

# The Hillel Herald



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Hillel Day School of Boca Raton

Home of the Hillel Lions

Spring/Summer

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**HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!**

### A Message from the Head of School



During the summer, many of our families visit relatives in cities near and far. Some use the time off from school to travel to destinations of natural beauty or to places of historical interest. As Americans, we can travel the length and breadth of our great nation freely and safely. Travel from one state to the next is unimpeded and the rights and liberty that we enjoy are consistent everywhere we go. American democracy remains the envy of people throughout the world. At times, unfortunately, we take our way of life for granted. We are sometimes painfully reminded, however, of the awesome sacrifices made by the men and women of our military that allow us to continue to enjoy the blessings of freedom.

One such occasion was a ceremony that I had the privilege of attending honoring the memory of Army Specialist Daniel Agami, z"l, son of Beth and Itzhak Agami, and brother of Shaina, a student in our 3rd grade. Daniel was killed while serving his country in Iraq. In a moving and dignified ceremony, Daniel's sacrifice was recognized by his community by having the Coconut Creek Post Office named for him. Listening to the speeches describing the wonderful person that Daniel was, I thought of the terrible price paid to safeguard our way of life. Daniel and his family have paid this price and our hearts go out to them for their loss. We pray that they are comforted among those who mourn for Tzion and Yerushalayim.

As we enjoy our summer vacation, we should do so with an appreciation for the blessings we enjoy as Americans. Hakarat hatov, giving thanks for a kindness done on our behalf, is an important Torah value. We must be thankful for the blessings of freedom, and be grateful that there are Daniel Agamis who are willing to stand in harm's way to guarantee that these freedoms continue unabated. Please accept my best wishes for a safe and restful summer.

Rabbi Samuel J. Levine, Head of School



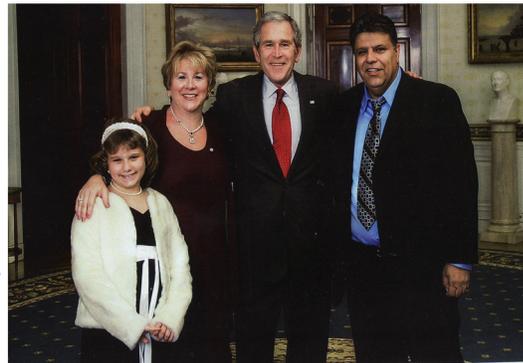
See page 5 for more pictures of the 8th grade trip to Israel.



7th graders visit the National Museum of American Jewish Military History in Washington, D.C. (see more photos on page 5).



In Memory of Army Specialist Daniel Agami, a.k.a. "The Hebrew Hammer"



Shaina (3rd grader), with her parents, Beth and Itzhak Agami, and President George W. Bush at the White House.

Shaina Agami  
With best wishes,

Army Specialist Daniel Agami was memorialized as the Coconut Creek Post Office was named in his memory. Daniel was also honored in Ms. Bralow's class, by his sister, Shaina, and family. Specialist Daniel Agami of the 1st Infantry Division, was one of five soldiers killed June 21 when a bomb exploded near their humvee during operations near Baghdad, Iraq.

The Hillel Day School Emergency Hotline number is 866-544-5535. Please keep this number handy so that you can access school opening or closing information in the event of any emergency, weather or otherwise.

## From the Judaics Department

### Birchat HaChama: The Blessing Over the Sun By: Rabbi Aaron Levitt

This past April 8 (Erev Pesach), we were privileged to observe the rarest mitzva in Judaism, that of Birchat HaChama, the Blessing over the Sun, which occurs only once every 28 years when the sun returns to its exact position from Creation at the exact time and day.

In preparation for this special occasion, the 7th grade had an interdisciplinary unit in which they learned about different angles of this phenomenon in several different subjects. In science with Ms. DiGiulio, they studied the astronomy of the sun and its rotation. In math with Mrs. Vine, they learned how to calculate the 28-year cycle (much more complicated than you would think). In Dinim, with the Gemara Rebbeim, they learned the laws of how and when this bracha is recited. And in Chumash, with Rabbi Levitt and Rabbi Smolarcik, they learned the philosophy of this mitzva and why Judaism uses a combination lunar/solar calendar.

The students worked with partners to prepare research posters about the scientific aspect of the sun as well as the Jewish meaning behind the mitzva. They had a great time, learned a ton, and hopefully saw the power of Torah U'Maddah, that what they are learning in their general studies and in their Torah studies is interconnected. Many students shared with us that they woke up early that morning to say the bracha and how they look forward to the next time they will be able to recite it again...when they're in their 40's!

## Purim Carnival and Costume Party



### Talmud Department Update

By: Rabbi Gur Berman

I remember well the first גמרא I ever learned. שור שנח את הפרה - "An ox that gores a cow" was the משנה that served as the starting point for the גמרא that we learned for an entire academic year. I also remember wondering why my rebbe had chosen that גמרא and how this material was going to help me live a better life.

Several months ago, the members of the middle school Talmud department decided to articulate what exactly they hoped to accomplish in their Talmud classes and to rethink what they taught and how they taught it based on the answer to that question. After several weeks of debate and clarifications, we articulated the following mission statement:

To help our students acquire the Talmudic and Halachic knowledge and independent learning skills they will need to continue their learning. To inspire our students to love learning Torah and living Jewishly.

We further believe that the best way to foster a love of learning Torah and Judaism amongst our students is to expose them to



passages in the גמרא that contain life-enhancing messages. We will continue to emphasize independent learning skills for the study of Talmud in order to fulfill the first half of our mission.

Some of the results of a renewed focus on our mission are a scavenger hunt quiz regarding the laws of פורים and several hands-on activities the week before פסח. These activities include making חרוסת and then learning an important lesson regarding the חרוסת, watching a live demonstration of making dishes kosher for פסח, and watching an actual sale of תמץ to a non-Jew. Students have also learned several sugyot relating to פורים, פסח, ספירת העומר, and כיבוד אב ואם that contain life enhancing messages in them. For example, two lessons we highlighted in the passage about ספירת העומר is never giving up (Rabbi Akiva did not, even after he lost his 24,000 students) and דרך ארץ קדמה לתורה i.e. if you cannot respect your friends, your Torah learning is not worth anything. Rabbi Akiva and his students learned that lesson the hard way.

My colleagues and I are curious to hear your feedback regarding our mission statement or other aspects of our initiative. Please send your thoughts to [gurb@hilleldayschool.org](mailto:gurb@hilleldayschool.org).



**Let it Snow!**  
**ECE bundles up and**  
**has fun with "snow,"**  
**Florida style.**



An Israeli Chazan (cantor) visited the ECE classes for a sing-along Shabbat experience.

**Spotlight on Ms. Bralow's 3rd Grade**



Past Presidents and First Ladies came to life on "President Speech Day."

1st graders learn to play the violin and Klezmer musicians perform as part of the music department's curriculum.



3rd grade students built a tower of canned food from the floor to the ceiling as classes collected donations for the Forster Family Kosher Food Pantry.



Science experiments create safe explosions.

Morah JoAnn Parker's sister, Nancy Gugenheim, visited EC3A for Tu B'Shevat. She came in as a community helper in the capacity of an artist. She demonstrated to the children how to paint different types of trees. Everyone had the opportunity to create their own interpretation of whatever tree they liked. Thankyouso much, Nancy, for the donation of materials as well as the chag-appropriate snack.



Brachot Day taught 1st graders to encourage other students to remember to say the Brachot on their food, especially in the merit of the Israeli soldiers.



# Upper School News



Rabbi Adam Englander,  
M.S. Ed.

While we have all felt and continued to feel the effects of a tumultuous and unpredictable world, our upper school students have been blessed this year to enter school each day with the confidence that learning, growth and inspiration are constants. The 2008/2009 academic year saw continued growth and improvement in numerous areas

as we continued our quest to achieve excellence in all we do. Here are just some of the highlights:

- Our new “lunch labs” were extremely popular. Students were able to get extra help in Ivrit, English and math on a daily basis.
- Our entire science program has been revamped thanks to the hard work, expertise and creativity of Ms. DiGiulio. The rigorous, hand-on learning environment is truly preparing our students for the demands of the future.
- The 5th grade has had the opportunity to visit the science lab on a weekly basis and get a sense for what middle school science is all about.
- Social studies classes have been utilizing *Junior Scholastic Magazine* to enhance the current events portion of the curriculum.
- Our KAR<sup>2</sup>E program, the character development program that is already the envy of many schools, has been greatly improved. The new website allows students to post KAR<sup>2</sup>E highlights and make suggestions to make our school a more KARing place. The KAR<sup>2</sup>E Chanukah Extravaganza, where our middle school students paired up with local Chai Lifeline members, was especially inspirational.
- Unforgettable trips showed our students how much they can learn from the world around them. Billy Swamp Safari, the local recycling plant, Sea Camp, Washington, D.C., and, of course, the 8th grade graduation trip to Israel were all amazing.
- Our yom tov/holiday programming was better than ever! The Shabbaton on campus and the Chanukah Color War were two of the biggest hits. The dancing at the Yom Haatzmaut Chagigah was so lively that the WYHS band which played for us, could not believe what they were witnessing.
- Our guidance department organized powerful programs on substance abuse and cyber-bullying.
- The sports program has seen more success than ever before. Our girls soccer team advanced to the semi-finals and our girls softball team made it to the championship. Most importantly, many coaches and referees commented throughout the year about our exceptional sportsmanship and overall behavior.
- For the first time, our graduating class, under the direction of Ms. Rosenstein, has compiled an end-of-the-year newspaper. The *Graduation Gazette* features articles from the graduates about their most amazing school experiences.

I hope that you and your family have an enjoyable and restful summer.

## Leil Limud

Approximately 100 parents and students came to school the evening of February 24, Rosh Chodesh Adar, to learn Torah together as part of the Blev Echad initiative. This program brought together thousands of Jews from all over the world to commemorate the 1st anniversary of the tragic terrorist attack on Yeshivat Mercaz HaRav, where 8 young boys were murdered. We watched the video feed from Jerusalem, which included a massive Torah dedication where a new sefer Torah was donated to each of the 8 families.



## IDF Visits HDS

In the midst of the Israeli military action in Gaza, the 7th and 8th grade students were privileged to hear from a Major in the IDF. He spoke to them about the life of a soldier and how crucial their work is to Jewish strength and survival. Each and every student was truly inspired.



Ambassador Asher Naim, the former Israeli Ambassador to Ethiopia, spoke to middle school students. He was largely responsible for Operation Solomon, which, in 1991, brought 14,500 Ethiopian Jews to Israel in a 36-hour covert operation.

*Elijah Webberly*  
*celebrated his 12th birthday*  
*with his classmates*  
*here in school.*



5th graders in Mrs. Deichman's class wrote and performed plays about the American Revolution.



# Israel & Washington, D.C. Trips

## 8th Graders Experience Israel...



The Israel/Lebanon border.



Showing our solidarity with the family of Gilad Shalit.



Hiking in Tel Dan.



Jeep ride in the Golan.



The Kotel tunnels.



Kever Rachel.



Bet Elazraki Children's Home.



The Kotel.



At the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial.



Military base.



Masada.



Kfar Kedem Mishnaic Park.



7th grade class trip to D.C. was a "monumental" experience.



Chazon Yeshaya Soup Kitchen.



Enjoying Israel.



# WHAT'S COOKIN' AT THE PTA

## Annual PTA Luncheon

Over 80 people gathered at the PTA's annual luncheon on April 30, an event that pays tribute to women who have gone beyond the call of duty in supporting the PTA. This year's honorees were Mirta Brown and Ana Haar, both former HDS early childhood teachers, whose continued service to the school has included their involvement and leadership in countless HDS programs. The PTA also welcomed six new members and 28 returning members to the HDS Guardian of Learning program.

Mirta and Ana were recognized for the incredible volume of work they do behind the scenes, and for individual projects they have undertaken over the years. For these two women, no job is too big or too small. Together, they coordinate the school's Annual Picture Day. Mirta has assumed a lead role in arranging the HDS lunch program and is helping to plan this year's PTA Tennis Tournament, just two of her many recent projects. Ana sews Siddur covers, Afikomen bags and pillowcases for our early childhood students, manages Tzedakah box distribution, oversees the new Wee Mozarts program, and contributes her time to a host of other PTA initiatives.

The HDS Guardian of Learning program, now in its 14th year, has gained increasing importance over the last few years. The many PTA programs designed to enrich our children's school experience rely on the generosity and commitment of this growing group of women. Thank you and Kol Ha'kavod to our six new members and the 28 women who renewed their membership. Special thanks to Caroline Katz for organizing this program and to Romano Jewelers for supplying the gold pins and diamonds at cost.



**Lori Landa, Sandra Lilienthal and Orly Matheson did a wonderful job chairing the luncheon and arranging the lovely décor and healthy food choices. Attendees were also inspired by Rebbetzin Yocheved Goldberg's powerful D'var Torah.**

### ~New Guardians of Learning~

Elana Belizon • Jean Katz • Sharona Kay • Debra Linzer • Diane Sakethkou • Naomi Shapiro



### ~Renewed Guardians of Learning~

Leslie Abady • Lisa Bensmihen • Evelyn Begas • Mirta Brown • Helen Cohan • Sheryl Dennis • Elise Dolgow • Tilda Fisher • Cara Freedman • Lauren Glaun • Laura Greenbaum • Rachel Greenbaum • Ana Haar • Caroline Katz • Beatrice Levine • Linda Levy • Sara Markowitz • Joyce Muller • Cindy Nimhauser • Dana Petrover • Jill Rose • Libby Rombro • Dana Schechter • Rebecca Stern • Linda Struhl • Phyllis Struhl • Robin Struhl • Risa Zimmerman



Do you have suggestions for new activities that students, parents, faculty, and/or our administration could enjoy? Have you thought of ways to enhance existent programs? We can't wait to hear from you! Please contact PTA President Sharona Kay at [sharonakay@mac.com](mailto:sharonakay@mac.com) with your ideas. Learn more about volunteer opportunities that suit your interests and find out how you can make a difference.

**SAVE THE DATE:**  
**SUNDAY, AUGUST 9: PTA GARAGE SALE**  
 Have items to contribute? You can drop them off at the cafeterium during the last two days of school and throughout July. For more information or to volunteer to help with the sale, please contact Oriie Cohen at 561-361-1020 or [orlielevy@hotmail.com](mailto:orlielevy@hotmail.com), or Rachel Greenbaum at 561-395-7555 or [Rachelgreenbaum@yahoo.com](mailto:Rachelgreenbaum@yahoo.com).

## WHAT'S COOKIN' AT THE PTA

The PTA thanks Rachel and Yitzy (EC4) Greenbaum for helping to distribute Albertsons® Community Partners cards at carpool time. Remember that you can turn ordinary supermarket shopping into a generous way to benefit HDS, just by swiping the card each time you shop at an Albertsons supermarket.

### HDS Food Drive Benefits Hundreds of Families in Need

HDS is making headlines, thanks to its recent Forster Family Kosher Food Pantry food drive—whose tremendous success made the WPBF/ABC news. The collection brought in an estimated 1,500 food and toiletry items, one of the single largest Pantry donations ever delivered to the Federation campus.

“The drive clearly demonstrates that by working together, we can make a real difference for our community,” said Pam Cohen, who spearheaded the effort with Cara Freedman. “It is important that our children recognize the needs of Jews here, in Israel, and around the world, and understand that lending a helping hand is an integral part of being Jewish.” Nearly every HDS class exceeded its goal of submitting a minimum of one food or toiletry item per student.



The Forster Family Kosher Food Pantry, a beneficiary agency of the Federation, was created in 1996 to “alleviate the burden of hunger in our community.” The Pantry delivers non-perishable groceries, some fresh fruits and vegetables, and challah every other week free of charge to people experiencing serious financial difficulties.

This year, the Pantry has experienced a 25% increase in local requests for food, with more than 400 families in need of this invaluable service. The average monthly cost for goods is \$7,000, the approximate value of the items collected by HDS.

The PTA thanks our HDS families and teachers for supporting this

worthy cause and commends Pam Cohen and Cara Freedman for their outstanding leadership. Special thanks to the 7th grade for the many hours they spent helping to sort and package the food items. Congratulations to all of our students and to the 1st grade for collecting the greatest number of non-perishable goods.

We would also like to express our gratitude to Andy Rose, Senior Vice President of Marketing and Communications for the Federation, and Ted Morris of Federation Transportation Services. We also thank Jeff Tholl for photographing the memorable drive.

The Forster Family Kosher Food Pantry is one of many Federation programs that provide support to community members in need. To learn about volunteer opportunities and other ways to assist with Federation initiatives, please visit the Federation website [www.jewishboca.org](http://www.jewishboca.org). For more specific information on the Forster Family Kosher Food Pantry, you can also check out [www.kosherfoodpantry.org](http://www.kosherfoodpantry.org).



Photo Credits: Jeffrey Tholl

### Corporate Fundraising Program – Rebate Report

HDS and the PTA have numerous fundraising programs created in conjunction with local and national corporate partners. We encourage you to support these vendors, who are generously giving back to our school. Most of these programs do not involve changing your shopping patterns. If you currently shop at these stores, you may already be automatically contributing back to HDS.

So far, in the 2008-2009 academic year, HDS has earned \$3,400 through our local and corporate partnerships. We expect that we can raise much more in the coming months and years by increasing the awareness of these programs within the HDS community.

#### Ongoing Programs

|                                      |         |
|--------------------------------------|---------|
| Prep Connection                      | \$1,500 |
| Box Tops/Box Tops Marketplace        | \$869   |
| Target®                              | \$294   |
| OfficeMax®/Staples Printer Recycling | \$147   |
| Albertsons®                          | \$13    |

#### Seasonal Programs

|                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Boomers/Strikes of Boca-Chol Hamoed | \$474 |
| Farmers Market-Pre-Pesach Sale      | \$105 |

**Target®'s Take Charge of Education® Program:** If you have a Target® Visa® Card, Target® Credit Card<sup>SM</sup>, Target® Check Card<sup>SM</sup> and/or eligible Target Business Card<sup>SM</sup>, please call 1-800-316-6142, log onto [Target.com/tcoe](http://Target.com/tcoe), or visit your local Target® store to designate Hillel Day School as your school of choice for the Take Charge of Education® program. HDS receives 1% of purchases made at any Target store with any of these cards and a ½% back for purchases made elsewhere using your Target Visa Card.  
**Albertsons:** HDS receives 1% of purchases made at Albertsons using your Albertsons® Community Partner Card. If you need a card, please stop by the front desk.  
**Prep Connection:** HDS receives 5% of purchases made throughout the year and 10% of purchases made during Prep Connection's annual sale in May.  
**Box Tops for Education:** HDS receives .10 cents for each Box Top label. Box Tops are found on products from hundreds of manufacturers, such as Betty Crocker, General Mills, Hefty®, Kleenex®, Ziploc®, and many more. You can find a complete list of participating products at [boxtops4education.com](http://boxtops4education.com).  
**Box Tops Marketplace:** Hillel receives varying percentages (as much as 9%) of purchases made online. Shop at over 70 stores, including Best Buy®, Lands' End, Old Navy, Oriental Trading®, The Home Depot, Sears, Walmart, and so many more of your favorites. A complete list of participating stores is available at [boxtops4education.com](http://boxtops4education.com).

The PTA commends Idit Agus for organizing special discounts for Hillel families at the Farmer's Market in March. We thank the Farmer's Market for donating a percentage of purchases to the PTA and thank all of our Hillel shoppers!

Pre-Shabbat parties in the early childhood are made complete each week with delicious Albertson's challot sponsored by the PTA. We thank Brian Deichman for his weekly delivery of the challot.

**WARDROBE WATCH**

**Millinery Madness**

The PTA's pre-Pesach hat sale, featuring hats and accessories from Puerto Fino Hats of North Miami Beach, was a tremendous hit. Hats off to Rachel Greenbaum, Simone Broide, Rhonda Epstein, and Devorah Marcus for making it such a great success. Plans are underway for Puerto Fino Hats to return for a pre-Rosh Hashanah sale. Stay tuned...

**Klipped Kippahs**

For boys who love to run, jump, and play sports, Klipped Kippahs offer two styles to choose from: the lightweight, linen, Hillel Lions Kippah or the classic, HDS, suede Kippah.

Featuring built-in clips, uniquely designed Klipped Kippahs are on sale for \$15. Supplies are limited. To order, please contact Sharon Kay at sharonakay@mac.com or 561-212-6352, or stop by the front desk. Proceeds benefit the PTA.

**Tzizit**

The PTA's recent Tzizit sale offered various styles at significantly discounted prices. Thanks to Cohen's Judaica, Cara Beim and Meira Gross for coordinating fringe benefits for HDS families.

**Uniform Dress**

A new uniform dress offers girls in grades 1-3 an adorable new style choice for the upcoming academic year. The PTA applauds Jill Rose for coordinating this uniform option, available at Prep Connection.

**Spoiled Soles**

We thank Spoiled Soles for providing special discounts to HDS families during May, while also donating a percentage of purchases to the PTA.

**HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS**



**Purim**

PTA Purim cards were a great success this year, raising over \$1,000 for Tzedakah. We are grateful to Dvora Scher for coordinating this initiative, and also thank Sharon Fein, Susan Herr, and Rina Lanner for all their hard work.

**Pesach**

How was this Pesach different for Hillel families?

While in the past, families may have scrambled to find a gift for their Seder host, this year Greta Baum arranged for beautiful discounted bouquets from Field of Flowers.

While on other days off, students had little to do, but on this Pesach they had a blast shteipe'amim (two times)—at Boomers and Strikes of Boca.

Special thanks to Greta Baum for organizing our Chol Hamoed events and to Deena Borzak, Cara Beim, Lisa Dahan, Rhonda Epstein, and Robin Noble for volunteering at Boomers and bowling.

**FUN & GAMES**

**Mah Jongg**

HDS mothers, grandmothers, and members of the broader community all enjoyed the PTA's 3rd Annual Mah Jongg event. Held February 3 at the Montoya Estates Clubhouse, the evening included multiple rounds of Mah Jongg, a scrumptious dinner and great raffle prizes. The PTA extends a winning hand to the event co-chairs, Sara Goldberg and Andrea Zucker, and to the planning committee: Vanessa Brooks, Mirta Brown, Gilah Danino, Rosa Golish, Elise Gross, Yocheved Hande, Gigi Kaminetzky, Penny Pearlman, Diane Sakethkou, and Risa Zimmerman.

**Student-Teacher Soccer Game**

The first HDS student-teacher soccer game, held on the Haar Athletic Field, was fun for all participants. Thank you to Coach Moishe Aquart for organizing, and to Aaron Rose and Jordan Brown for buying and selling candy to help raise funds for the PTA.



**Educational Pursuits**

**Drop `N Learn**

Infuse your morning with the spirit of learning. The PTA's ongoing Drop `N Learn classes will resume in the fall. Thanks to Rabbi Smolarcik, Rabbi Bar-Chaim and Liora Adler for making this program possible.

The PTA would like to thank Rabbanit Avigayil Rock for her inspiring session on The Women's Perspective on the Book of Ruth, held on April 23. We thank Liora Adler and Hindy Rubin for arranging this special class.

**Bravo Academy**

Enjoy the opportunity for your child to attend music, dance, or theater classes at Bravo Academy. By registering, you will earn \$25 for the PTA. For further information, please contact Sharon Kay at sharonakay@mac.com.

## With Praise, Thanks, & Admiration...

The PTA's new xeroxing service allows teachers to spend less time on clerical tasks and more time planning creative lessons for our students. Thank you to Aliza Ben-Shimon, Tanya Reinfeld, and Susie Siedler for the many hours they spend each week xeroxing for our teachers.

Thank you to Sharon Fein and Mirta Brown for organizing class pictures in February.

To help keep our students and teachers healthy, the PTA has placed a hand sanitizer in every classroom. Thank you to Publix for donating the hand sanitizers and to Ty Kay and Meira Gross for their help with this project.

During Jump Rope for Heart, students enjoyed the refreshing taste of ice pops sponsored by the PTA. Thank you to Stephen Schiffman for volunteering to purchase the ice pops.

Thank you to Cara Beim for setting up the PTA of Hillel Day School of Boca Raton group on Facebook. If you're on Facebook, be sure to join!

The PTA applauds Dvora Scher for coordinating the school supply sale.

Congratulations to our PTA Volunteers of the Month, whose ongoing commitment and diligence help make our many activities and initiatives possible. Feb.: Dvora Scher; March: Meira Gross; April: Greta Baum; May: Lori Landa



Thank you to everyone who has been turning in Box Tops and shopping online at Box Tops Marketplace. With your help, the PTA has raised over \$3,400.

Special congratulations to our Box Tops raffle winners and thank you to ASPACLARIA Judaica for providing them with \$10 gift certificates. Thank you to Dvorah Prince for compiling Box Tops folders and magnets for our students.

Box Tops Marketplace vendors frequently offer free shipping on orders of uniform bottoms. Save a trip to the store at no additional cost!

Do you have books at home that your child has outgrown? Are you looking for books for your child? The PTA is pleased to introduce Book Share. Parents can drop off used books on the shelves just beside the front desk or can take books from the shelves home to their children. Only .50 cents is requested when taking books. For more information, please contact Rachel Tripp at 561-843-2564 or racheltripp@comcast.net.



Remember to bring your full HDS Tzedakah boxes to Susan Herr at the front desk. To obtain a Tzedakah box, please call Ana Haar at 561-447-4586.

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



## TEACHER APPRECIATION

### Rosh Chodesh Breakfasts

The Torah teaches us that Rosh Chodesh is a mini festival, to be celebrated with the sound of trumpets and special sacrifices. Sponsoring a Rosh Chodesh breakfast is a great way to recognize HDS teachers and staff, while cultivating a joyous atmosphere.

We thank those families whose generosity made the Rosh Chodesh breakfasts possible.

- Adar: The Agami, Freedman, Gil, Kaskel, & Muller families
- Nissan: The Abady, Agami, Belizon, Epstein, Gersowsky, Griff, Linker, Muller, Reinfeld, & Rose families
- Iyar: The Agami, Griner, Gurvitch, Jason, Katz, Krawatsky, Marcus, Muller, Schandelson, Siegel, & Stadlan families

The PTA extends its gratitude to all the Rosh Chodesh Breakfast volunteers: Cara Freedman, Sharon Fein, Sandra Lilienthal, Joyce Muller, Naomi Shapiro, Naomi Abramovitz, Greta Baum, Cara Beim, Rhonda Epstein, Goldie Herman, Cheryl and Ezra Saragossi, Sara Schandelson, Susie Siedler, and Dorry Tsarfati.

The B'nei/B'not Mitzvah Fund enables parents to provide Bar/Bat Mitzvah presents that benefit tzedakah and HDS. A variety of gifts and charities are available to choose from. To learn more, please contact Jill Rose at 561-544-8866 or Libby Rombro at 561-862-0896.

Introducing a new chapter for the Birthday Book Club. Now you can celebrate your child's birthday with a gift to the class that can be used again and again. For further details, please contact Tzippi Rosen at 561-364-1416 or LRosen\_1@hotmail.com.

Recycling printer cartridges and cell phones is an easy way to help the environment and support our school. Simply drop off used printer cartridges and phones in one of the bins outside the front office. The school earns \$3 for each one. Thank you to the 5th grade, Jodi Deichman, Keith Brooks, Laura Cohen, Sharon Fein, Jodi Harris, Cheryl Saragossi, Annette Shachter, Aliza Ben-Shimon and Sara Schandelson for coordinating the recycling effort. Please ask family and friends to participate.





**Girls Soccer Team**

**By: Coach Moishe Aquart**

The Girls Soccer Team had a wonderful season. They reached the semi-finals for the first time. The team started off slow with a couple of early defeats. However, they persevered with great determination and heart, and rallied back with two pivotal wins. They eventually made the playoffs, but lost a close game to University School. The team was led by Katie Levy, Yonina Loskove and Atida Bakst. Eliana Feldan and Rebecca Linker matured as two solid goal keepers, with Susan Schiffman and Hannah Baum playing consistently well in each game. All in all the girls played, performed and developed at a remarkable level and laid the ground work for future play-off situations for the younger players. Special thanks to Coach Emily Rosenstein and Coach Talya Ovadia for their help with the HDS Soccer Program.

**From the Athletic Director: Maia Shaffer**

This year has been another exciting and forward looking year. We can be proud of the many great things we have achieved with our sports program. The Girls Soccer Team went to the semi- finals for the first time, which is an awesome achievement and something that we can build upon with the coming years. Similarly, the Girls Softball Team made the playoffs for the first time in school history. I am very excited about the future of athletics at Hillel now that we have our new gymnasium. The addition of the gym will alleviate the problems caused by the unpredictable weather in Florida. This will eliminate the surprise of a thunderstorm or cold front and allow proper planning for the elements year round for all sports. It will also provide indoor training facilities for a number of sports including volleyball, basketball, hockey, European handball, floor gymnastics, indoor soccer, badminton and fitness classes. Hillel's students will have almost everything they need right on site to help them stay fit and enjoy their chosen sport – whether they play at a social or competitive level.

As always, the Hillel athletes maintained the highest sportsmanship and team spirit. They have earned the gymnasium, and will continue to overcome and excel each and every day. I would like to thank our outstanding coaches for their hard work and dedication.



**Hillel Lions Named New Mascot**  
Middle school students voted on HDS' new athletic team name and logo. With the majority of the votes, the Hillel Lions was chosen as Hillel's new team mascot. The mascot will appear on HDS team uniforms and will also be prominently featured in our new gymnasium. Go, Lions!



**Boys Basketball Team**

**By: Coach Derrick Milton**

Injuries, new coaching, and multiple starting lineups did not hamper an enjoyable season for the Hillel Boys Basketball Team. Although the Hillel record hovered at a .500 winning percentage, that did not stop the team from enjoying the team camaraderie. During practices and games the boys displayed the utmost sportsmanship throughout the season. They conducted themselves as true gentlemen and future leaders and in the process they learned a lot about basketball from myself and Coach Baum. The best quote of the season was overhearing one student say, "I made the highest score in class today." Another warm quote was having an official with 22 years of experience say, "I am so privileged and proud to have been able to officiate this game. This game was so well played by both teams." Next season, with an off-season workout program and experienced players, Hillel should be a strong contender. The basketball and the entire athletic and social atmosphere at Hillel is one of the most professional and positive atmospheres that I've been associated with. I am so happy and lucky to be able to work with such a wonderful group of students and with such a wonderful staff including Maia Shaffer, Coach Baum, Coach Moishe and Ms. Sweet.

## Jump Rope For Heart

Jump Rope for Heart raised a total of \$6,037 (\$1,500 more than last year)! Thank you to the PTA for donating the popsicles!

And the winners are:

1st place: Emma Harris and Jacob Katz (5th graders) raised \$472.

2nd place: Rina Cohen and Daniella Wirtschafter (5th graders) raised \$315.



# HDS Happenings

## BIO BUNCH: The Many Faces of HDS Students

These 4th graders presented biographies this past January. Can you name them all? See how you score. Answers are on the back page.



Morah Gali's 5th grade and Morah Tova's 1st grade celebrated a special Shabbat that took place before Tu B'Shevat (Shabbat Shira). The students said a D'var Torah and sang while Morah Tova entertained on the accordion.



HDS students have fun at Boomers during Parent/Teacher Conferences.



The B'not Sherut serve a yummy breakfast to HDS students in honor of Rosh Chodesh.

### IN THE ART ROOM

By: Barbara Rose

Three days per week six 5th grade students, comprising the Art Squad, arrive in the art room at noon. They eat their lunch and then begin assisting with a variety of jobs essential to the maintenance of the room, including keeping supplies in order as well as preparation of materials for classes. One of the most wonderful experiences began to unfold on Thursday afternoons with the 1C class that arrives at the time these students are in the room. They developed the idea of assisting with the class. Supplies are dispensed and then assistance is given to the children at the start of the lesson. These wonderful girls not only have developed a great rapport with the 1st grade children, but have developed a fine working relationship with each other. They have truly become exemplary examples of fine behavior and true Midot. A special thanks to Eliana Loskove, Ariella Mamann, Rachelli Goldberg, Jordyn Dahan, Eden Sabag and Shara Saketkhov.



Another special group of students meets once a week in the art room after school to participate in the Top Talent Art Institute. This group includes a mix of lower and upper school students and has developed into a fascinating experience for all. We are working with a variety of materials, both two- and three-dimensional. The upper school students voluntarily joined forces with the lower school

students, sharing table space. They all work together to create; there is a continuous exchange of dialogue between the different age groups that involves the decision-making process. The seriousness of the group is wonderful to behold. A special congratulations on their achievements goes to: Eva Markowitz (1st grade), Rebecca Wirtschafter, Daniela Kestenbaum and Moriya Berman (2nd grade), and Gabi Englander and Paulette Hartman (3rd grade). Students from the upper school include Rachelli Goldberg and Shara Saketkhov (5th grade), Cheri Landa (6th grade), Daniel Amsalem (7th grade), and Jeffrey Herr and Joshua Firestone (8th grade). We are proud of Joshua's achievement in the development of the new KAR<sup>2</sup>E logo as one of the projects of the Institute. Cheri and Jeffrey were also original members and have contributed much to help create a very giving environment.

The art classes continue to develop the card designs for the Jewish holidays and truly look forward to the experience. The 5th grade students completed a project of art from recycled materials as part of their recycling experience, supervised by Mrs. Deichman. During the course of the year, all classes complete projects that are related to their academic work in some way. The Kindergarten classes are now working on parts of their stage set for their graduation.

# HDS Happenings

## HDS EMET CLUB WINNERS

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

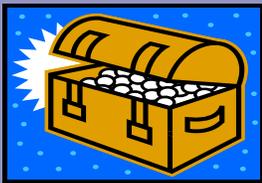
### KINDERGARTEN

- |                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Leora Bakst       | Aidan Kaner        |
| Rena Bensmihen    | Aryeh Kovack       |
| Liron Ben-Zikry   | Dovid Lanner       |
| Diana Brizel      | Aden Light         |
| Eliana Broide     | Alex Lurie         |
| Jo-Jo Cohen       | David Matheson     |
| Sam Cohen         | Ashira Meyerowitz  |
| Zachary Cohen     | Dalya Pickholtz    |
| Shmuel Eisen      | Netanel Rosen      |
| Yosef Fruhman     | Yosef Scher        |
| Hadass Gerlitz    | Aleksandra Shapiro |
| Ruth Glaun        | Talya Shapiro      |
| Ariella Gross     | Yarden Shneur      |
| Tani Gross        | Eitan Snir         |
| Yonina Kaminetzky | Chani Stark        |

### LOWER SCHOOL

- |                   |                      |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| Max Abramovitz    | Marci Hartman        |
| Shaina Agami      | Donny Jacob          |
| Joshua Bakst      | Azarya Jason         |
| Shmuel Belizon    | Daniella Kaminetzky  |
| Noa Ben-Zikry     | Shmuly Kaskel        |
| Noah Bernten      | Gabriella Katz       |
| Noffiya Brooks    | Pearl Katz           |
| Odelia Citron     | Shimi Kazinec        |
| Eliana Cohen      | David Kennedy        |
| Danielle Dahan    | Tani Loskove         |
| Asher Eisen       | Elinor Lugassy       |
| Gabi Englander    | Justin Lurie         |
| Eric Factor       | Shoshana Marcus      |
| Daniel Feldan     | Corey Reichenberg    |
| Avinoam Freedman  | Yakirah Rosen        |
| Noah Gabor        | Akiva Rosenthal      |
| Batsheva Gil      | Malya Sacher         |
| Atara Goldberg    | Yael Sacher          |
| Ariella Gomberg   | Mayrav Saketkhou     |
| Sarah Dina Green  | Lauren Schechter     |
| Talia Gritzman    | Ashley Schiffman     |
| Ayelet Gross      | Isaac Shapiro        |
| Brian Gross       | Akiva Stadlan        |
| Daniel Gross      | Simcha Stadian       |
| Shmuel Gross      | Aaron Stoller        |
| Benjamin Gurvitch | Jonah Tripp          |
| Eden Haber        | Rebecca Wirtschafter |
|                   | Tequila Zaghi        |

**MAZAL TOV  
TO  
ALL OF THE  
WINNERS!**



We regret any names that were omitted due to printing deadlines.

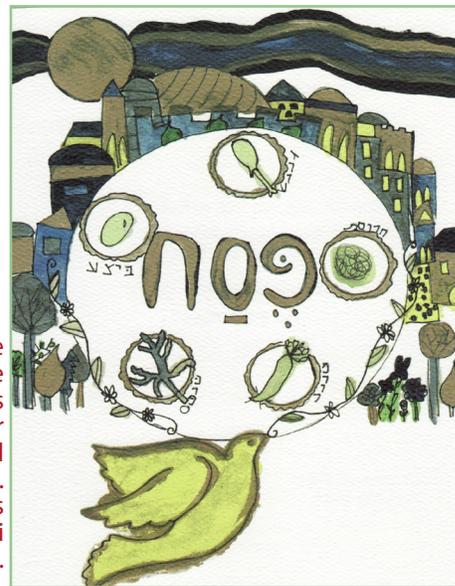
Project Chavruta: Learning Together as Partners. This year Rabbi Ovadia's 4th grade students took it upon themselves to learn a Midah each month with the 1st grade students of Morah Elisheva and Morah Tova. This program is exciting and successful as the students loved working together. In the past, students learned about Lashon Tov (proper speech) and Gevurah (strength, self-control). In honor of Tu B'Shevat, the students learned about giving to others and the 4th graders prepared a short skit and activity to send this message.



8th graders and 3rd graders participated in sports together on the fields through a KAR<sup>2</sup>E program.



Winners of the Project Ale"n were awarded their prizes at an assembly for students in 2nd through 5th grades. This program was coordinated by Rabbi Gabi and Tzippy Snir.



Congratulations to Hannah Katz, winner of the Holiday Card Design Competition, for her Passover Card design.

The competition is a program of the HDS Art Department (winning design pictured left).

To read more about the Art Department, see page 11.

### Tu B'Shevat at HDS



## HDS Happenings



**Yom Hashoah. We Remember.**

Tzirel Levine, mother of Rabbi Samuel J. Levine, spoke at HDS on Yom Hashoah. The story of her journey held a captive audience of both students and faculty.



Vehicles participating in this year's Transportation Day included a fire truck/paramedic, Magen David Adom Ambulance, sheriff patrol car, police horses, S.W.A.T. Team, motorcycle, Smartcar, FP&L and a Publix Truck. Thank you to Elaine Aiken for coordinating this event.



### ETGAR Update

By: Morgan Comart and Beth Janock, Secular ETGAR Teachers

The Secular ETGAR students love literature and writing. All of our children devoured their classic novels this year. Each student read a Newberry Award-winning novel and completed complementary activities that include literary devices, summaries, vocabulary and comprehension. The final project involved a related writing assignment. Our students approached each novel with great anticipation. This year, reading has clearly become a highlight as well as a joy in their lives.

Writing weekly current events also became a major component of the ETGAR Program this year. The students searched, read and summarized articles. The students' interests reflected newsworthy items related to social studies, science, technology, government and more. Their excitement in learning was further evident as the students shared their findings while acting as their own ETGAR news reporters.

We are very proud of all of our students and pleased with their continuing enthusiasm, development of writing skills and enjoyment of reading.



7th Annual Authors' Tea



# HDS Happenings

## HDS Yom Ha'atzmaut Celebration on April 28.



## Adventures in Rabbi Shai's 4th Grade



Students learn about the 10 plagues and then play a game related to each one.



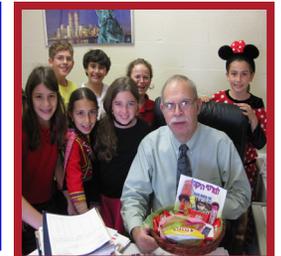
Groovy! All dressed up for the 70's-themed Purim party at BRS.



## Mizner Park Celebration on April 29



Students molded their own masks for Purim.



Students make and give Mishlach Manot to the administrative staff during Purim.



An inspiring visit to the Menorah House included singing, dancing and fun for the students as well as the residents.

## Golf Tournament in Review

And the winners are...

### 1st Place Gross

Howard DuBosar  
Jared DuBosar  
Harrison DuBosar  
Scott Lamparello

### 2nd Place Net

Rob Levy  
Hap Levy  
Howard Gottlieb  
Harvey Geller

### Closest to the Pin:

Howard Gottlieb

### 1st Place Net

Rabbi Seth Grossman  
Yakov Lyons  
Frank Tabins  
Bob Tilsner

### Longest Drive:

Jeffrey Wilens

### Putting Contest:

Jeffrey Wilens

Congratulations to all of the winners and thank you to all of our sponsors, participants and volunteers! The golf tournament raised over \$60,000.



March 30, 2009 - Stonebridge Country Club  
Photo credits: Caroline Katz



### 2nd Place Gross

Rabbi Efreim Goldberg  
Joey Loskove  
Jeffrey Wilens  
Steven Cohen

### Raffle Winners

Grand Prize (\$1500 cash): Larry Pomeranz  
  
Omni ChampionsGate Resort Weekend Stay:  
Chayim & Michele Dimont

HDS parents, faculty and board members volunteered at the Federation's Super Sunday. Hillel Day School is a beneficiary agency of the Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County.



## EVERY PARENT CAMPAIGN

We are pleased to report that this year's Every Parent Campaign (EPC) Phone-a-thon raised a total of \$2,701, compared to last year's \$2,097.

Thank you to Libby Rombro, EPC Chair, for coordinating the Phone-a-thon. Also thank you to this year's parent volunteers: Cara Beim, Deborah Eisen, Cara Freedman, Dvora Prince, Diane Saketkhou and Melinda Tansman. We could not have done it without your help!

And to those of you who have participated in our EPC with a contribution to the Hillel Annual Fund Campaign, we thank you for your support.

To date, 160 Hillel families have contributed to the Hillel Annual Fund raising a total of \$366,192. This is a great accomplishment, particularly during these difficult and uncertain times. Every child at Hillel will benefit from your generosity.

In addition, we continue to solicit and receive support from grandparents and community members who choose to support Torah education. To date, the Annual Campaign has raised \$503,672. Thank you for your continued support of Jewish Education and the future of our children.

It is not too late to be part of the campaign if you have not yet contributed! Please contact Suzanne Rice at [suzanner@hilleldayschool.org](mailto:suzanner@hilleldayschool.org) or by phone at 561-470-5000.

## Annual Event Raises \$325,000 for Jewish Education

With a record 275 in attendance, Hillel Day School of Boca Raton raised \$325,000 at its Annual Journal Event held at Congregation B'nai Israel this past January. As its major fundraiser of the year, the event is held annually to pay tribute to deserving community members and to raise funds for Jewish education via the ad journal. Details of this event will be included in this summer's *Annual Report*.



**Publix**  
WHERE SHOPPING IS A PLEASURE

Hillel Day School gratefully acknowledges Publix Super Markets for donating hand sanitizer to the school.



Benjamin Gurvitch, 5th grade, inserts his classmates' notes at the Kotel.

Students in the 3rd and 5th grades of Rabbi Gabi and Morah Gali, learn a D'var Torah together in preparation for Shabbat.



Answers to Bio Bunch Quiz (from page 11):  
1) Hakeem Olajuwon, 2) Ray Charles, 3) Louisa May Alcott, 4) Lucille Ball, 5) Amelia Earhart, 6) Neil Armstrong, 7) Benjamin Franklin, 8) Leonardo da Vinci, 9) Florence Nightingale, 10) Harry Potter, 11) Elie Wiesel, 12) Anne Frank, 13) Harry Houdini, 14) Tiger Woods, 15) Bill Gates. How did you score?



David New and his guide dog "Mikey" visited the 2nd and 5th grades. He showed students many gadgets that he uses to help him with his blindness.



Head of School Rabbi Samuel J. Levine prepares to shoot the inaugural basket in the new gymnasium.

### Congratulations, Teachers of the Month



Morah Lauren Glaun February 2009



Ms. Jessica DiGiulio May 2009

Students in Mrs. Deichman's class weighed bags of snack waste from the lower school classrooms in hopes of seeing a reduction in snack waste during Green Week.



The 5th grade honored Rabbi Samuel J. Levine by presenting him with a card acknowledging the wonderful work that Hillel Day School does.

## Sea-Camp



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](mailto:suzanner@hilleldayschool.org).

The *Hillel Herald* is also available on [www.edline.net](http://www.edline.net).

Log on to review the library.

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JEWISH FEDERATION of South Palm Beach County

Accredited by the NAEYC Academy for Early Childhood Program Accreditation



SACSCASI Southern Association of Colleges and Schools



TORAH UMESORAH National Association of Hebrew Day Schools