS also receives 1/2% of purchases made elsewhere using a Target credit card. Please be sure to visit www.target.com/tcoe to designate HDS as your school of choice. Questions? Please contact Sharon Kay at sharonakay@mac.com.

With Praise, Thanks & Admiration...

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

July: **Ilana Landau**

August: **Rachel Harow & Zipora Rindsberg**

September: **Shoshana Wirtschafter**

 During the summer break, PTA volunteers worked tirelessly to get ready for the new school year. The PTA thanks the following individuals for their efforts: **Naomi Abramovitz**, for spending time over the summer, as always, creating flyers and forms for our many PTA programs; **Liora Adler**, for purchasing and decorating office supplies for our teacher work areas; **Orlie Cohen, Rachel Harow, Zipora, Ilana, Shira, Yarden, Amir & Noam Rindsberg**, for helping to re-shelve the books in the HDS library.

 Thank you to **Dvora Eisen** for coordinating and running the Hillel Uniform Shoppe, and to **Zipora Rindsberg** for her support as well.



 The PTA applauds **Dvora Scher** for all her hard work coordinating the Annual School Supply Sale. Thank you to the volunteers who helped assemble and distribute over 340 school supply kits: **Max Abramovitz, Asher Eisen, Joshua Fein, Emily Firestone, Talia Gritzman, Susan Herr, Jill Kaminetzky, Ty Kay, Yoni Mayer, Akiva Scher, Sarit Scher, Yosef Scher, Akiva Stadlan, Simcha Stadlan and Jonah Tripp**. Special thanks to **Nechama Lichtenstein** for use of her room!

 The PTA thanks **Shoshana Wirtschafter** for coordinating Picture Day with LifeTouch® on September 13. Kudos to **Sharon Fein** for her guidance, as well as **Naomi Abramovitz and Lori and Yossi Landes** for their help.

Get involved! The PTA is always looking for new ideas and willing volunteers. Please contact Sharon Kay at sharonakay@mac.com for more information.

ONGOING PROGRAMS

Infuse your morning with the spirit of learning at **Adult Education classes**, taught by **Rabbi Smolarcik** and **Rabbi Moskowitz**. Sessions are held Mondays and Tuesdays at 8:15 a.m. in the new conference room on the second level of the Middle School building.

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.

Do you find it hard to select the perfect Bar or Bat Mitzvah gifts? **The B'nai/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 support a valuable cause. A variety of gifts are available to choose from, and you designate any of several charities as the recipient of your donation. Thank you to **Jamie Gurvitch** and **Liz Stadlan** for organizing the gifts.

Tired of shopping for last-minute birthday party gifts? Now you can save time, money, and energy with the PTA's new **Perfect Presents** program. For a one-time fee, your child receives a generous gift for his/her birthday and giving gifts to your child's friends is effortless. You no longer need to shop for presents! For more information, please contact **Sharon Kay** at sharonakay@mac.com.

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

Celebrate your child's birthday with a gift to the class that can be opened again and again. For further details about the **Birthday Book Club**, please contact **Lisa Friedman** at nycrangers@comcast.net or **Tzippi Rosen** at Lrosen1@hotmail.com.



Students don Hillel ROAR T-Shirts for School Spirit Day on September 20.

Meet Our New Faculty & Staff



Charlie Boodman joins us as the 7th and 8th grade English teacher. He will also be teaching classical and jazz music appreciation. Charlie was born in Stamford, CT and has a dog, Buford. His fiction and poetry has appeared in numerous literary magazines.



Jill Gumper joins us as the 2nd grade general studies teacher. Born in Brooklyn, NY, Jill is an avid reader who also enjoys weight lifting, running and biking. She has 3 children who all attend HDS: Hollis (10), Brennen (9), and Lleyton (7). The family also includes Daisy, their dog. Jill and her kids love a day at the beach as well as movie nights with popcorn.



Rabbi Yosef Kassorla is our new Middle School Rebbe where he has the tremendous merit of teaching Torah to the amazing students of HDS. He was born in San Francisco, CA and he and his wife Shoshana have 2 children: Ariana (3) who attends Hillel, and Chaim (8 mos.). Rabbi Kassorla loves sports, video games about sports and just learned to swim 3 years ago. He has moved here straight from Jerusalem.



Abby Kerzhner joins us as the EC2 teaching Assistant and will be working with Morah Lauren Glaun. Abby was born in Kansas City, KS. She has one child, Emunah, who is 9 months old. An interesting fact about Abby is that she loves to cook!



Nicole Kridos joins us as the new 3rd grade secular teacher. She is excited about having the opportunity to introduce students to important steps in their education like time tables and cursive handwriting. Her goal is to have the students LOVE learning. Nicole is a South Florida native and she enjoys cooking and taking her dog to the beach.



Naama Lior joins us as the EC4B assistant teacher. She was born in northern Israel on a kibbutz and has 2 daughters: one in college and one in high school. Naama loves children and has been teaching for many years. In her free time she enjoys art and music.



Shirley Mayer joins us as a Hebrew tutor and 5th grade Hebrew teacher. Her role is to teach and support students in learning to master the Hebrew language. Shirley was born in Haifa, Israel and moved to California at age 8 1/2. After living in Las Vegas for the past 9 years, Shirley and her family now call South Florida home. She loves to hike, swim and sing and has 5 children with her husband Marcus: Shuli (14), Yoni (12), Liora (9), Ariella (7), and Ilan (2), four of which attend HDS.



Joe Sharp joins us as our new Business Administrator. Born in Chicago, IL, Joe and his family recently moved here from Chicago (see his wife Shira's bio next). Joe will be managing the school's finances as well as overseeing the maintenance of our beautiful campus and facilities. He loves playing and following sports.



Shira Sharp joins us as the Art, Kindergarten and 3rd grade assistant. Born in Queens, NY, Shira, with her husband Joe (our new Business Administrator) recently moved here from Chicago, IL. Their two children, Sruli (8) and Ettie (4), attend HDS. Shira is thrilled not to have to deal with snow and looks forward to biking year round.



Samantha Witztum joins us as the 1st grade secular assistant teacher. She will be working with Ms. Gene to create a warm and educational atmosphere for the children. Samantha will be assisting students with math, reading, writing, as well as all aspects of their needs. Born in Miami, FL, Samantha moved to London, England at age 21 and lived there for 19 years, where she and her husband Marcus owned a Kosher Chinese restaurant. After moving to Boca Raton, they have opened the same restaurant, Marcus' Kosher Chinese. She enjoys spending time with her family, photography, cooking and walking her dogs.

Meet the B'not Sherut



Welcome **Doreen Dar** and **Avia Jerbi**, our new B'not Sherut! The girls will be teaching the children of HDS the culture and history of Israel so that they have a better appreciation of our homeland.



Doreen Dar was born in Long Island, NY and has two sisters: Eden (21) and Ma'ayan (14). Last year she was a Bat Sherut in Rehovot. She enjoys sports and reading and lives in Moshav Ahiezer.



Avia Jerbi was born in Jerusalem, Israel and has two brothers: Or-Inon (21), who is in the Israeli Army, and Noam (10), and a sister, Adi (15). Last year she worked in the National Service at the Shema Center for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired, in Tel Aviv. She loves to dance and play the flute.

If anyone would like to host the B'not Sherut for shabbat, chagim or any other time, please contact Aliza Pilichowski at pillows123@gmail.com as she is coordinating meals.

SHANA TOVA 5773



Each morning in the days before Rosh Hashanah, Morah Hadassah tells HDS students a story and Rabbi Drang blows the Shofar.



EC, Kindergarten and 1st grade enjoy the Honey Show, presented by Rabbi Shmuly Gutnick. Children learned about bees, pollination and the creation of honey.



Students in Rabbi Drang's Mishna Club celebrate with some Chinese food upon their completion of Masechet Sukka! If you would like to join Mishna Club this year do it as soon as possible as spots are limited.

NEW PARENT ORIENTATION WELCOMES NEW FAMILIES



New families to Hillel Day School received a warm welcome at the New Parent Orientation held on August 14. Families were greeted by **Suzanne Rice**, Director of Development, and **Jill Kaminetzky**, PTA Welcome Committee Chair, HDS parent and Assistant to Upper & Lower School Principals, and received a welcome gift bag.

Also greeting new parents were **Rabbi Samuel J. Levine**, Head of School, **Rabbi Adam Englander**, Upper School Principal, **Chayim Dimont**, Lower School Principal, and **Hadassah Smolarcik**, Judaic Studies Coordinator.



Each administrator spoke and gave the new families valuable information as their children embark on a new educational journey.



Sharona Kay, PTA President, introduced parents to all of the wonderful programs the PTA coordinates, and invited them to get involved in the many volunteer opportunities and projects.



SPORTS - Hillel Lions Roar into a New Season



Maia Shaffer, Athletic Director

The school year has gotten off to a strong start and the sports program is no exception. Despite all the challenges we have had with the weather, the program has endured. The fall season of Boys Flag Football and Girls Volleyball has just concluded. Hillel welcomed **Coach Zack Rogan**, our new Boys Flag Football coach, and also **Coach Samantha Witztum**, the new Girls Volleyball coach and also our 1st grade teacher's assistant. We are very thankful for **Coach Maggie Martin**, who assisted with our Girls Volleyball team and contributed to the popularity of this sport, especially with the 4th and 5th graders. Our sports clinics are in full swing preparing the younger students for the upcoming years. I am looking forward to a successful upcoming winter season. Thank you for your support!

Girls Volleyball

By: Coach Samantha Witztum

The Girls Volleyball season has ended with a record of 3 wins-5 losses. The girls' skills improved with each game and they continued to show enthusiasm towards the sport during the season. There was a great feeling of camaraderie and sportsmanship out on the court. In a recent game against Donna Klein Jewish Academy, the team lost in the final seconds with a tie-breaking point. I was incredibly proud of the girls and how they gave their all and fought until the end. I thoroughly enjoyed working with the girls this season. I feel that the players have a sense of achievement even though we only won three games. Each member of the team improved their individual skills and I am so proud of each and every one of them. Well done on a fantastic volleyball season!



Unprecedented Success for Boys Flag Football

By: Coach Zack Rogan

The 2012 Hillel Lions Boys Flag Football team faced a high level of uncertainty at the start of the season. Having lost a considerable number of players from last year's team, this year's squad responded with overwhelming results. During the regular season, the only thing that could stop the team was mother nature, having to reschedule many games due to weather. But week by week, the players progressed and their win numbers grew. Highlighted by some stunning offensive performances and a tough defense, the Lions finished the season undefeated. Winning the North division, the Lions hosted the first round of playoffs. In front of a great home crowd, the Lions easily defeated ACES 25-6 en route to the school's first football championship appearance. Given the proximity of Hillel and Donna Klein, the championship game was moved to Hillel and what a game it was. With a large crowd composed of fans from both schools, the boys played a closely contested game that came down to 3 overtimes. In the end, Hillel lost 28-27 in what was a sensational game to watch. Despite losing in the end, the season was a great achievement for the boys and the school.



Photo Credit: Ariel Schneider (8th Grade)



Photo Credit: Eli Cohn (7th Grade)

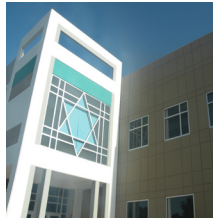
Sports Hotline: 561-470-5000 ext. 298



Help Us Turn Up The Heat

Next time you are in the lobby of the main school building, check out the Every Parent Campaign Thermometer. Help us raise the temperature, ultimately to reach our goal of 100 degrees with 100% participation by our parent body. Your contribution to the Annual Campaign, no matter the amount, will help us raise the temperature and your family name will be displayed reflecting your support of Hillel Day School.

You can participate in this campaign with a contribution to the Hillel Annual Fund any time during the year in any of the following ways: donating to the Annual Campaign with a general donation, tribute donation or sponsorship of a Day of Learning; participating in the Annual Journal Event by placing an ad in the journal, joining the Tribute Committee, or attending the event; participating in the Annual Golf Tournament by purchasing a sponsorship, playing in the Tournament or purchasing a raffle ticket; or donating back your VPK funding. Last year we reached 67 degrees (67%) and we know that it is a little chilly for South Florida. We hope to see all of your names decorating our main lobby and watch as the mercury rises this year! Donation forms and envelopes are available at the front desk for your convenience.



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

Thank you to our Capital Campaign supporters who have made their pledge to support the new Middle School building and Gymnasium.

- Anonymous** - Stained Glass Window (Beit Midrash)
- Mark & Helen Cohan** - Stained Glass Window (Beit Midrash)
- Isaac & Ilona Grynshstein** - 2 Mezzuzahs (Middle School)
- Stanley & Ana Haar** - Faculty Lounge (Middle School)
- Hillel PTA** - Apple/Mac Computer Lab (Middle School), Scoreboards (Haar Athletic Fields)
- Mervin & Elain Jacobs** - Stained Glass Window (Beit Midrash)
- David & Joyce Muller** - Stained Glass Window (Beit Midrash)
- Jackie & Rachel Tripp** - Aron (Beit Midrash)
- Michael & Risa Zimmerman** - Ner Tamid (Beit Midrash)

For more information on available naming opportunities, contact the Development Office at 561-470-5000.



SAVE THE DATE

HILLEL DAY SCHOOL OF BOCA RATON

Annual Journal Event

December 17, 2012 - 4 Tevet 5773



Create a Jewish Legacy

We are excited to announce the kick-off of the "Create a Jewish Legacy" campaign, a joint effort with the Jewish Federation's Anne & Norman Jacobson Jewish Community Foundation, to develop permanent endowment funds, lifetime gifts, bequests, trusts and planned giving to ensure the future of our Jewish community. For more information about this program please contact Suzanne Rice, Director of Development, at 561-470-5000 or speak to your financial advisor about leaving your personal legacy.

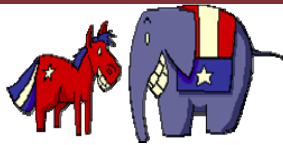
MATCH PROGRAM:

Matching First Time Gifts to Jewish Day Schools

Hillel Day School can qualify for as much as \$50,000 of additional funding through the generous support of the AVI CHAI and Kohelet Foundations, in partnership with PEJE and the Jewish Funders Network. Donors may not be parents of a currently enrolled Jewish day school student, this must be the donor's first gift in support of Jewish day school education or at least a five times increase from their previous gift or the combined total of their gifts to Jewish education in a fiscal year, whichever amount is greater. All gifts must be at least \$10,000 in US\$ to be eligible for a 50% MATCH. If you know anyone who qualifies for this opportunity please contact the Development Office. More information is also available on the MATCH website at dayschoolmatch.org.

Lamed Vav & Chai Societies

The Lamed Vav and Chai Societies were established nine years ago to ensure that we meet the scholarship needs of our school. Lamed Vav Society members give a donation of \$36K or more (payable over 3 years) and Chai Society member donate \$18K (payable over 2 years). Membership includes Annual Journal Event Tribute Committee listing, journal ad and two dinner tickets.



Student Council Elections



President
Ayala Broide

Vice President
Jonah Tripp



Secretary
Max Abramovitz



Treasurer
Gabi Englander

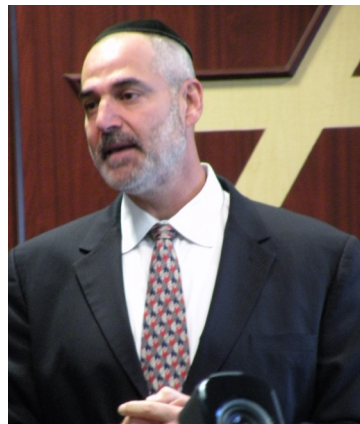
6th Grade Representatives
Yitzy Lanner and Rebecca Wirtschafter

7th Grade Representatives
Carmel Henschel and Jordan Landes

8th Grade Representatives
Kyra Firestone and Jonah Rose

READ TO SUCCEED

This year we are excited to announce our first annual *Read to Succeed Read-a-thon!* This program will bring students together with family and friends, encourage reading, and build literary skills! We have a goal to read 50,000 pages as an EC2-5th grade team by October 31. We will meet and exceed this goal! We are having an amazing time, building fluency and enjoying prizes and incentives!



Parent and ex-NFL football star Alan Veingrad speaks to students with an inspirational message.

If you have information to include in a future *Hillel Herald*, please e-mail suzanner@hilleldayschool.org.
Editor: Suzanne M. Rice 561-470-5000 x225

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2012-13 Calendar At-A-Glance

November

- 7 - All Grades Parent/Teacher Conferences (evening)
- 8 - All Grades Parent/Teacher Conferences (day); no school for 6th-8th grades
- 11 - Veterans Day
- 13 - Middle School Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 16-17 - 7th-8th grade Shabbaton
- 18 - Kohelet Fellowships & Global Day of Learning Event: "Thanksgiving: 365 Days of the Year"
- 21 - End of First Trimester (noon dismissal)
- 22-23 - Thanksgiving Break

December

- 2 - Chanukah Fair/Open House
- 8 - Chanukah Begins (first candle)
- 17 - Annual Journal Event
- 26 - Winter Break begins (school closed through Jan. 1)/HDS Vacation Camp (registration required)

January

- 2 - Classes Resume
- 8 - Transportation Day
- 14-18 - Midterms for 7th & 8th grades
- 21 - Mid-Year Break begins (school closed through Jan. 25)/HDS Vacation Camp (registration required)
- 26 - Tu B'Shevat
- 28 - Classes Resume

February

- 9 - EC Art Night Event
- 12 - Kohelet Fellowships Community Event #2
- 18 - Presidents Day (school closed)
- 21 - Fast of Esther (2:15pm dismissal for 6th-8th grades only)
- 24 - Purim
- 27 - Chessed Day
- 27 - Parent/Teacher Conferences Grades 1-8 (evening)
- 28 - Parent/Teacher Conferences Grades 1-8 (day); no school for 6th-8th grades

DUKE TALENT IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM (TIPS) KUDOS

Congratulations to the 11 students who qualified for the DUKE Talent Identification Program: **Max Abramovitz, Ari Cohen, Asher Eisen, Gabi Englander, Ayelet Gross, Ty Kay, Shoshana Marcus, Gabrielle Pomeranz, Rebecca Rosen, Jonah Tripp, and Justin Wolff.** In order to qualify, students needed to score in the 95th percentile or above on either the math or language sections of the Stanford Achievement Test or the total test. Those who choose to participate will take either the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) or the American College Test (ACT).

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



JEWISH FEDERATION
of South Palm Beach County

To Life.



TORAH UMESORAH
National Association of Hebrew Day Schools



INSTITUTE FOR
UNIVERSITY-SCHOOL
PARTNERSHIP

A Division of Azrieli Graduate School of
Jewish Education and Administration