

The Hillel Herald

Hillel Day School of Boca Raton



ת"ס 5774

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

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Congratulations to **Aaron Gross**, winner of the Passover Card Design Competition (pictured above).

**Congratulations,
Class of 2014
Graduates**

**Have a great
summer!**

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



Dear HDS Stakeholders,

It seems quite incredible to me that the time has come for me to write my final *Hillel Herald* column as Head of School. Eight years ago, when I initiated the process whereby our school could look forward to a seamless transition in school leadership, this day seemed so remote, so far away. As with everything in life that is time related, these past eight years have passed by in the wink of an eye and we now find ourselves at this time of transition. Jim Collins, writing in his bestselling book *Good to Great*, lists stability in leadership as one of the hallmarks of great corporations. Collins' book has many applications for corporations in the private sector, and the importance of continuity in leadership holds as true for Jewish day schools as it does for America's largest and most successful companies. In keeping with the findings outlined in *Good to Great*, we are blessed to have Rabbi Adam Englander to lead our school as it continues its quest toward becoming America's best Jewish day school.

As I retire, I am asked by many people what I consider to be my most important achievements as Head of School. The answer for me is easy. Over the past fourteen years, Hillel Day School has grown as a serious Torah institution. The emphasis on Torah learning, *tefilah*, *derech erez* and *middot* is now central to the mission of our school. There is no ambivalence about that for which our school stands, and the Torah values we teach are not ambiguous. Touching the *neshamot* of our students while also giving them serious learning skills are the principles that guide us in all we do. At Hillel, excellence in Torah learning does not mean compromise in other areas of education. General studies are deemed holy as well, as they prepare our students to better understand the world Hashem has created as well as to better participate in society and be a true "light unto the nations."

Our faculty is also a source of great pride to me. Teaching our children on a daily basis, we have a cadre of highly talented, devoted, caring and creative educators who seek to grow in their own professional skills, even as they facilitate the growth of our students. Hillel faculty members are demanding. They demand as much of themselves as they do of their students.

Enrollment is also at an all-time high. The fact that we have waiting lists at almost every level is a testament to how our school is perceived in our community and beyond. Without equivocation: we have been told by many that they are moving to Boca Raton because of Hillel Day School.

I will be pursuing educational projects that will take my wife and me away from Boca Raton for at least a year. Although we physically will not be in the community except for monthly visits, Hillel Day School and the Boca Jewish community will never be distant from our hearts and minds.

Have a blessed, healthy and restful summer.

With feelings of friendship and caring, I remain,

Rabbi Samuel J. Levine
Head of School

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.

Rabbi Samuel J. Levine ~ Head of School ~ 2000-2014

Rabbi Samuel J. Levine
Head of School
2000-2014 5760-5774

For 14 years, Rabbi Samuel J. Levine led Hillel Day School to become one of the leading modern Orthodox, Zionist schools in the nation. As Head of School, Rabbi Levine strengthened the school's reputation for academic excellence and distinction in both secular and Torah studies, and increased enrollment by 60%. He developed and expanded educational programs and vital partnerships that benefit students, faculty and the community at large.



Thank you to Ted Struhl and Successories for donating this beautiful plaque in honor of Rabbi Levine. The plaque is located in the Main School Building.

The Milton B. Katz Campus flourished under Rabbi Levine's leadership. A new gymnasium and Middle School Building opened in 2009 and 2011, respectively. Transportation with Hillel's own school bus began serving students in Boca Raton and Boynton Beach in 2011, and Aunt Jessie's Playground, a state-of-the-art outdoor playground for Early Childhood and Lower School students, opened for play in 2012. Hillel's athletic program grew by leaps and bounds. The original Hillel Hawks morphed into the Hillel Hornets, and then into the Hillel Lions, bringing many championship trophies to fill the school's trophy case. Technology spawned many new curriculum initiatives including the purchase of 75 iPads, as well as the development of a comprehensive TOSHBA (Talmud/Gemara) curriculum, which earned the school a \$50,000 grant. These are just some of the many milestones Hillel experienced during Rabbi Levine's tenure.

Rabbi Levine witnessed firsthand the school's Chai Anniversary, and shared his year of retirement with the school's 25th Anniversary. Three of his grandchildren, as well as a great-niece and great-nephew, were students during his tenure.

Hillel Day School prospered and flourished under Rabbi Levine's direction, despite trying economic conditions. After 14 years of committed service to our school and decades of wisdom and guidance, we wish Rabbi Levine and his wife, Breindel, good health and contentment in their retirement years.

TREE OF LIFE DEDICATION

A beautiful Tree of Life, in honor of Rabbi Samuel J. Levine, was dedicated on the last day of school, June 11, 2014. This day not only marked the end of the school year for the students, but also the end of Rabbi Levine's 14-year tenure at HDS.

Thank you to everyone who donated a leaf, acorn or stone in honor of Rabbi Levine, and thanks to all who came out for the dedication ceremony.



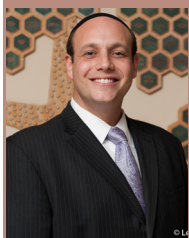
You can still be a part of the Tree of Life by placing your dedication order on our website.



During the End-of-Year Luncheon, Rabbi Levine was presented with a personal *Memory Book* filled with submissions from past students, parents, grandparents and community members. In addition, each grade submitted a spread for the book. Thank

you to everyone who participated in this beautiful memento for Rabbi Levine.

Special thanks to Sharona Kay, Cara Freedman and the PTA for organizing the beautiful luncheon held in honor of Rabbi Levine and the HDS faculty and staff. Additional thanks to PTA volunteers: Rachel Greenbaum, Jen Kroll, Deborah Young and Andrea Zucker.



It has been another extraordinary year for the HDS Middle School! New KAR²E programs educated our students about healthy interpersonal relationships. New elective offerings gave them opportunities to further delve into areas of interest and broaden their horizons. Our never-ending passion for educational excellence led to classrooms filled with creative thinking, project-based learning, collaborative work, technology integration and “flipped” instruction. The 6th grade trip to Sea Camp, 7th grade trip to Washington D.C. and 8th grade trip to Israel were all amazingly successful as they combined learning, inspiration, fun and *achdut* (unity).

Next year will usher in improvements in all of the above areas. In particular, more staff has been hired for the middle school to allow for more levels and smaller class sizes. New curriculum in several subject areas is in the works to better align with 21st century standards and to ensure that our students are prepared to take their places as the Jewish leaders of tomorrow.

On a personal note, I would like to thank the entire Hillel family for their support as I formally begin my role as the next Head of School. I am honored and privileged to serve you all in this holy work on behalf of our children.

Have a wonderful summer!

8th Grade Trip to Israel



Hillel Day School received a grant once again for its 8th grade graduation trip to Israel, funded by the **Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County** and the **Jacobson Jewish Community Foundation** through the **Jules L. & Dorothy M. Kamsly Teen Program Grant**. This grant helped subsidize the school's financial aid budget earmarked for those students who can't afford the trip. Students embarked on the ten-day class trip, which took place during Israel's Independence Day (Yom Ha'atzmaut) and Israel's Memorial Day (Yom HaZikaron), and experienced breathtaking tours of our homeland including historical sites, both ancient and modern, and were introduced to Israelis involved in many different aspects of religious and cultural life. Students also had the opportunity to participate in public service and Chesed on an almost daily basis, and experienced firsthand what they have learned in the classroom during their journey at Hillel Day School.



This past March, 6th and 7th grade parents and their children came together to learn Torah using our new, innovative Toshba curriculum on iPads.

6th Grade Sea Camp Trip



7th Grade Trip to Washington, D.C.



Lower School News

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



From beginning to end, the 5773-5774/2013-2014 school year at Hillel was truly an amazing one, with record enrollment. Our "regularly scheduled programming" such as

Transportation Day, Art Night, Science Fair, KTP Performance and Kindergarten Graduation, to name a few, were outstanding hits and truly made an indelible impression on everyone involved. A big thank you to all the parent and teacher volunteers who made these year's highlights as wonderful as possible.

A new program that was met with great fanfare and excitement by students, teachers and parents alike was our brand new EMET Badge program. Students worked hard to earn their EMET badges by doing various *mitzvot* at school and home, and were seen around campus showing off with pride their colorful patches on backpacks. Students who earned enough badges made it to the EMET Badge Hall of Fame banners gracing our hallways to promote *Torah* and *mitzvot*.

The Learning Garden, led by science teacher Batsheva Klein, was a great

way for children to learn how to sow the fruits of their labor by teaching planting, watering and all-around care for the green life around us that we often take for granted. The students loved coming to the garden to see what new and special greenery were blossoming that day.

I cannot say, "Goodbye and have a good summer" without first thanking my mentor, Rabbi Levine, and wishing a Mazal Tov to my colleague, Rabbi Englander, on his new position. Watching Rabbi Levine walk out the doors of Hillel for the last time will be difficult, as I was so very privileged to have had his guidance, wisdom and experience right outside my office door for the last 14 years. I wish him much Hatzlacha in the future. At the same time, I look forward to a new chapter with Rabbi Englander at my side to continue to promote the values we in the administration greatly cherish. May we all continue to flourish, G-d willing, side by side with our teachers, students and parents at Hillel in the years to come!

Now I can say...have a great summer! I look forward to seeing everyone in the new year!

Splish Splash

EC Water Play Day was "cool!"



Kids Time Program (KTP) Performance



SCIENCE FAIR



Religious Studies

Hadassah Smolarcik, M.S. Ed., Religious Studies Principal



Ceremonies are always such special occasions. Sometimes we celebrate the culmination of hard work, at times we celebrate new beginnings or partake of ceremonies that acknowledge success and achievement. This past June, we began the month with the celebration of Mesibat Hachumash for the first graders as they received their first Chumashim. We celebrated the graduation of our students from Kindergarten, with the presentation of their first Siddurim and then culminated the year with the eighth grade graduation. As I was so privileged to attend all of the ceremonies, I had an epiphany that so moved me, I was actually tearful at each of these ceremonies. What affected me so this year, more so than other years? (Could be that as I age, I see things differently!)

CHIEF SEPHARDIC RABBI VISITS HDS

Students from K through 8th grade were privileged to have the honor of meeting **Harav Yitzchak Yosef, the Rishon L'Tzion**, Chief Sephardic Rabbi of Israel, who came to deliver words of *Bracha* (blessing).



PURIM
5774



I gave this thought, and attributed it to the fact that we celebrate these milestones at Hillel around the cycle of the year when we also celebrate Matan Torah and

the reading of Chumash Bamidbar, the Book of Numbers, which centers on the theme of counting the Jewish people. Rav Moshe Feinstein explains why we read these Parshiot around Shavuot when we also celebrate the giving of the Torah. He answers that Hashem wants us to appreciate our value and the value of each and every Jew. As we re-accept the Torah, it is incumbent upon us to realize that every Jew is counted—even the simplest of Jews was equal to the same number as Moshe. This Divine census conveys the message that every member counts. The Kabbalists point out that just as 600,000 Jews stood at Har Sinai, so, too, are the letters in the Torah. Just as a Torah is invalid if a single letter is missing so, too, every Jewish person is needed to work together as each one has an important contribution to make. Each individual has a unique worth and area of growth to actualize. At Hillel, this is what we all strive to remember. We focus on the individual child, each with his or her strengths and abilities and with that in mind try to help the student attain and actualize that which he or she is capable of. Recognition of these cherished qualities inherent in each child is what will enable this child to thrive as he or she moves on to the next stage. I am forever thankful to Hashem to be a part of the lives of all of these children and for that realization I was moved to tears. Have a wonderful summer.



Mischlach Manot



Adar Activities

Pesach Programs & Matzah Factory



Color Day



Carnival

Mazal Tov to HDS faculty **Rabbi Gershon Eisenberger** and **Dannie Grajower**, who are both part of a prestigious fellowship through the YU University/School Partnership and had an article published in the *YU Shavuot To Go*. This national publication, which can be found in print in most shuls, can be accessed at: <http://www.yutorah.org/togo/shavuot>. Click on the link titled: *Shavuot Lessons for Families from the Legacy Heritage YUTeach Fellowship*.

The Lion's Den

Maia Shaffer,
Athletic Director



With another school year behind us, Hillel's sports program has gone, once again, above and beyond. After spending last year rebuilding our teams, we had an outstanding year that all of us can be very proud of!

Congratulations to our amazing Girls Soccer Team, **Coach Moishe**, **Coach Witztum** and **Coach Shapiro** for winning the Championship this year! Also, congratulations to our Girls Tennis Team and **Coach Art** for finishing in

second place!

Our Girls Volleyball, Girls Basketball and Girls Softball teams improved tremendously, and the coaches and I are very proud of how hard the girls fought to win each game up until the end. The Boys Soccer, Boys Flag Football and Boys Tennis teams also had very competitive seasons by coming very close to the playoffs.

The sports clinics which were offered this year by **Coach Zack**, **Coach Seydou**, **Coach Moishe**, **Coach Witztum** and **Coach Mike** have been a very positive force for our future athletes. Thank you, Coaches!



I would like to thank **Sharona Kay** and **Greta Baum** for their tremendous help with the May 29 Sports Award Ceremony. Also, **Eric Fixler** and **Eli Meir Cohn** for the many hours of hard work in preparation for the sports videos and slideshows. Thanks to **Judah Baum**, who did an outstanding job with our new mascot at the sports evening. Thank you to our stellar **PTA** for purchasing the banners and for the new Hillel Mascot! Also, I would like to thank **Rabbi Levine** and **Rabbi Englander** for their constant support of the athletic program.

A special thanks to the dedicated parents for supporting our athletes at practices and games. With our strong parent participation and our students' drive for excellence, next year will be even better!



**MAZAL TOV,
ATHLETES OF
THE YEAR!**

Isabella Berkeley
Gabi Englander
Ty Kay
Avital Shapiro



Mazal Tov to the **Cohen family** for winning the first ROAR Award for their awesome team spirit and attendance at games!

Tennis and Softball Photo Credit:
Eli Meir Cohn



TENNIS *By: Coach Art Snow*

We started the season with 39 student athletes trying out for Boys and Girls Tennis. After difficult decisions the coaches trimmed to the final 20. The boys' team was a very young squad. We will have two of the starting players returning and a strong group vying for positions next season. The boys did not qualify for the playoffs, narrowly missing by 1 match. The girls had a great record, only losing 1 match to qualify for the playoffs. We finished 2nd. This is our best girls' result ever!



Softball *By: Coach Samantha Witztum*



The Hillel Day School Girls Softball Team finished their exciting season in the first round of the playoffs. Throughout the season, the girls worked on a lot of the basic skills and progressively improved in all areas. The athletes showed great improvement in base running, stealing and overall fielding.



I thoroughly enjoyed working with the girls this season and I feel that the players have a sense of accomplishment. 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 enjoyable Softball season!

www.bocamaccabi.org

JCC Maccabi Games

August 10-15 2014

Proudly hosted by the Adolph & Rose Levis JCC
JCC MACCABI GAMES | August 10-15 • 2014

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.

PTA ANNUAL LUNCHEON A Tribute & Farewell to Incredible Honorees



This year's Annual PTA Luncheon—honoring HDS parent **Lisa Houben** and teachers **Rabbi Moshe and Gali Nadav**—was marked with joy and bittersweet moments (not just because of the pink M&Ms and candy). The immeasurable contributions these talented individuals have made to

HDS drew a crowd of attendees who will miss them greatly as they move on to new communities this summer. The PTA also welcomed 11 new and 44 returning Guardians of Learning, marking the largest membership in the program since its inception. The luncheon, held at JARC on May 11, also featured JARC's delicious food choices.

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 family. Besides their invaluable contributions to the school, all of them share impeccable character and are role models to students and parents alike. Naomi thus compared their departure from Boca to when Yaakov left Be'er Sheva. The Torah states not only where Yaakov was headed (Charan), but also where he left from. Rashi explains that the reason for the mention of Yaakov's departure city is that when a righteous person leaves a city, a void is felt. With the palpable impact the honorees have made at HDS, they will be deeply missed.



Box Tops, vacation day activities and the Annual PTA Chanukah Fair and Open House are just a few of the many programs in which Lisa has taken a leadership

role. The Nadavs go above and beyond as teachers in the school, participating in extracurricular programs, learning one-on-one with students when needed, and infusing their students with a love of Israel and Judaism. The honorees expressed deep gratitude for their Appreciation Awards, presented by PTA President **Sharona Kay**.

Guardians of Learning Chair **Caroline Katz** recognized the many women who choose to participate in the Guardians of Learning 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 additional diamonds for their existing pins. Thank you to **Sabrina and Salomon Romano** for producing and providing the pins and diamonds at cost each year.

In her speech, PTA President Sharona Kay noted the many programs and volunteer opportunities available through the PTA and thanked the many parents who help make them happen. We applaud Lisa Houben, the Nadavs and all of our parent body for their dedication to HDS.

Guardians of Learning Spring 2014



Leslie Abady
Naomi Abramovitz
Liora Adler
Elana Belizon
Lisa Bensmihen
Rebecca Berkeley
Mindy Berlin
Batzi Berman
Mirta Brown
Helen Cohan
Chayi Cohen
Orlie Cohen
Anne Deakter
Michele Dimont
Julie Ehrlich
Shira Englander
Ileana Flics
Cara Freedman
Lauren Glaun
Basheva Goldberg*
Yocheved Goldberg
Laura Greenbaum
Keri Greenfield
Simone Griff
Meira Gross
Ilona Grynzstein
Lisa Houben*
Liz Karsh*

Caroline Katz
Jean Katz
Sharona Kay
Bruria Kods
Irene Kott*
Jen Kroll*
Beatrice Levine
Linda Levy
Suri Markowitz
Joyce Muller
Miriam Raul*
Jill Rose
Rachel Rudensky
Dana Schechter
Naomi Shapiro
Shira Sharp*
Hadassah Smolarcik
Gila Stern*
Stephanie Stern*
Linda Struhl
Phyllis Struhl
Robin Struhl
Edna Tokayer*
Rachel Tripp
Suri Winograd*
Deborah Young
Risa Zimmerman
** New GOL*

Thank you, **Naomi Abramovitz** and **Deborah Young**, for planning and organizing a beautiful luncheon, and to **Max Abramovitz**, **Sara Goldberg**, **Miriam Raul** and **Akiva Rosenthal** for helping to set up. Also, kudos to **Shira Englander**, **Shirley Mayer** and **Aliza Pilichowski** for creating stunning sign-in books for our honorees. Lastly, thank you to **Gail Marcus** and **Suzanne Rice** for their technical help with the invitations.

The 2013-2014 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.

SHOP 'TILL YOU DROP...AND SUPPORT HDS

PRE-PESACH BOUTIQUE



The Boca Raton Synagogue bustled with excitement as shoppers took a break from their busy schedules on the evening of April 2, to attend 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 patrons. Many 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 volunteers: **Dvorah Eisen**, **Jacob Levinrad** and **Andrea Zucker**. We also express our gratitude to **Matthew Hocherman** and his staff for their help setting up the event.

SHOP WITH A SMILE



It's always better to do things with a smile – an Amazon Smile! The PTA is excited to share the news that any time you make purchases via Amazon, you can make an automatic 0.5% donation to HDS, courtesy of the Amazon Smile Foundation. It's a simple way to support HDS every time you shop, at no cost to you!

All you need to do is log into your Amazon account via **smile.amazon.com**. You'll find the exact same prices, product selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon's standard website—with the added bonus of knowing you are supporting our school. The first time you log in, be sure to select the "Boca Raton Jewish Community Day School" as the recipient of your donation. Questions? Contact **Sharona Kay** at sharonakay@mac.com.



Thanks to a new, free, downloadable application for smartphones and tablets, HDS families are turning their grocery receipts into donations to our school. When you download Shoparoo, it does not matter what or how much you buy – every grocery receipt allows you to earn points for HDS just by snapping a picture of it. We applaud all of the HDS families who have helped us accumulate over 175,890 points. Through your efforts, HDS has already earned a \$325 Shoparoo donation. For more information, please contact **Julie Ehrlich** at juliehrlich@hotmail.com.

PRE-SHAVUOT HAT SALE

Hats off to **Jonathan and Suri Winograd** for hosting a spectacular Pre-Shavuot hat show in their home. The event, featuring **Sherel's Hats**, raised \$600 for HDS. Thank you to



Orli Cohen and **Rachel Harow** for organizing, and to **Omri Amar** of **Sherel's hats** for running the sale.

HDS COUTURE: UNIFORM SHOPPE



Thank you to **Dvorah Eisen** for running the HDS Uniform Shoppe, and organizing the May sale, during which shoppers enjoyed an extra 10% off. Because the PTA is responsible for storing, managing



inventory and ordering and selling the shirts, skirts, school spirit shirts and more, we are able to provide students with wholesale prices on a regular basis.



The Uniform Shoppe is also pleased to offer kippot and tzitzit at great prices, as well as discounted black pencil skirts generously donated by **Michal Rovner**.

Promote Your Business in 2014-15

Advertise in the *Hillel Hello Pages*
Deadline is August 15

The *Hillel Hello Pages* is an annual family directory, professionally printed in color and published by Hillel Day School of Boca Raton. It is a constant resource for our community's students, parents, teachers and faculty.

For more information, please contact **Miriam Raul** at miriamraphael@yahoo.com or 561-676-1906.

With Praise, Thanks & Admiration

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

March 2014: **Andrea & Ari Bernstein**

April 2014: **Caroline Katz**

May 2014: **Suzanne Rice**

June 2014: **Brenda Arshawsky**



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.



The PTA expresses its gratitude to **Pita Pan Bakery** for its generous weekly donation of delicious fresh *challot* for our Early Childhood Shabbat program in loving memory of **Rachel Vidal**. We also thank **Brenda**

Arshawsky, Shoshana Kassorla and **Sara Salpeter** for picking up the *challot* weekly.

Thank you to **Michele Dimont** and **Meira Gross** for volunteering their time to each issue of the *Hillel Herald*!



Students proudly wore ROAR Spirit shirts in honor of School Spirit Day.

VACATION FUN

During Passover break, students enjoyed exciting attractions at the The Wow Factory at a significant discount. Thank you to **Zipora Rindsberg** for coordinating this special day, and to **Lisa and Alan Houben** for promoting it.



RECYCLING PROGRAM

Remember to drop off your **used printer and ink toner cartridges** at the front desk. The PTA receives money back for each cartridge we recycle—and is currently among the many schools participating in the Dade Recycling Program. Thank you to **Andrea Zucker** for leading this initiative, and to the many families and businesses who are already contributing to this important effort.



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.

PERFECT PRESENTS

Tired of shopping for last-minute birthday party gifts? If you have a child or children in Early Childhood through fifth grade, you can save time, money and energy with 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, contact **Cara Beim** at carabeim4@gmail.com or **Naomi Katz** at nweisel@gmail.com.

HDS FOOD DRIVE BENEFITS FAMILIES IN NEED

HDS was proud to once again lead an annual food drive to benefit families in our community in need. In total, across participating schools, students collected over 1,500 pounds of groceries this year for the **Ruth Rales Jacobson Family Food Pantry**. We applaud parent volunteers **Cara Freedman** and **Keri Greenfield** for coordinating this effort, and also thank HDS student **Sydney Freedman** for her support. Thank you to **Mrs. Judy Weinstock** and **Mrs. Danielle Frija** for their tremendous efforts in encouraging their students to donate items, and to the 7th graders who helped sort the goods. We also thank the many HDS families who participated in the drive.



HDS Happenings

HDS **EMET** CLUB WINNERS

E xcellent	Eitan Aber	Jonathan Freedman	Moria Kodsi	Samuel Shapiro
	Noa Amiel	Rebecca Freedman	Akiva Kranzler	Ettie Sharp
	Aryeh Bar-Chaim	Judah Frohlich	Yoni Krawatsky	David Skoczylas
	Ben Beim	Hailey Gately	Eli Kroll	Benjamin Smolensky
M idot	Milan Berlin	Max Gerstein	Akiva Lanner	Simcha Spolter
	Gabriel Cohen	Samuel Gerstein	Daniel Lugassy	Shoshana Stadlan
	Tamir Cohen	Jacob Goodman	David Lunski	Lilly Stern
	Tamar Cohn	Tani Gross	Adi Nadav	Elana Tilis
E very	Jake Davis	Naomi Haik	Meira Pickholtz	Leora Tripp
	Ezra Dimont	Aiden Harow	Tikva Pickholtz	Daveed Ilan Winograd
	Orly Dimont	Leah Houben	Naomi Pilichowski	Ethan Wirtschaffer
	Srulik Doch	Shuey Kahan	Nachi Rosen	Ari Wultz
T ime	Shmuel Eisen	Mendel Kahn	Judah Sabag	Avi Young
	Rivka Englander	Hannah Katz	Yosef Scher	Rowen Young
	Ittai Fixler	Eliana Kodsi	Carson Schwartz	

Mazal Tov to all of the winners!



Best of luck to the **Nadav family**, who will be returning to Israel after 7 years at Hillel Day School. The Nadavs will first be heading to Camp Stone in Pennsylvania, followed by a visit to New York before returning to their home in Israel. Thank you for all you have done for our children and the community. We will miss you!

“ARTISTIC EXPRESSIONS” PROJECT LAUNCHED IN CELEBRATION OF HDS’ 25th ANNIVERSARY

By: Barbara J. Rose, Art Specialist,
& Tova Hocherman, Art Assistant



Dalya Pickholtz, 5th Grade

Grades 1 through 5 art classes created mixed media drawings and collages portraying events and areas of growth that were felt to be special in the lives of the students as Hillel continues to develop into a top Jewish Day School under the leadership of Rabbi Samuel J. Levine.

The intent was to use the drawings as a fundraiser for the Scholarship Fund, while celebrating the school’s 25th Anniversary.

Each grade had themes to present and each student selected their particular area of interest within their theme. These included our beautiful



Caleb Berman, 3rd Grade

Aunt Jessie’s Playground, Transportation Day, the EMET program, development of specials and academic programs, after-school sports and the wonderful Middle School building with the Beit Midrash and stunning stained glass windows.



Anna Jane Rudensky, 2nd Grade

Self-portraits were included in many of the drawings. Parents had the opportunity to choose the recipients of their children’s artwork, including grandparents and other friends and relatives, and they were sent color quality reproductions.

We thank everyone who made this project possible and extend a Yasher Koach to those grandparents and friends who donated tzedakah in honor of the young artists, resulting in over \$1,900 raised for the Scholarship Fund.

We are also extremely appreciative of all the hours given by Suzanne Rice, Director of Development, to ensure the project’s success.

HDS Happenings



The Annual ETGAR Author's Tea took place on May 19. Mazal Tov to all of the authors and thank you to everyone who came to watch the presentations.

THIRD GRADE BOOK CLUB

By: Naomi Shapiro

The Third Grade Book Club enjoyed another successful year reading the works of Andrew Clements, Patrick Skene Catling and many others. While meeting either on Sundays or during school breaks, the students delighted in sharing their favorite parts of the book, making delicious treats and engaging in various craft and writing activities. The time spent reading, interacting with friends and enjoying related adventures have helped plant the seed for intellectual curiosity in these bright young minds. A special thank you to the tireless efforts of **Ms. Rebecca Gross** who encouraged parents and students to get in on the reading fun!



MARCH MUSIC PERFORMANCE



Under the direction of Music Teacher **Nikki Lynch**, 3rd and 4th graders performed a beautiful program in March to demonstrate how music can be used in storytelling. Students studied a few

composers who have written music or sound effects to tell stories and each class was then assigned a piece of literature (children's book) and tasked with bringing the story to life through music.



State Fair Third grade teachers **Nicole Kridos**, **Gali Nadav** and **Assistant Dori Zaghi** transformed the Loewenstein Cafetorium into a multi-State Fair. Students displayed facts about their states and gave a performance to all who came to the Fair.



HDS NEWS...Kids Keeping Kids Informed

The HDS News Advisory Team of **Rabbi Yaakov Drang**, **Jill Gumper** and **Cindy Zemel** piloted a new program this year called "HDS News" with the initiative to inspire students to collaborate with their peers and share the latest news with the school. News segments contained personal interviews from the 5th grade students and each episode was videotaped by the students in the classrooms and on location around the campus. The goal of producing 3 video segments was met and aired on the last day of school in every classroom from K-5th grade for both secular and Judaic studies. They will also be able to be viewed on classroom SmartBoards.



**Yom
Ha'atzmaut
Happy 66th
Birthday, Israel**



ON BEHALF OF HILLEL DAY SCHOOL, WE WISH RIKI & NOFAR, OUR WONDERFUL B'NOT SHERUT, ALL THE BEST AS THEY RETURN TO ISRAEL AFTER THEIR YEAR HERE AT HDS. THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU HAVE DONE FOR OUR CHILDREN AND THE COMMUNITY! WE WILL MISS YOU!



SUPER SUNDAY

Thanks to everyone who volunteered at this year's Super Sunday phone-a-thon held on March 30. This campaign raises funds for the Jewish

Federation of South Palm Beach County to help meet the needs of Jewish communities locally and around the world. The Federation provides scholarship and grant funding to Hillel Day School annually.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT



HDS faculty participated in a staff development course this past March, just one of the ongoing educational programs for the faculty and staff throughout the year.

Thank you,
Leonardo Moran
and
Cindy Zemel
for your
beautiful
photography of
so many HDS
events this year!

Kohelet Fellowship Participants attended Graduation Ceremonies at the completion of their two-year program.

MAZEL TOV to the parents of **HILLEL DAY SCHOOL OF BOCA RATON** on completing two years of Jewish learning as part of the Kohelet Fellowships Program. Your dedication is an inspiration to our entire school and, most importantly, to your children.

The Kohelet Foundation



\$500,000 Campaign Goal Met!



It has been a busy year in the Financial Resource Development department! We are proud to report that our Annual Campaign Goal of \$500,000 has been achieved, and we thank all of our donors and stakeholders for supporting Hillel Day School and Jewish education.

This year's fundraising events included the **25th Anniversary Journal Event & Celebration** held on December 16, the **3-on-3 Men's Basketball Tournament** held on February 23, the **Harlem Wizards Exhibition Basketball Game** (see page 14) held on May 18 (Lag B'Omer), the **Annual Golf Tournament** held on May 19, and the **Annual Raffle** (see page 15). In addition, the **25th Anniversary Art Project** "Artistic Expressions" (see page 10) was a creative way for students to express what the school meant to them through art while raising funds for Jewish education. The year concluded with the **Tree of Life** campaign, which was developed to pay tribute to Hillel's Head of School, Rabbi Samuel J. Levine, for his 14 years of dedicated service to the school (see page 2).

Our **Major Gift Societies**, which comprise \$145,000 of this year's Annual Campaign, include the **Lamed Vav Society** (\$36,000+), **Chai Society** (\$18,000+) and the **Maimonides Society** (\$5,000 for at least 3 consecutive years). We are grateful to our Major Gift donors for being pillars and role models for our children and the community. Looking to the future, seven Major Gift pledges (including both new gifts and renewals) have been secured to begin in the 2014-2015 school year.

Thanks to the efforts of **Deena and Jeremy Lurie** and **Lori Landes**, the **SCRIP Program** was launched recently to supplement the campaign. Gift cards to popular merchants are available for purchase and a percentage comes back to the school. To date, this program has raised almost \$1,000.

The **Koppie Cohn Day of Learning Program** raised over \$9,000 for the Scholarship Fund in its second full school year. The program is endowed in memory of **Menashe Koppel Cohn, A"H**, by his parents, **Naomi & Todd Cohn**, and his siblings, **Eli Meir, Leora and Tamar**. Other ongoing programs that benefit the Scholarship Fund include **general donations** and **tribute donations** which can be made in honor of an occasion or in memory of a loved one.

Designated Gifts, although not included in the Annual Campaign budget, raised an additional \$131,000 for specially earmarked programs and projects throughout

the year, including the new **Zionist Curriculum** for 1st through 8th grades. The program was generously donated by **Raphael and Meira Gross** 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**. Other Designated Gifts include a \$50,000 grant by the **Mayberg Family Charitable Foundation** in support of **Rabbi Mordechai Smolarcik's** innovative iPad-based curriculum and textbook for the study of Gemara, and a generous \$25,000 grant to the Early Childhood Program through the **Cheryl Kari Golden Memorial Fund**.

Phase II of the Capital Campaign is ongoing throughout each school year and we thank our current donors for providing a strong foundation for the future of Hillel Day School. If you are interested in naming opportunities, please contact the Development Office. Many have the option to be paid over 5 years.

Create a Jewish Legacy, a joint effort with the **Jewish Federation's Anne & Norman Jacobson Jewish Community Foundation**, was created to develop permanent endowment funds, lifetime gifts, bequests, trusts and planned giving. Consider leaving a personal legacy through your planned gift.

The **Leadership Fundraising Academy** that we have been participating in over the past year will continue in the coming school year. The grant, funded by the **Legacy Heritage Fund** in conjunction with **PEJE**, has allowed for key administrative staff and lay leaders to participate in the 18-month curriculum including workshops, coaching and other vital components to ensure the school's financial sustainability.

If you haven't already made your tax-deductible gift of tzedakah, you may still do so through our website at www.hilleldayschool.org. Click on the "Ways to Give" tab on the left side and then "Donate."

We wish our recent graduates a Mazal Tov, and wish you and your families a wonderful summer!

Look for the full 2013-2014 report to the community, including the Annual Honor Roll and 8th grade and Kindergarten graduations in review, this coming Fall in the *Annual Report*.

Harlem Wizards Lag B'Omer Event



A huge thank you to Wizards Event Co-Chairs **Dr. Naomi Gross**, **Aviva Klein** and **Stephanie Stern** for their planning, organization and execution of an amazing family fun event featuring the Harlem Wizards vs. Team Hillel. With over 550 in attendance, the big game took place at Boca Raton Community High School on Sunday, May 18 (Lag B'Omer). Special thanks to **Dr. Orlie**

Cohen, FRD Chair, for her involvement in ensuring the event's financial success, **Sharona Kay**, PTA President, for her assistance securing the venue, and **Rabbi Adam Englander**, Upper School Principal/Incoming Head of School, for his vision and leadership. Thank you to **Shlomi Lugassy** for photographing the event and **Gila Stern** for her assistance with PR. We are thankful to our sponsors without whom this event would not have been possible:

Slam Dunk Presenting Sponsor
Leor & Gaby Skoczylas and Family



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Thank you to **Winn-Dixie** for providing the food at a discounted price.

The "talented" Team Hillel players included Hillel administration and faculty members: **Rabbi Samuel J. Levine**, **Rabbi Adam Englander**, **Chayim Dimont**, **Joe Sharp**, **Rabbi Gershon Eisenberger**, **Rabbi Yosef Kassorla** and **Rabbi Moshe Nadav**; Boca Raton Synagogue Senior Rabbi **Efrem Goldberg** and HDS students: **Ari Cohen**, **Asher Eisen**, **Ty Kay**, **Jordan Landes**, **Yosef Lupin**, **Yoni Mayer**, **Jonah Tripp**, **Ari Wax** and **Yehuda Weiss**. **Tamir Goodman**, "the Jewish Jordan," also joined Team Hillel for the 2nd half. The team was coached by **Dannie Grajower** and officiating was an unbiased **Rabbi Josh Grajower**.

Opening ceremonies included the singing of the National Anthem and Israeli National Anthem by **HDS 3rd graders** under the direction of **Gali Nadav**. The half-time show featured the **HDS 5th graders'** performance of Daglanut, the Israeli flag dance, under the direction of the B'not Sherut, **Riki Fishman** and **Nofar Mintzer**. Special thanks to **Hadassah Smolarcik** for overseeing these performances.

Our amazing volunteers kept everything running smoothly, from ticketing, will call, souvenir and food sales. Thank you to parent volunteers: **Naomi Abramovitz**, **Cara Beim**, **Dvorah Eisen**, **Shira Englander**, **Cara Freedman**, **Shaindi Hochner**, **Vivian Kestenbaum**, **Jeremy Lurie**, **Shira Sharp**, **Gila Stern**, **Josh Stern**, **Rachel Yudewitz** and **Andrea Zucker**. Thank you to student and alumni volunteers: **Matthew Beim**, **Maurice Bensmihen**, **Jojo Cohen**, **Asher Eisen**, **Baila Eisen**, **Tani Englander**, **Gabi Frohlich**, **Yaakov Griner**, **Ayelet Gross**, **Tani Gross**, **Gabriella Katz**, **Izy Muller**, **Rebecca Salpeter**, **Aaron Senfeld**, **Joey Tabakin** and **Dovid Zak**.

The first half of the "Double" raffle prize winners were drawn during half-time and winners were:

- Four Marlins Tickets (*provided by the Marlins Foundation*): **The Cohen Family (Eli & Orlie)**
- Three One Direction Tickets (*anonymously donated*): **The Eisen Family (Eric & Dvorah)**
- Four SeaWorld Tickets (*provided by SeaWorld Parks & Resorts*): **The Ehrlich Family (Richard & Julie)**
- Four Disney One-Day Park Hopper Tickets (*provided by Walt Disney World Community Relations*) **The Smolensky Family (Lon & Sara)**

The two half-court shot contestants for a chance to win \$2,500 each were: **Max Goodman** and **Dr. Eli Cohen**. Unfortunately, neither made the shot, however, their raffle tickets were re-entered back into the drawing!

Congratulations to our free ticket stub drawing winners:

- **Rotem Carmel**, who won an autographed photo of Panthers Captain Ed Jovanovski provided by **Sunrise Sports & Entertainment**
- **Eytan Landau**, winner of a Harlem Wizards Autographed Official Game Ball

Thank you to everyone who came out and supported Team Hillel! You helped us raise over \$10,000 for Jewish education!



Annual Golf Tournament in Review



Mazal Tov once again to Golf Tournament Co-Chairs **Teddy Struhl** and **Michael Zimmerman** for their efforts on this year's Annual Golf Tournament, held on Monday, May 19 at Stonebridge Golf & Country Club. This event raised close to \$60,000, including the Annual Raffle.

In addition, thank you to this year's amazing volunteers: **Mirta Brown, Orlie Cohen, Jill Kaminetzky, Jeremy Lurie, Trevor Meyerowitz, Larry Pomeranz, Cathy Rippee (LifeSafety Management), Tzippi Rosen, Lea Saida, Joe Sharp, Phyllis Struhl, Deborah Young and Risa Zimmerman.**

THANK YOU, GOLF TOURNAMENT SPONSORS!

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Gerry Golden

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Jerry Cohen

Hole-In-One Sponsors

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Tee Sponsors:

Brian Biancardi ~ Fifth Third Bank; Golish Financial Group, LLC; Charles & Simone Griff ~ PBC Dermatology; Sheldon Hills; Kosher Marketplace; Dr. Joshua Stern ~ South Florida GI Associates; Donna, Ben, Rachel & Jackie Tripp ~ Jackie Tripp MD PLC & South Florida Medicine; The Wirtschafter Family

Group Tee Sponsors:

- Sponsored anonymously with gratitude to this year's B'not Sherut, Nofar & Riki, for enhancing our children's HDS experience

- Sara Levine, MD, PA ~ Internal Medicine - Pediatrics

- Florida Cardiology Group, PA ~ Benjamin Saketkhou, MD; Hedy Zaghi, MD; Steven Borzak, MD; Rizwan Karatela, MD

- Thank you, Hillel Day School, for the wonderful educational experience that you give to all of our children ~ The Winograd Family

Rabbi Tee Sponsors:

Rabbi Adam Englander, Rabbi Efrem Goldberg, Rabbi Josh Grajower, Rabbi Yosef Kassorla, Rabbi Meir Kessler, Rabbi Jonathan Kroll, Rabbi Chaim Lanner, Rabbi Samuel J. Levine, Rabbi Philip Moskowitz and Rabbi Mordechai Smolarcik

Grandparent Tee Sponsors:

Thomas & Elsa Adler, Phil Berger, Bill & Batzi Berman, Rabbi Moshe & Rochelle Brand, Dr. Mark & Helen Cohan, Dr. Joel & Peshe Dennis, Bernie & Linda Kannen, Dorothy Zimmerman

Thank you to **Ted & Warren Struhl (Successories)** for producing and donating the award plaques, to **Michael Zimmerman (Court Liquors)** for donating the cigars, to **Dr. Eli Cohen** for donating the sunscreen, and to **Richard Ehrlich (Secure Wealth Planning Group)** for donating the gift bags.

Finally, thank you to **Dr. Orlie Cohen** (FRD Chair) for her time and efforts on this (and EVERY) event, **Dr. Avraham Belizon** for his help with fundraising and **Helen Cohan** for her help with our first Grandparent Tee signs.

Tournament Winners:

1st Place Gross: **(Mutual of America) Mike Cruz, Ivan Gregory, Tim Johnson & Ellen Privitera**

1st Place Net: **(TriNet) Rob Beck, Alex Casanova, John Hock & Irwin Schechter**

2nd Place Gross: **Alan Berger, Steven Cohen, Carmi Gross & Martin Schandelson**

2nd Place Net: **Sal Abady, Rabbi Efrem Goldberg, Rabbi Philip Moskowitz & Daniel Katz**

Contest Winners: Longest Drive - **Mike Cruz**

Putting Contest - **Tim Johnson**

Closest to the Pin - **Daniel Katz**

Closest to the Line - **Chris Goldberg**

Thank you to our Golf Participant Raffle prize donors: **Isaac & Ilona Grynstein** (Swatch Watch); **Five Star Golf** (Toski Wedges & Solar Spec Sunglasses); **Larry Pomeranz** (miscellaneous golf prizes); **Stonebridge Golf & Country Club** (Golf Foursome); **Kosher Marketplace & Winn-Dixie** (gift cards)

The second half of the "Double Raffle" drawing took place at the Golf Tournament and the lucky winners are:

- \$250 BuyMeBeauty.com shopping spree (**donated by Daniel & Liora Adler**): **The Skoczylas Family (Leor & Gaby)**

- Four Tickets to SeaWorld's Aquatica (**provided by SeaWorld Parks & Resorts**): **The Baum Family (Jeff & Greta)**

- Art Piece "Two Cokes" by Mark Schiff (**donated by The Muller Family**): **The Goodman Family (Howard & Claire)**

And the GRAND PRIZE WINNER OF \$2,000 toward tuition: **Aviva Klein & Erik Cooper**

Thank you to **Jeremy Lurie** for his help in securing a portion of this year's raffle prizes and for helping with raffle sales and to **Phyllis Struhl** for helping with this year's photography!



PEOPLE MAKING A DIFFERENCE: Daniel Adler Steps Up for Students



What is Step Up For Students? It is a state-funded scholarship of \$5,272 per child for qualifying families.

Why did you get involved? With all the talk of the "tuition crisis," there wasn't much action. I knew we needed funding from outside our generous community to continue to serve all our families of diverse incomes. In our school, for example, we allocate \$1.6 million in scholarship every year, but we've only been able to raise \$500,000. There is a huge gap to be filled. This is the same case in every Jewish school today. I care about every Jewish school, not just ours.

Daniel Adler has been on the HDS Board of Trustees since the 2007-2008 school year. He and his wife, Liora, have 3 children: Lizzy (entering 7th grade), Rebecca (entering 4th grade), and Abigail (entering EC3).

Thank you, Daniel, for Making a Difference!

How did you get involved? In 2011, the OU Advocacy Center educated Sara Goldberg and me on what funding was available on a state level. Thanks to an OU Tuition Conference that November that I attended with JB Bensmihen, I was able to see that Jewish education throughout the country was dealing with the same financial challenge. It was clear that government sharing in our burden was necessary. We had to explore all possible avenues within the state of Florida. Due to my learning the political ropes through AIPAC, I was able to take their model of pro-Israel advocacy and hone it in for State funding for the Jewish community. With no plan, Sara and I hit the ground meeting with state representatives and senators that were up for re-election in 2012.

What impact have you had? My wife and I have hosted numerous political and advocacy events in our home. BRS recently hosted an amazing Political Advocacy Shabbaton. Our community heard the rallying cry throughout that Shabbat and by Saturday night we had over 100 people in our home signing up to contact our state legislators in a systematic fashion. This was the perfect season for political involvement and we took action! Many of our parents called, wrote emails and met face-to-face with our state legislators. Overnight, we changed from a one-man show into an organized political army. With the communities of Hollywood and Miami, we joined together to form the Jewish Leadership Coalition, with many thanks to Dr. Allan Jacob. Now the South Florida Jewish community is united in this cause with diverse school and lay leadership involved. I've made 2 trips to Tallahassee with our coalition and we have asserted our strength on the political scene.

Have any changes taken place/legislation passed? Tremendous changes have taken place. When I began 3 years ago it was almost impossible to qualify for the scholarship without attending public school for one year even if you financially qualified. Our coalition made it clear that this was unacceptable to the Jewish community. Just this past April, the following was passed: 1) A prior year of public school attendance requirement for all students was eliminated, tying their eligibility to household income only. 2) This fall, the scholarship is set to increase to \$5,272 per child. That's an increase of \$500 per child! 3) For the first time ever, beginning in 2016-17, partial scholarships will be provided to students whose household income is too high for the full scholarship. Families in our community with incomes of \$80,000 will be eligible in just a year and a half. This was a huge victory and one that the Jewish community pushed for vigorously.

How will this impact scholarship at HDS? Three years ago we weren't getting a penny, and in 2013/14 we received \$75,000. In 2016, we project \$157,000 in state funding.

How will this impact families at HDS? Tuition is not being raised next year because this is helping our schools' financial health. Those who may not have had the opportunity to attend HDS with this extra help may qualify to attend our school. Everyone gains from this no matter what tax bracket you are in!

How can others get involved? Government funding is time sensitive so when our coalition needs you, you will know. Please respond! We need an army to keep moving the needle in the right direction and to continuously increase funds our community is receiving.

What is your end goal? Keep increasing our funding until each child is allotted the exact same funds as if the same child would attend public school regardless of income. It's just, fair and will solve our challenge!



Mrs. Jodi Deichman and Mrs. Batsheva Klein accepted the Green School of Quality Award on behalf of Hillel Day School.



- Check out <http://www.jewishleadershipcoalition.org> for more information.
- E-mail joes@hilleldayschool.org if you can gain from this program and are not currently enrolled.

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

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

Hillel Day School of Boca Raton ~ 21011 95th Ave. S. Boca Raton, FL 33428
P: 561.470.5000 F: 561.470.5005 • www.hilleldayschool.org

