

The Hillel Herald

Hillel Day School of Boca Raton



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Celebrating 25 Years of Developing Minds, Hearts, and Torah Values

Shana Tova

5774!

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

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

Back to School Issue



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



Dear Parents,

My wife and I joined our children and grandchildren on a trip to Paris this summer. The City of Light did not disappoint as it literally and figuratively offered us a smorgasbord of delights. The number of kosher restaurants seemed infinite and the historical sites were abundant and fascinating. In the twelve days we were there we walked more miles and ate more bread and cheese than we ordinarily would in half a year.



The trip provided me with a number of insights. The Palace at Versailles is the grandest edifice I have ever seen. Its scale and opulence are beyond description. The Louvre, too, is majestic. These buildings were home to one man – the King of France. “For the Glory of France” is an epitaph inscribed, during the 20th century, on one of the buildings at Versailles. These buildings, however, were not built for the glory of a nation but rather for the hubris of Louis XIV. Although Louis XIV completed his reign, the price for his excesses was paid by his descendants and his nation through upheaval, suffering and death. Although impressive to behold, the obscenity of Louis XIV’s excesses are powerfully driven home by these buildings.

A different thought occurred to me as we walked the perimeter of the Cathedral of Notre Dame. Construction of the cathedral was begun in the 14th century and concluded in the 16th century. It took almost 200 years to build. The people who conceived and worked on this project did not live to see its completion. I marveled at their ability to imagine a project that would benefit generations yet unborn and to be able to sustain the project over centuries.

On a daily basis, I attended services at Agudos Hakehilos, a Parisian synagogue celebrating its 100th anniversary. The shul was founded by Ashkenazi Jews who were deported and then exterminated in Nazi death camps. The current membership is predominantly Sephardic. I have visited the death camps as well as cities and villages in Poland. With the exception of Krakow, I witnessed very little evidence of the vibrant Jewish communities that existed there before the war. Even in Krakow, the surviving synagogues are maintained as museums by the Polish government. Although showing the effects of age and tight budgets, the shul in Paris remains otherwise unchanged from its prewar state. The Aron Hakodesh is as it was 100 years ago, the pews are original, and the brass chandeliers and candelabra that adorn the synagogue are as spectacular as when they were first installed. But what makes this synagogue extraordinary is the palpable presence of those Jews who were murdered during the Holocaust. More than any place where I have been, this shul provided me with a strong sense of connection to the victims of the Holocaust. Their whispered tefilot continue to reverberate throughout the sanctuary. I made it a point to arrive early both morning and evening so I could sit quietly in the empty building to reflect and marvel that the synagogue continues to live.

I recognize that my wife and I are truly blessed to have shared this experience with our children and grandchildren. Together we learned lessons of the danger of excess, lessons of the importance of vision and perseverance and lessons of the eternity of Judaism and the continuity of the Jewish people.

The Hillel Day School Emergency Hotline number is 1-888-943-3212. Please keep this number handy so that you can access school opening or closing information in the event of any emergency, weather or otherwise.

Hillel Day School of Boca Raton Earns Continuing SACS CASI Accreditation

Rabbi Samuel J. Levine, Head of School, recently announced that Hillel Day School of Boca Raton has earned continuing accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI), an accreditation division of AdvancED, the parent organization of SACS CASI.

SACS CASI provides nationally recognized accreditation, the purpose of which is continuous school improvement focused on increasing student performance. To earn accreditation, schools must meet SACS CASI's high standards, be evaluated by a team of professionals from outside the school and implement a continuous process of school improvement. Accreditation is granted on a five-year term.

"Accreditation demonstrates to our students, parents and community that we are focused on raising student achievement, providing a safe and enriching learning environment, and maintaining an efficient and effective operation staffed by highly qualified educators," stated Rabbi Levine.

SACS CASI accreditation is recognized across state lines, which not only eases the transfer process as students move from accredited school to accredited school but also assures parents that the school is meeting nationally accepted standards for quality and successful professional practice.

Dr. Mark Elgart, President/CEO of AdvancED, stated, "SACS CASI accreditation is a rigorous process that focuses the entire school on the primary goal of creating lifelong learners. Hillel Day School of Boca Raton is to be commended for engaging in this process and demonstrating a commitment to continuous improvement."

Parents and interested community members can learn more about accreditation at www.advanc-ed.org.



New Zionist Curriculum Sponsored by HDS Parents

An exciting new curriculum has been brought to HDS! Responding to a need expressed by educators around the world, the Lookstein Center at Bar Ilan University created a comprehensive curriculum to aid in teaching about Medinat Yisrael. This innovative curriculum entitled, "Israel Throughout the Year," is a comprehensive program whose goal is informative and pedagogic in nature. Students in grades 1-8 will now be able to learn in a fun and comprehensive way about Eretz Yisrael's history, geography, culture, tradition, democracy, leaders, challenges and more through 16 modular lessons per year. This program deepens the connection that the students will have through engaging discussions, activities and graphics.

Hillel was able to bring this exciting new curriculum to our school through the generosity of **Raphael and Meira Gross**. This program is dedicated in memory of their beloved grandparents, **Haim and Sadie Gross, Rabbi Baruch Meir and Tova Rabinowitz, Meyer and Lillian Shatz, and Dr. Nahum and Deborah Zackai, A"H**, all of whom would have taken great pleasure in a curriculum focused on enriching knowledge and cultivating appreciation for Medinat Yisrael and its history.

Hillel Day School Celebrates Silver Anniversary

During this 2013-2014 school year, Hillel Day School will be celebrating its 25th Anniversary with a variety of programs and events. In 1989, several Jewish families were interested in establishing a high quality Jewish day school for their children. They approached the Samuel Scheck Hillel Community Day School in North Miami Beach about opening a branch of their school in Boca Raton. After months of hard work, their efforts paid off, and in September 1989, the Hillel Day School of Boca Raton opened its doors with 42 students.

As the school grew, it became evident that responsibilities for the school needed to be community based. It was decided that the school could most efficiently be pursued as an independent entity, and so Hillel Day School of Boca Raton was born. The school moved to its current home, occupying new facilities on its beautiful 15-acre campus in 1998, now the Milton B. Katz Campus.

Since that time, Hillel Day School of Boca Raton has grown tremendously with the building of a new gymnasium and Middle School building, and the creation of Aunt Jessie's Playground. It currently serves 480 students from age 2 through 8th grade.

Hold the date for our 25th Anniversary Annual Journal Event & Celebration, scheduled for Monday evening, December 16, 2013. We will be celebrating 25 years of academic excellence and paying tribute to our deserving honorees, **Dr. David & Sharona Kay, Rabbi Samuel J. Levine, and Mrs. Maia Shaffer**. We hope that you all will join us on what promises to be a meaningful and memorable evening.



Photo Caption:
Groundbreaking ceremony of Hillel Day School of Boca Raton, March 16, 1997.

HDS Happenings

HDS EMET CLUB WINNERS

E xcellent	Nate Aharon	Judah Greenbaum	Tikva Pickholtz
	Aryeh Bar-Chaim	Eytan Greenfield	Gila Pilichowski
	Shira Bar-Chaim	Shira Grunhaus	Naomi Pilichowski
	David Bernstein	Naomi Haik	Lily Rudensky
M idot	Abby Bienenfeld	Zahava Houben	Jonas Saida
	Mali Blanka	Shuey Kahan	Akiva Scher
	Eliana Broide	Mendel Kahn	Yosef Scher
	Harris Cohen	Rivkah Kahn	Samuel Shapiro
E very	Tamir Cohen	Bryce Kaner	Ettie Sharp
	Srulik Doch	Hannah Katz	Michal Skoczylas
	Eliyah Ehrlich	Ella Kennedy	Benjamin Smolensky
	Meir Eisen	Eliana Kodsi	Bailey Spolter
T ime	Noa Elmakies	Moria Kodsi	Lilly Stern
	Harry Freedman	Jonah Krawatsky	Daveed Winograd
	Jonathan Freedman	Zvi Landes	Ari Wultz
	Rebecca Freedman	Akiva Lanner	Calev Zak
	Hunter Gately	Devorah Lome	
	Rebecca Gilbert	Daniel Lugassy	
	Ruth Glaun	Ashira Meyerowitz	
	Hadara Goldstein	Moshe Moskowitz	
	Emunah Green	Sapir Nadav	

(as of 10-28-13)

Mazal Tov to all of the winners!



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:

- Alexandra Cohen** - Rosh Hashanah (pictured on cover)
- Lizzy Adler** - Chanukah
- Aaron Gross** - Passover

The winning art work is displayed on the lobby bulletin board. Congratulations to our talented artists.



Music Notes

By: *Nikki Lynch, Music Teacher*

As we continue to build the music program here at Hillel, I am pleased to announce that we are now current members of the National Association for Music Education (NAfME), the Florida Music Educators Association (FMEA), and the Florida Elementary Music Educators Association (FEMEA). As Hillel's music teacher, I am also networking and coordinating with the Florida Bandmasters Association District 14 in an effort to grow our band program in grades 4 and up. These memberships open up our school to a variety of resources including publications, networking, performance possibilities and professional development opportunities for expanding our curriculum. I am grateful to have been able to attend the FEMEA summer music conference in Ft. Pierce. With a focus on classroom management specific to the music curriculum and teaching strategies for highest student achievement in music, I have come back with many exciting ideas to implement this year.



As per our new curriculum, Kindergarten through 2nd grade will be learning music through singing and the playing of classroom instruments including rhythm band, hand bells and boomwhackers. In 3rd grade the students focus on improving their singing and musical theory skills and begin our instrumental program with recorders. They will be participating in a fun assessment program called "recorder karate" during the second half of the year. Expanding on instruments, in the first half of this year the 4th graders will be learning more complex music using boomwhackers, rhythm band and recorders, as well as how to play basic chords on the ukulele. During the second half they will be forming the beginnings of a wind ensemble and learn to play a school band instrument. This will prepare them for 5th grade music, which is Beginning Wind Band. As a middle school elective, we are also offering a boomwhacker class every other week. It is my hope that as the program grows we will offer even more instrumental opportunities in middle school as well. Thank you to all the faculty, staff and parents for your continued support. I look forward to another great year!





The start of the new academic year was more exciting than ever! With the help of Hashem, our 25th anniversary brought with it record enrollment, which means more students than ever are experiencing an HDS education. The middle school in particular, with its own record numbers, has been further enhanced in line with our mission of constant improvement and striving towards excellence.

A new position was created, Facilitator of Academic Support, to ensure that all students get the personalized attention and support that they need to succeed. Dr. Jordana Carmel, who is able to assist with both Judaic and general studies, has already made a substantial impact upon the middle school.

With some schedule restructuring, more classes and levels have been created, resulting in a positive impact on the student-to-teacher ratio within the classroom. These changes have also allowed for a smoother transition of our 6th graders into middle school by reducing their total number of subject areas by one.

Teachers spend more organized, quality time than ever before engaged in professional development. The critical friends groups, visits to each other's classrooms, personal learning networks and discussions about articles that touch upon the latest trends and research in education, keep us all learning and growing.

Our KAR²E Program (Kindness Always, Respect and Responsibility Everywhere), with its small group discussion format known as KAR²E Circles, continues to develop so that our children are getting the social/emotional and middot/character development education that must be at the heart of a great Jewish day school.

Our Electives Program, now in its third year, has an expanded list of offerings. The new ones for this year include Boomwhackers (music), Fit Rx personal training, Chidon HaTanach, Cool Science, Dreamweaver Website Design, Cake Decorating, Recycled Art and Clay Sculpting.

I can go on and on but I guess I will have to wait for the next edition of the *Hillel Herald!*



Clay Sculpting



Cooking Kosher, Cooking Healthy



Cake Decorating



Chess



Zumba



Mazal Tov to this year's 7th and 8th grade National Junior Honor Society students: **Max Abramovitz, Sara Deichman, Gabriella Englander, Jeremy Griff, Ayelet Gross, Daniel Gross, Shmuel Gross, Noa Grunhaus, Ty Kay, Talia Kennedy, Tani Loskove, Shoshanah Marcus, Rebecca Rosen, Akiva Stadlan, Jonah Tripp and Rebecca Wirtschafter.**



In this article, I'd like to focus on one of our many new initiatives, the expanded EMET badge program. EMET, meaning Excellent Midot Every Time, was created to recognize and promote exceptional middot (positive attributes) in our Lower School. Whereas before we'd give out EMET notes and bracelets, now students can also collect colorful badges. Thanks to the creative design of Ilana Landau, these cool badges were meant to be collected, attached to key rings, and proudly suspended from backpacks, demonstrating that good Midot performance at Hillel will not go unnoticed but will be distinguished as important.

Students will continue to receive EMET notes, but for every five EMET notes a child receives in a particular area, the child will then be awarded one Emet Badge in a particular category. We have chosen four areas that not only exemplify and model what we want from our children at school, but also what we want from our children at home.

These are the 4 areas:

Respect for All

- Getting along with friends
- Respecting the environment, e.g., cleaning up
- Demonstrating good manners toward peers
- Appreciating others' differences, e.g., involving others in group activities
- Recognizing peers and smiling when passing by

Respect for Adults

- Showing respect toward someone older
- Addressing adults in a formal and respectful manner

- Paying attention to parents, teachers and adults, never interrupting them when they are speaking
- Reacting immediately to the requests of parents, teachers and other adults

Torah and Mitzvah Time

- Spending time outside of school with opportunities to learn Torah
- Going to Shul on Shabbat and vacation days, or making sure to daven and make Brachot at home
- Participating in extra learning opportunities and programs

Accepting Responsibility - Sharing a Friend's Burden

- Giving emotional strength to someone sad or lonely, e.g., listening or offering words of advice or encouragement
- Learning to forgive and forget
- Being sensitive to the needs of others, e.g., offering assistance without being asked
- Showing fine character when giving in and letting others go before you, e.g., in line
- Standing up for peers

Feel free to let the school know when your child has done something worthy of one of these categories! As the children earn badges, their names will then be placed on the Midot Wall of Fame, which hangs prominently in the corridor of the first floor and second floor of the main building. I would like to congratulate our first awardees: **Respect for All: Yoni Yudewitz** (4th grade) **Torah & Mitzvah Time: Ahava Bernstein** (3rd grade), **David Bernstein** (1st grade), **Jake Davis** (4th grade) **Tani Englander** (4th grade), **Jacob Freedman** (4th grade), **Aiden Harow** (5th grade), **Yosef Marcus** (4th grade), **Moshe Moskowitz** (K), **Ettie Sharp** (K) **Sruli Sharp** (5th grade) and **Yoni Yudewitz** (4th grade). We look forward to seeing more badges of honor worn around Hillel and the community!

HEALTH WEEK DEBUTS

Health Week, a program geared to Early Childhood and Kindergarten students, developed by Hillel Kindergarten teachers Sheri Siegel and Naomi Aharon, commenced on Monday, October 28. The program implemented health topics in all areas of students' curriculum.

During music class, children learned about healthy habits through song and movement. In science class, students learned about the importance of keeping germs from spreading and participated in experiments. Physical education classes offered fun-filled activities through exercise, relay races and an obstacle course. Hillel parents who are in the health field including, **Dr. Dov Pickholtz**, an internist, **Dr. Tomer Haik**, a pediatric dentist, and **Mrs. Elana Rackman**, a dietician and yoga instructor, spoke to the students. **Mrs. Suzie Fisher**, a registered dietician, spoke to the students about eating healthy as well as the importance of eating breakfast, and **Chef Alan Bergman** prepared artistic and healthy fruit snacks for the kick-off of Health Week. Thank you to **Winn Dixie** for sponsoring healthy snacks throughout the week.



"The purpose of the program is to promote healthy habits for healthy kids. Healthy habits were enhanced through hands-on physical activities, experiments, stories and songs," explained **Sheri Siegel**, Kindergarten Assistant. **Neomi Aharon**, Kindergarten Religious Associate, noted, "Health week promotes healthy bodies and healthy minds amongst our early childhood students. After the successful implementation of this program, we anticipate it will grow to include other grades as well."



EC3B acts out the marriage of Yitzchak and Rivkah for parshat Toldot.



Mazal Tov to the EMET logo contest finalists, and to the winner, **Aiden Smolensky**.



"The Honey Show" visited HDS in celebration of Rosh Hashanah.

P.T.A.

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 18, 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 **Kimberly Frohlich** and **Ilana Rackman** for whipping up this exciting event, and thank all of our volunteers.



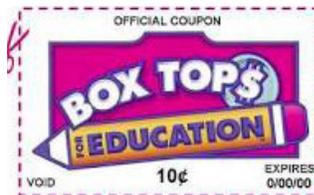
Annual New Mothers' Brunch

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 August 25 for a delicious breakfast, mingling with old and new friends, and learning more about the role of the PTA and exciting volunteer opportunities.



BoxTops For Education

Please remember to bring your BoxTops labels to the school office. To be entered into our monthly BoxTops raffle, simply write your name on the back of each BoxTop you submit. You could win a \$10 gift card to Aspaclaria Boca Judaica.



Semi-Annual Pre-Holiday Shopping Spree

On the evening of August 28, 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. From clothing to hats, housewares, jewelry, Judaica, cosmetics, paper goods, toys, children's accessories and more, the event offered something for everyone—often at discounted prices. The PTA commends **Orlie Cohen** and **Rachel Harow** for their outstanding work in coordinating and organizing the shopping spree and thanks all of our parent volunteers. We also express our gratitude to **Matthew Hocherman** and his staff for their help setting up the event.

Right On Target



Thanks also to the families who registered for and use Target® credit cards. 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 Lori Landes at seattlelandes@comcast.net.

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...

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 300 school supply kits: **Jordan Berger, Al Dimont, Shaina Fein, Jake Friedman, Aaron Gross, Daniel Gross, Shmuel Gross, Chani Kaminetsky, Tani Loskove, Alex Lurie, Justin Lurie, Yoni Mayer, Dalya Pickholtz, Neshama Pickholtz, Mayrav Sakethou, Akiva Scher, Sarit Scher, Yosef Scher and Dovid Zak.**

The PTA expresses its gratitude to **Pita Pan Bakery** for its weekly donation of delicious fresh challot for our Early Childhood Shabbat program. This generous donation, made in loving memory of Rachel Vidal, will save the HDS PTA nearly \$1,000. Thank you to **Brenda Arshawsky, Shoshana Kassorla and Sara Salpeter** for picking up the challot for our students each week.



Thank you to **Lea Saida** for keeping a watch on the tzedakah boxes we have placed in local establishments, and to **Andrea and Ari Bernstein** for organizing the funds raised for donation to the school.

Kudos to **Dvorah Eisen** for the countless hours she spends ordering, organizing and selling uniforms from our Uniform Shoppe. Because the PTA is responsible for storing, managing inventory and ordering and selling the shirts, we are also able to provide students with wholesale prices on a regular basis.

The PTA thanks **Liora Adler** for purchasing, organizing and labeling all the school supplies in the Teacher's Room for our hard working teachers and staff.

Thank you to **Dvorah Eisen** for arranging the sale of *Enjoy the City* coupon booklets, featuring coupons and great deals for South Florida attractions.



Thank you **Susan Herr and Tzippi Rosen** for taking the time to "pony" home PTA notices as well as our PTA gift to all HDS families, HDS car magnets.

Thank you to the many volunteers who helped coordinate Picture Day with LifeTouch on October 8: **Naomi Abramowitz, Cara Beim, Simone Broide, Victoria Martinez, and Stephanie Stern.**

Special thanks to **Lillian Aharon** for her tremendous efforts creating our 2013/2014 *Hillel Hello Pages* directory and designing many of the ads in it as well. The PTA also expresses its appreciation to **Dvora Scher** who raised thousands of dollars for PTA as head of our ad committee and to **Orlie Cohen, Leslie Davis, Julie Ehrlich, Dvorah Eisen, Ileana Flics, Lisa Friedman, Naomi Gross, Sharona Kay, Lori Landes and Dvorah Prince** for collecting ads for the directory. Please remember to support our advertisers! Also, thank you **Jill Kaminetzky, Gail Marcus, and Suzanne Rice** for their careful proofreading. Kudos to **Deena Lurie**, for designing yet another fantastic cover. Thank you to **Chari Bernten, Susan Herr and Dvora Scher** for distributing the *Hillel Hello Pages* directories.



Klipped Kippahs now offers blue and white *Klipped Hair Klips* for girls, complete with the Hillel Lions logo. Stop by the HDS Uniform Shoppe or the front desk to get yours. Each Klip is only \$5. Supply is currently limited.

ONGOING PROGRAMS

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.

Remember to drop off your **used printer and ink toner cartridges** at the front desk. The PTA receives \$2 for each cartridge delivered to stores for recycling. Thank you to the many families and businesses who are already participating in this important recycling effort and to all of our volunteers!

If you have a suit for a Bar Mitzvah boy that you would like to donate, please drop it off at the front desk for the **Bar Mitzvah Suit Gemach**. Suits are available to rent for just \$25. All suits must be returned dry-cleaned. If you have any questions, please contact **Dvorah Eisen** at contact@chayas.com or **Sharona Kay** at sharonakay@mac.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 **Sara Goldberg** and **Liz Stadlan** for organizing the gifts.

Tired of shopping for last-minute birthday party gifts? If you have a child or children in Early Childhood through 5th grade, you can save time, money and energy with the PTA's **Perfect Presents** program. For a one-time fee, your child receives a 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 **Cara Beim** at carabeim4@gmail.com or **Naomi Katz** at nweisel@gmail.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.



Ilana Benyosef is the new 2nd grade secular assistant teacher. She was born on a Kibbutz in Israel, near Nahariya. She and her husband, Shmuel, have 3 children at HDS: Yael (age 6), Amit and Idan (2 1/2). She has always loved to travel and learn about new cultures. In college, Ilana studied in Australia and England and she has been to Ireland, Scotland, Italy, Poland, Switzerland, Greece, Czech Republic and, of course, Israel. Next on her "bucket list" is to travel to Spain and Japan!



Dr. Jordana Carmel is our new Facilitator of Academic Support for the Middle School. Her overall goal is to facilitate student success by ultimately achieving success independently. In order to foster this independent achievement of success, she will be monitoring edline.net, providing both in and

out of class support, aiding in organizational guidance, and communication with both parents and teachers. Dr. Carmel was born in Miami, is married to Rotem, and has two children enrolled in HDS: Edan Israel (age 5) and Noa Maya (age 3). She enjoys spending time with her family, as well as playing basketball and tennis.



Dr. Penina Dorfman joins us as our new School Psychologist. Dr. Dorfman will be offering academic, social, emotional and behavioral support to the students of HDS. She was born in upstate New York and has a son, Noam, who is in EC2 here at HDS. Although Dr. Dorfman and her husband Richard are now living

in the Sunshine State, she enjoys snowboarding and skiing and hopes to teach her son to enjoy it as well.



Tova Perles Hocherman joins us as the new Art Assistant working with Mrs. Rose to help enhance students' artistic experience. She was born in Suffern, NY, and has one child, Zev (age 1), with her husband Matthew. Tova worked as a theatrical electrician when she was in New

York. She is a Mets and Panthers fan and loves dogs.



Dori Zaghi joins us as the Assistant Teacher for 3rd grade. She was born in Shiraz, Iran, and has 4 children who have graduated from HDS: Sahar, Anosh, Eram and Elie. Her daughter, Tehila, is currently a 6th grader at HDS.

Meet the B'not Sherut



Welcome **Ricki Fishman** and **Nofar Mintzer**, our new B'not Sherut! The girls will be teaching the students of HDS the culture and history of Israel so that our children have a better appreciation of our homeland. If anyone would like to host the B'not Sherut

for Shabbat, chagim or any other time, please contact Aliza Pilichowski via e-mail at pillows123@gmail.com.



From Hadassah Smolarcik, Religious Studies Principal

One of my favorite educational vignettes is about an early childhood teacher who, each Friday, had the students act and dress as "Shabbat Abba and Ima." One Friday, Dovid was chosen to be the Shabbat Abba and as assigned, he came dressed

in Shabbat attire ready to tackle his role. He took his place at the head of the Shabbat table and held the Kiddush cup in his hand. He carefully recited the Bracha and as soon as he finished, he sat down and let out a long "krechitz" (Yiddish for sigh). The teacher, worried, asked him if he was okay. Dovid answered that he was fine. "Why then did you let out such a sigh?" asked the teacher. Dovid answered, "That is what my father does each Friday night after making Kiddush."

The above example, humorous as it may be, demonstrates how profound and powerful parent role modeling is on children. Children naturally imitate and emulate the behaviors of the parents. While observing the actions of the parents, children record them in their subconscious minds where they form lasting impressions.

According to the Torah the ideal system of educating our children is, "V'shinantom levanecha" (teach these words thoroughly to your children). In other words the "perfect" educational system is one where the parent teaches the child. In fact, the Talmud records that our current system of education consisting of classes and schools was instituted by Rav Yehoshua ben Gamla nearly 2000 years ago as a necessary measure to insure that children who had no parents or whose parents were not capable of teaching them would also have the opportunity to learn.

Now that we find ourselves in the post-Rav Yehoshua era we should ask ourselves whether the best educational system is to be found in the educational institutions that have state-of-the-art technology, equipment and master teachers or is the ideal system one in which each parent teaches their children?

Continued on page 9

Religious Studies

Continued from page 8

I believe that the answer to this question is that today's teacher can teach Torah, can pass on the general rules of Middot Tovot, and serve as role models for the children. But, the task of deeply defining a child's personality and character is and will forever remain the prevue of the parent.

It is my humble suggestion that the school and the parents need to work together to develop the holistic student who will be able to face the academic, spiritual and moral challenges that they will face throughout their lives.



Each morning in the days before Rosh Hashanah Rabbi Drang blows the Shofar.

NEW LOWER SCHOOL VEGETABLE GARDEN DEBUTS

A new fruit and vegetable garden has been planted and lower school students will grow and maintain it as a form of service learning. Each grade will take part in planting, weeding, watering, measuring, harvesting and/or selling/donating the produce in our garden. The students started by researching the best fruits and vegetables to grow, making compost from their leftover lunch and snacks and charting the sunlight on campus to find the best place for the garden, which has found its new home between the Loewenstern Cafetorium and gymnasium buildings. The garden will also be used to educate students and the community on the importance of taking care of our environment and "going green."

Batsheva Klein, Lower School Science Teacher, is directing this effort and explained, "We will be using recycled rain water collected in cisterns to irrigate the garden via a drip irrigation system. After completing a soil test, we discovered that the garden would be most fruitful if we used raised beds. We plan to make the raised beds using recycled aluminum as well."



The fruits and vegetables produced in the garden will be used in HDS' Healthy Habits curriculum, and the garden will be used to educate the students on eating healthy and keeping bodies healthy. Some

of the produce will be offered as healthy snacks in school, while other produce will be sold in a farmers market at our Science Fair and additionally donated to the local food pantry. Students will apply math skills, science skills and higher order thinking skills in learning how to maintain the garden. They will also have the opportunity to explore and create innovative ideas when implementing pest control methods and, hopefully, garden expansion.

Thank you to the **Hillel PTA** for making this garden possible through it's \$5,000 designated donation. Also thank you to **Home Depot** for the donation of a portion of materials.

Photo Credit: Leonardo Moran

New Parent Orientation

NEW PARENT ORIENTATION WELCOMES NEW FAMILIES

New families to Hillel Day School received a warm welcome at the New Parent Orientation held on August 13. Families were greeted with a welcome bag of HDS regalia.



The format of the evening was an informational session with question and answer time. **Rabbi Samuel J. Levine**, Head of School, **Rabbi Adam Englander**, Incoming Head of School/Upper School Principal, **Chayim Dimont**, Lower School Principal, and **Hadassah Smolarcik**, Religious Studies Principal, each presented valuable information for the new families.



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.

Jill Kaminetzky, Assistant to the Lower & Upper School Principals, as well as an HDS parent, greeted the new families in her role as



New Parent Buddy Coordinator, and informed them that they would be set up with a buddy family as well as other resources to help them get acquainted.

This orientation is a wonderful way to make our new families feel welcome, as well as meet other new families at HDS.

SPORTS - Hillel Lions Roar into a New Season



Maia Shaffer, Athletic Director

This year has already been very exciting for our sports program. The year began with some notable wins for our Boys Flag Football and our Girls Volleyball Teams. Although we have had a few challenges throughout the last season as well as many holidays which have impacted some of the team practices, we are poised to come on strong in the next season which began with a tremendous amount of participation and enthusiasm. Our sports clinics are becoming more and more of a foundation to our athletes for various sports they will face in the upcoming seasons. I would like to give special thanks to **Coach Zack** and **Coach Samantha**, as well as a very warm welcome to **Coach Seydou**, who has become very popular among our basketball players. Please join me in supporting our students and coaches in their upcoming games!

Girls Volleyball

By: Coach Samantha Witztum

The Girls 2013 Volleyball Team got off to a great start this season by winning their first two games against Posnack and Sommerset Pompano. The girls improved with every game and continued to show passion towards the sport throughout the entire season. We had a great feeling of camaraderie and sportsmanship out on the court.

I am incredibly proud of the girls and how they gave their all and fought until the end in every game! I thoroughly enjoyed working with the girls this season and feel that the players have a sense of achievement. Each member of the team improved their individual skills and I am so proud of each and every one of them. Well done on an amazing volleyball season!



Go, Lions!

Sports Hotline: 561-470-5000 ext. 298

Boys Flag Football

By: Coach Zack Rogan

The Boys Football Team had high hopes for the season coming off a close loss in last year's championship game. The boys started out with three wins in the first half of the season and looked to be on the right track. After a closely contested tie before the long holiday, the boys returned to face the two toughest games of the year. After a hard loss to Donna Klein, the boys answered back with an extremely hard fought and well played game against division leader St. Marks. The boys never gave up and fought back after being down early to push the eventual division champs to the end of the game. Unfortunately, the boys came up a little short, losing 33-28. Led by a stellar 8th grade class, the boys finished with a record of 3-2-1, which doesn't convey how well they truly played.



OUR WEBSITE IS LIVE!

Come check us out at
www.bocamaccabi.org



The JCC Maccabi Games is seeking athletes, host families, volunteers, sponsors and coaches for the JCC Maccabi Games, proudly hosted by the Adolph & Rose Levis JCC **August 10-15, 2014**. Go to bocamaccabi@levisjcc.org for more information.

Also check out the **Jr. Maccabi** for children ages 5-11.

If you are interested in serving on one of the many committees please contact the Levis JCC at 561-852-3200.

**A Message from the (FRD)
Financial Resource Development Department**

Welcome back from the FRD Department! A new donor recognition wall of honor was installed in the HDS lobby over the summer. This display recognizes our gracious Annual Campaign donors, as well as designated gifts, our grandparent society donors, and philanthropic and endowment funds earmarked for the Annual Campaign.



In addition, our three major gift societies, the Lamed Vav Society (\$36,000+), the Chai Society (\$18,000) and the brand new Maimonides Society, chaired by Dr. Benjamin Freedman (\$5,000 annually for a minimum of 3 years), are prominently displayed to thank those pillars of our community who have made Hillel Day School and its students a priority with their generous tzedakah.

Gifts to the Annual Campaign include the following: Annual Journal Event, Annual Golf Tournament and Raffle, general donations (including in honor of, in memory of), Koppie Cohn Day of Learning Program, and major gifts (Lamed Vav Society, Chai Society and Maimonides Society). For returning and new parents, a donation toward any of these efforts satisfies your Every Parent Campaign (EPC) responsibility.



Other giving opportunities include the Create a Jewish Legacy campaign, co-chaired by Glen Golish and Leigh Katzman. This campaign is a joint effort with the Jewish Federation's Anne & Norman Jacobson Jewish Community

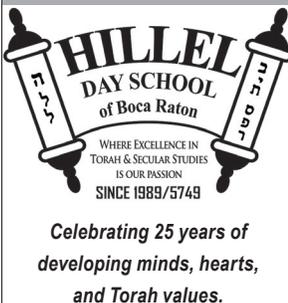
Foundation, created to develop permanent endowment funds, lifetime gifts, bequests, trusts and planned giving to ensure the future of our Jewish community.

We are excited about this year, our 25th Anniversary, and hope that you join us, ensuring HDS' future for the next 25 years and beyond!

Orlie Cohen
Financial Resource
Development Chair

Suzanne Rice
Director of
Development

For more information about any of these programs please contact Suzanne Rice, Director of Development, at 561-470-5000.



**25th Anniversary Journal Event & Celebration
December 16, 2013 - 13 Tevet 5774**

Honoring **Dr. David & Sharona Kay**

Celebrating the Leadership of
Rabbi Samuel J. Levine, Head of School

Tribute to Oht Hameseroot Faculty Recipient
for 13 Years of Service

Mrs. Maia Shaffer

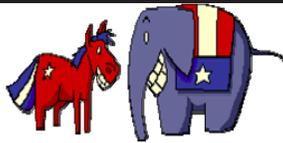
Co-chairs

Dr. Samuel & Naomi Abramovitz

Daniel Rosenthal & Sara Goldberg

HOLD THE DATE

**All Silver Tribute Committee members are invited to attend the
HDS Silver Tribute Celebration with
Ambassador Ido Aharoni, Consul General of Israel in New York
Saturday Evening, November 23, 2013 • At the home of Daniel & Caroline Katz**



Student Council Elections



And the winners are...

President: **Yoni Mayer**
Vice President: **Gabi Englander**
Treasurer: **Max Abramovitz**
Secretary: **Avigayil Broide**

6th Grade Representatives:
Al Dimont and Mayrav Saketkhau

7th Grade Representative: **Jeremy Griff**

8th Grade Representative: **Ty Kay**



HDS faculty start the year off with a professional development workshop led by John D'Auria.

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

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.

Hillel Day School of Boca Raton
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2013-14 Calendar At-A-Glance

November

- 18-24 Scholastic Book Fair
- 23 HDS Silver Tribute Celebration with Ambassador Ido Aharoni, Consul General of Israel
- 24 Chanukah Fair/Open House (11:30am-2:30pm)
- 27 End of 1st Trimester, Chanukah 1st candle (school closes at noon)
- 28 Thanksgiving; Chanukah 2nd candle (no school)
- 29 Thanksgiving Break; Chanukah 3rd candle (no school)
- 30 Chanukah 4th candle

December

- 1 Chanukah 5th candle
- 2 Chanukah 6th candle
- 3 Chanukah 7th candle
- 4 EC2-K Chanukah Program; Chanukah 8th candle
- 11 Chesed Day
- 16 Annual Journal Event 25th Anniversary Celebration
- 26 - January 1 Winter Break (no school)

January

- 2 Classes Resume
- 8 Transportation Day
- 13-17 Midterms for 7th-8th grades
- 16 Tu B'Shevat
- 20-24 Mid-Year Break (no school)

February

- 1 Art Night
- 5 Miss Rita (EC2-K) 9:30-10:15am
- 16 Community-Wide 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament Fundraiser
- 17 Presidents' Day (no school)
- 26 Parent/Teacher Conferences (evening - 1st-8th grades)
- 27 Parent/Teacher Conferences (day - 1st-8th grades); regular school day (no school for 6th-8th grades only)

March

- 4 Community Kohélet Event (7pm)
- 7 End of Second Trimester
- 9 Daylight Savings Time begins
- 13 Fast of Esther; 2:15pm dismissal for 6th-8th grades only
- 14 Faculty In-Service (no school)
- 16 Purim
- 23 Jewish Federation's Super Sunday

April

- 9 EC2-K Pesach Program
- 14 Erev Pesach; Pesach Break begins (no school)
- 14-23 Pesach Break (no school)
- 24 Classes Resume
- 27 Yom Hashoah
- 28-30 6th Grade Sea Camp Trip
- 28 8th Grade Israel Trip (departs)

May

- 5 Yom Hazikaron
- 6 Yom Ha'atzmaut
- 7 Miss Rita (EC2-K) 9:30-10:15am
- 8 8th Grade Israel Trip (returns)
- 13 Parent/Teacher Conferences (evening - EC2-K)
- 14 Parent/Teacher Conferences (day - EC2-K)
- 15 Sports Night
- 18 Lag B'Omer
- 19 Annual Golf Tournament
- 22 KTP Night
- 26 Memorial Day (no school)
- 28 Yom Yerushalayim

June

- June 3 Erev Shavuot (noon dismissal)
- June 4-5 Shavuot (no school)
- June 10 Kindergarten Graduation
- June 11 Last Day of School (noon dismissal); 8th Grade Graduation

