

# The Hillel Herald



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Hillel Day School of Boca Raton

Home of the Hillel Lions

Fall 2009/5770

Vol. III ~ Issue No. 1

## Shana Tova

# 5770!

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

**Back to School Issue**



*Congratulations to Vida Romano, winner of the Rosh Hashana Card Design Competition (pictured below).*



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



Dear Parents,

I am pleased to share results of our school survey conducted at the end of last year. The survey yielded significant results both in terms of information about how parents view the school institutionally, as well as how satisfied parents are with the education their children are receiving at Hillel Day School.

On a Likert Scale of 1-5 (1=Strongly Disagree/5=Strongly Agree) School Climate received high grades from parents. From all divisions of the school (ECE, Lower School and Middle School) parents strongly agreed (average score 4.23) that:

- Parents feel welcome in the school
- Families feel accepted in the school community
- Parents feel comfortable with administration and find administration readily available to parents
- Student interactions with teachers are positive
- The school promotes home/school communication.

Parents indicated that they either strongly agree or agree with the statement, "Our school is doing a good job in the following area" "Strongly Agree" range (average score 4.24):

- All academic areas in the Early Childhood Program
- In the Lower School: Chumash, Navi, Ivrit, Language, Math and PE
- In the Upper School: Chumash, Navi, Toshba, Language and Science

And "Agree" range (average score 3.88):

- Math, Social Studies, Art and Computers in the Lower School
- Math, Physical Education and Ivrit in the Upper School

Falling in the agree range but achieving somewhat lower ratings from parents were Lower School Science (3.51) and Middle School Social Studies (3.62).

The lowest score on the survey was given to parental satisfaction with our Middle School building (3.10).

Parents also rated Midot education lower (average score 3.65) than other curricular areas.

**Midot education by its very nature, however, is a shared responsibility between home and school.** The school, therefore, seeks input to help clarify what areas of Midot parents perceive as being problematic. After the chagim, parents will be asked to complete a questionnaire dedicated to midot education only. In this way the school can gather information that will help both home and school more precisely focus on ways to improve Midot.

As we formulate plans to identify the issues involved, the school is already implementing an enhanced program of Midot education. In the ECE and Lower School a new curriculum is providing students with bi-weekly lessons, classroom projects and talking points for parents, to allow both home and school to be proactive in teaching Midot. In the Upper School the entire year has been mapped out to provide students lessons, activities and educational programs that will keep Midot instruction on the "front burner" of our educational consciousness. The notion of catching students when they are being good also is aggressively being pursued. Students are now recognized for having proper Midot in many ways including being featured on our new message board and through Nachat Notes that are e-mailed to parents, informing them of their children's outstanding acts of Chesed.

The survey provides the administration of Hillel Day School with a baseline of data that will enable school improvement initiatives to be data driven. Progress in areas deemed to need improvement will be measured against the data provided by this initial survey. We thank those parents who took the time to complete and submit the survey.

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.

## New Faculty & Staff

### Meet HDS' new faculty and staff...



**Naomi Amitay** joins HDS as the EC2-B lead teacher. Born in Suffern, NY, Naomi is a newcomer to south Florida as she recently moved here with her husband Menashe and their four children: Yaakov (3), Mushkie (3), Mendel (2) and Isaac (6 months).



**Bracha Doch** is one of the 2nd grade Judaics teacher. She was born in New York and has one child, Yisrael Saadia, 1<sup>1/2</sup> years old. We welcome Bracha to our staff and know she will help instill Jewish values in our children.



**Rabbi Yaakov Drang** teaches 5th grade Judaics and is excited about informing children about their heritage. This Jewish heritage includes the intricate details of our Torah and character development. He wants children to love their Judaism, and strives to develop close bonds with them. Rabbi Drang was

born in Brooklyn, NY, and has 3 children with his wife Chavie: Rachey Ita (5), Rephael Simcha (2) and Miriam Orah (5 months). He is named after his grandfather, a Chassidic cantor, and he loves singing Chassidic Shabbos Zemirot and playing the guitar Shlomo Carlbach style.



**Alicia Lavoie** teaches 2-A and 2-C secular classes, as well as coaches the Girls Volleyball team. She was born in Coventry, RI, and has a 6-year-old niece and a 3-year-old nephew.



**Elana Mordechai** is no stranger to HDS as she moves from being a substitute teacher joining us as the EC2-A lead teacher. She was born in Tel Aviv, and has 3 children: Chen (25), Reute (20) and Karene (16). Elana loves working with children and spends her free time relaxing at the beach, reading, running, biking and swimming.



**Kathie Yuz** is a Technology Integration Specialist who is currently working with Hillel Day School, Donna Klein Jewish Academy and Weinbaum Yeshiva High School. She is the "shared" Technology Integration Specialist who will assist the teachers in implementing technology into the classroom and searching for resources. In addition, Kathie will be researching grants for professional development, hardware and software. She has a son, Joel, and two granddaughters, Samantha (8) and Jordan (14), as well as a stepdaughter, Caryn, and two other granddaughters Gracie (3) and Jamie (1). For the past 22 years she has worked with CAJE-Miami as the Associate Director Day School Department and Technology Coordinator for the Jewish Day Schools of South Florida. See the article on page 9 to learn more about the project she is working on for HDS.

Thank you to **Ellen Stein**, who was the 2nd grade interim substitute teacher. We wish her well in her future endeavors and welcome back **Ms. Cindy Zemel**.

### Special Thanks to Our PTA

We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to Sharona Kay, PTA president, and the entire PTA for their ongoing support of our students and school. In just the past few months, the PTA has contributed \$10,000 towards a new Middle School classroom and also purchased \$4,000 in equipment for the new gym. The PTA also provided \$850 for the purchase and installation of a TV monitor in the annex. The monitor is an essential tool in the school's effort to emphasize Midot education. Messages highlighting acts of Chesed on the part of students as well as important information and lessons relating to daily observances, historical occurrences and Torah values, are featured all day long. Between classes, students stop to read the information featured, a visual reminder of the important lessons taught in our classrooms.

The PTA also provides challot for Erev Shabbat observances and also helps our faculty by providing xeroxing services for teachers. They also hosted the "Welcome Back Breakfast" for faculty and staff in September. The PTA provided students with Rosh Hashana treats and also arranged for our faculty and staff to receive flu shots here in school.

Our PTA constantly demonstrates its commitment to our students and school. We thank our PTA members for all they do.

# Meet the B'not Sherut



If anyone would like to host the girls for Shabbat or Yom Tov meals during the year, please contact Elisheva Levitt at (561) 393-7607.



**Odeya Harush** was born in Jerusalem, and she has 4 sisters. Last year she was a Bat Sherut Leumi in the Bet Elazraki Children's Home in Netanya. She loves to travel throughout Israel and enjoys playing the piano.



**Tehila Magenheim** was born in Argentina and has 4 brothers and 1 sister. Last year she was a Bat Sherut Leumi in Kiryat-Shemona. She made Aliya to Israel when she was 5 years old. Tehila enjoys cooking in her spare time.



Rabbi Efreim Goldberg, Marah D'Atrah of Boca Raton Synagogue, addresses HDS students after davening.



Morah Tova and 2nd graders prepare for Shabbat.



The B'not Sherut put on a play for Lower School about Rosh Hashana.



Rabbi Shai Ovadia demonstrates blowing Shofrot of various sizes.



Each morning the Shofar is blown throughout HDS. Rabbi Yaakov Drang blows the Shofar for students on the second floor after Morah Hadassah tells the children a meaningful story.



Did you remember to say, "good morning," to your teacher? Do you know what happened today in Jewish history? Can you figure out today's math puzzler? Make sure to give everyone the benefit of the doubt. Just stand in the Middle School hallway and stare up. On the brand new KAR<sup>2</sup>E monitor, generously sponsored by the PTA, you are bound to see these questions, reminders and many similar items that help keep our students focused on KAR<sup>2</sup>E (Kindness Always, Respect and Responsibility Everywhere) and generate excitement about their Middle School experience.

This enhancement is only one of many that have been instituted this year in the Upper School. A new attendance system with identification cards has streamlined the attendance process and has given students a greater sense of responsibility and maturity. Rabbi Mordechai Smolarcik has greatly improved the KAR<sup>2</sup>E program, making it "cooler" than ever and has also taken on the role of Religious Guidance for individual students.

Mr. Dan Katz, President of the Board of Trustees, delivers a "Mentch Message" once a week after Tefillah encouraging our students to behave in ways that enable them to truly be an *ohr lagoyim* – a light unto the nations. The 8th grade is taking U.S. history as a virtual course through Florida Virtual School. This cutting edge program will engage our students as never before and will even provide opportunities to delve into other high level courses. Many of our Sephardic students took the initiative to start their own Sephardic minyan that convenes once a week.



Alan Veingrad

Creative, inspiring programs have become synonymous with the HDS experience. Rabbi Goldberg of BRS, Rabbi Gibber of Ohev Shalom and Mr. Alan Veingrad, former Super Bowl winner with the Dallas Cowboys and now an observant Jew, all addressed our students about the Yamim Noraim – the High Holidays.



Gina Cayne shows students her husband's American Express card that was found at Ground Zero.

On September 11, Mrs. Vine, our Math Department Chair, brought in her sister who told her tragic, yet inspiring, story of losing her husband that day (9/11) and how she turned that experience into one that has brought good to the world.

A new student council has been elected. The 5th graders have, once again, taken the lead in environmental education at school. They even had an in-class field trip where they made paper from recycled materials. Our first ever, Middle School-wide Simchat Beit Hashoeva (Sukkot party) took place in the BRS Sukkah. Numerous other programs are already planned to bring more energy and growth to the school and to complement our outstanding academic program.

With the help of Hashem, the learning and excitement that has permeated the Upper School during the first weeks of school will continue throughout the year.

## KAR<sup>2</sup>E Kolumn

By: Rabbi Mordechai Smolarcik, KAR<sup>2</sup>E Coordinator

The KAR<sup>2</sup>E program in the Middle School has gotten off to a great start this year. For those of you who are new to Middle School, KAR<sup>2</sup>E stands for Kindness Always, Respect and Responsibility Everywhere and is Hillel Day School's attempt to promote positive values and behavior in all aspects of our students' lives.

Toward the end of last year a committee of teachers and administrators sat together to define specific values and character traits that we felt were deficient in most pre-teens. That list includes such concepts as giving others the benefit of the doubt, looking out for fellow students who are not always included in out-of-school activities and feeling and showing Jewish pride in and out of school. Each month we will be presenting a different KAR<sup>2</sup>E theme based on dealing with the issues on the list.

Since the High Holy Days have just passed, this month's KAR<sup>2</sup>E theme is about judging others favorably. It is our hope that through ongoing in-school interventions that students will be able to master this trait in their everyday lives. The interventions include theme-related interactive activities and reminders on our new video monitor which is on throughout the day in the Middle School annex. A huge thanks to the PTA for funding the video equipment used to get the KAR<sup>2</sup>E and other educational lessons out to students in a modern and exciting way. Another way that the students interact with KAR<sup>2</sup>E is the use of our Web site ([www.ikar2e.org](http://www.ikar2e.org)) where they can review the monthly theme, report their fellow students who have behaved in a particularly KAR<sup>2</sup>Eing fashion and anonymously express any cares or concerns that they may have. Please encourage your children to make use of this important tool.

I am also pleased to announce that Rabbi Nachum Zak, the new NCSY Regional Director, and Rabbi Todd Cohen, the new BRS Teen director and NCSY Assistant Regional Director, have offered to serve as consultants to our KAR<sup>2</sup>E program. They are both renowned throughout the world of informal education as talented and highly creative individuals who will bring a new level of excitement to the program.

Shortly, we will be asking you, the parents, to get involved in this process as well by providing you with a monthly newsletter entitled, "Are You Talking to Me?" The newsletter will include a moral dilemma based on the monthly theme that you can use to trigger a discussion with your children. It will also include various Torah sources that you can review with your children about the theme. We are certain that a combination of in-school and at-home interventions will produce Hillel students who display kindness, respect and responsibility--always and everywhere.



Dear Parents,

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone back from what was hopefully a restful and relaxing summer vacation. It has been such a pleasure to hear the sounds of learning flowing through our classrooms and hallways. The children seem to have transitioned back to school with joy and ease!

One of the highlights of this school year has been the new mathematics curriculum we have incorporated into 1st through 3rd grades. We have adopted the Macmillan mathematics curriculum because it focuses on differentiated instruction, which allows children to work at levels that meet their individual, educational needs. Being able to learn at their own skill levels will only be an asset when it comes to comprehension of new math concepts, and we look forward to seeing your children's success as the year progresses.

**Back to School Camp was Cool!**



Parents are reminded to keep an ongoing dialogue regarding school with their children. Keeping the lines of communication open with your children and their teachers can only help maximize our children's education. By contacting teachers with notes on homework sheets, or by e-mailing or dropping a line using their voicemail extensions, teachers can stay up-to-date with any parental concerns or questions.

For Judaics subjects, I'd also like to encourage students to continue to review their Chumash lessons, and read, read, read. Nightly reading only adds to their fluency and comprehension levels. For the younger children, reading to them every night

also works in a positive way, giving them a jumpstart to pre-reading! A new component to the year is Edline, which gives easy access to classroom weekly wrap-ups and updates. We hope you will find it useful when talking about the week with your children.

Additionally, we will be featuring pictures online. On or about Rosh Chodesh we will be sending home pictures to parents so that they can get a unique perspective into their child's life during the school day.

I want to wish everyone a happy and healthy school year.

Please know my door is always open for any concerns or feedback!



Special thanks to **Drs. Jeffrey and Naomi Gross** and **Dr. Meyer and Laura Cohen** for sponsoring the *KidSafe Program* for 1st graders.

This program teaches children important lessons about safety and could not have been possible without their support.

If you would like to sponsor a future program, please contact Chayim Dimont or the Development Office at 561-470-5000.



**Hangin' out with EC2B on the playground.**

**Welcome Kindergartners!**



**The 4th graders taught the 1st graders in one-on-one learning about Loshon Hara and then performed a skit.**

## P.T.A.

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

The PTA thanks **Liora Adler** and **Lisa Houben** for organizing this year's PTA New Mothers Brunch. Over 30 women gathered at the Houben home for a delicious breakfast, mingling with old and new friends, and getting a chance to learn more about the role of the PTA and exciting volunteer opportunities.

Staying connected with your friends at HDS has never been easier, thanks to the new *Hillel Hello Pages*. In addition to home address and phone information for every HDS family, the revamped school directory features birthday lists, class lists, e-mail addresses, cell phone numbers, and useful advertisements. The PTA extends a heartfelt thank you to our editorial and layout editors, **Michele Dimont** and **Deena Lurie**, and also commends **Dvora Scher** on leading an incredible advertising effort. Special thanks also to the following individuals whose time and dedication helped make the publication possible: **Vanessa Brooks, Orlie Cohen, Chayim Dimont, Meira Gross, Jill Kaminetzky, Caroline Katz, Sharona Kay, Sandra and Yael Lilienthal, Devorah Marcus, Gail Marcus, Suzanne Rice, Sabrina Romano, Sara Smolensky, Phyllis Struhl, and Andrea Zucker.**

The PTA's xeroxing service allows teachers to spend less time on administrative tasks and more time planning creative lessons for our students. Thank you to **Aliza Ben-Shimon, Dvora Eisen** and **Tammy Pickholtz** for the many hours they spend each week xeroxing for our teachers.

The PTA applauds **Dvora Scher** for all her hard work coordinating our Annual School Supply Sale and overseeing the distribution of supplies to our students, and for coordinating the Annual Rosh Hashana Card Sale.

The PTA thanks **Naomi Abramovitz** for assembling the PTA summer packet.

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.

The PTA thanks **Rabbi Mordechai Smolarcik, Rabbi Barak Bar-Chaim, and Rabbi Yaakov Gibber** for their inspirational pre-Rosh Hashana classes. Thank you to **Rachel Greenbaum** for arranging PTA adult education classes on an ongoing basis.

At the start of the new school year, teachers enjoyed a special welcome back breakfast, complete with delicious bagels and spreads and healthy food choices. The PTA thanks the **Abady, Andron, Bierly, Borzak, (Eli and Orlie) Cohen, (Coco and Pam) Cohen, Fein, (Benjamin and Cara) Freedman, Friedlander, Friedman, Haar, Hollander, Kay, (Michael and Judy) Rubin, Scher, Siedler, Smolensky, Struhl and Tokayer** families for sponsoring this event in honor of our EC3 and 2nd grade teachers. We also thank **Cara Beim, Chavi and Miriam Drang, Cheryl Saragossi, and Susan Siedler** for their help organizing, shopping, setting up and cleaning up.

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



What better way to start off the new school year than to gather with family, friends and teachers on a Sunday (or should we say sundae?). On August 23, parents and students gathered in the cafetorium for the Annual PTA Ice Cream Social, excited to reunite with friends, meet teachers and staff, and, importantly, welcome new families to HDS. What a beautiful sight to see all the



children enter with happy faces and warm smiles as they greeted their old friends and made new ones. The PTA thanks Chuck from our neighborhood Carvel store on Glades Road for generously donating the ice cream and toppings.

The PTA applauds **Sabrina Romano** and **Rachel Yudewitz** for whipping up this exciting event.



Sabrina, Rachel and the PTA personally thank all the volunteers who helped make the Ice Cream Social possible: **Cara Beim, Donna and Benji Tripp, Uri Yudewitz, Joshua Fein, Yitzchak Kaminetsky, Tani Kay, Rebecca Muller, Vida Romano, and Elyse and Kaylee Tripp.**

### PTA First-Ever Tennis Tournament



The PTA's first-ever tennis tournament served up hours of fun for HDS moms. Held at the Country Club at Boca Raton in June, the event welcomed players of all skill levels.

Twelve HDS women participated in round robin-style games under the guidance of Tennis Director Art Snow and tennis pro Marius Copos. Between sets, the players enjoyed a delicious lunch catered by European Café. The day also included a raffle, with great prizes such as a free tennis lesson with Art Snow, a brand new racquet, a round of golf for four, and laser hair removal sessions with **Dr. Rebecca Stern**, who was the second place winner of our tournament. We congratulate Dr. Stern, as well as our first place winner, **Rozanne Kadish**, and third place winner, **Mirta Brown**.

The PTA thanks **Mirta Brown** and **Libby Rombro** for coordinating the tournament and is grateful to all of our participants, who helped raise \$1,200 for HDS. Also, thank you to **Caroline Katz**, who photographed the event.

### Ski Trip 2010



Where does the sun shine 274 days of the year and annual snowfall reach over 420 inches? Lake Tahoe, Nevada, where HDS families can spend the January 24-31 vacation by joining Vista Travel's Glatt Kosher Ski Trip.

Enjoy spectacular skiing, snowmobiling, cross country, and picturesque scenery, as well as scrumptious cuisine and luxurious accommodations. Five- and seven-

day family packages are available. Vista Travel will make a donation to the PTA for every family that joins this exciting winter adventure. For pricing and other information, please call Hillel parent, Jay Bernten, at 800-829-5874 or check out [www.SkiKosher.com](http://www.SkiKosher.com).

**Congratulations to our PTA Volunteers of the Month, whose ongoing commitment and diligence help make our many activities and initiatives possible.**

**July: Naomi Abramovitz  
August: Orlie Cohen**

## Spring Cleaning Turns out Big Profit at First-Ever PTA Garage Sale

By: *Orlie Cohen*



“Build it and they will come.” This phrase rings true for the first-ever PTA Garage Sale, which, after months of preparation, transformed the HDS Loewenstern Cafetorium into a bustling shopping venue—and the site of one of the most successful events in PTA history.

Shoppers piled into the August 9th sale from all walks of life, raising an estimated \$2,500 in sales for our school. Responding to popular demand, the PTA decided to re-open the sale on August 16, yielding nearly another \$1,500 in profits for HDS.

But the success of the garage sale can be measured by far more than its fundraising achievement. This event highlighted the devotion and unity of HDS parents, students, faculty and administrators.

“Beyond the money raised, the garage sale reflected an amazing level of commitment from our many volunteers and brought joy to highly satisfied shoppers who received incredible bargains,” said PTA President **Sharona Kay**.



Even before the doors opened on the sale dates, eager attendees peered through the door windows excited by the endless array of children and adult clothing, books, DVDs, electronics, housewares, shoes, toys and much more. HDS school uniforms could also be found at significantly discounted prices. Once inside, attendees also enjoyed delicious pizza, snacks and drinks from **What-a-Pizza**. It was hard to believe that this busy scene started with a thought from one HDS parent. Inspired by routine Pesach spring cleaning, **Rachel Greenbaum** was determined to find a constructive use for the many items that typically get tossed away, or for which it can be challenging to find an appropriate new home. Seeing the commitment of HDS families to our school, Rachel was confident that with hard work, a garage sale would be a great way to ensure a productive use for these items—and at the same time raise funds for HDS.



She began to make this vision a reality, forming a committee of parent volunteers. However, the planning process posed several obstacles. Would enough people donate usable items? What types of items would be accepted? Where would donations be stored? What would be a suitable venue for the event? What marketing approach should be employed to publicize the sale? How would item pricing be determined?

“The garage sale entailed even more work than we expected,” explained **Sharona Kay**. “But eager volunteers enjoyed this exciting opportunity to make new friends and help out our school.”

The pieces began to fall into place when Head of School **Rabbi Samuel J. Levine** enthusiastically endorsed the idea and suggested that the sale be held in the HDS Loewenstern Cafetorium, which remains vacant throughout the summer. In the meantime, through Internet research and networking, committee members researched ways to price, arrange and host a garage sale. They determined that opening the sale to the public would have a positive impact on its success—and they were right. In the days preceding the event, ads were placed in the *Sun-Sentinel*, *Palm Beach Post*, and online Web sites. The response was remarkable.

Item donations piled in throughout the summer from families eager to support this cause. Parents and students volunteered weekly to sort, organize and price the items collected. From start to finish, over 50 families helped with this event.

The end of the garage sale did not mean that the benefits of months of hard work were over. A portion of the merchandise that remained after the sale was donated to the thrift shop at the Shirley H. Gould House on the Federation campus. We thank **Shlomi Lugassy** of Express Moving for helping to transport and store the remainder of the items.

This first HDS garage sale would not have been a success without all of your donations and help from all of our volunteers. Thank you!

*The PTA's first-ever garage sale raised nearly \$4,000 for HDS, thanks to a united effort by parents, students, administrators, teachers and the broader community. The PTA expresses extreme gratitude to our co-coordinators, **Orlie Cohen** and **Rachel Greenbaum**, and to all the volunteers who worked diligently on this incredibly successful event.*

### Millinery Madness

The PTA's pre-holiday hat sales, featuring hats and accessories from Greta Baum and Puerto Fino Hats of North Miami Beach, were a tremendous hit. Hats off to **Greta Baum**, **Rachel Greenbaum**, and **Simone Broide** for coordinating the sales and making them such a great success.

The PTA also expresses its gratitude to the Boca Raton Mikvah and Torah Academy of Boca Raton for joining us in hosting a one-stop shopping event at the Boca Raton Synagogue on September 13, during which one of our hat sales took place. We look forward to future opportunities to plan events with these important institutions of our community.

Do you find it hard to select the perfect Bar or Bat Mitzvah gift? The B'nei/B'not Mitzvah Fund enables parents to provide Bar/Bat Mitzvah presents that benefit Tzedakah and HDS. That means you save time on shopping and have the opportunity to support a valuable cause. A variety of gifts are available to choose from, and you can designate any of several charities as the recipient of your donation. To learn more, please contact Libby Rombro at 561-862-0896 or Liz Stadlan at 561-362-8604.

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. Do you have books at home that your child has

outgrown? Are you looking for books that are more appropriate for your child's reading level? 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. A small donation 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.

# HDS Happenings

## HDS EMET CLUB WINNERS

**E**xcellent LOWER SCHOOL  
**E**midot  
**E**very  
**T**ime

- |                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Lizzy Adler      | Ashira Meyerowitz |
| Asher Bejar      | Avi Muller        |
| Isabelle Bersson | Ruth Nadav        |
| Shai Deichman    | Franki Noble      |
| Tani Englander   | Yosef Scher       |
| Shoshana Epstein | David Skoczylas   |
| Yaniv Fixler     | Izak Stern        |
| Yitzi Greenbaum  | Aaron Stoller     |
| Mia Hahn         | Aerin Tripp       |
| Yanky Kahan      | Yonatan Yudewitz  |
| Chana Kaminetsky | Gilli Zamosh      |
| Devorah Lome     | Yahel Zamosh      |

### UPPER SCHOOL

- |                 |                      |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| Asher Eisen     | Alexandra Kestenbaum |
| Pamela Gurvitch | Jason Mizrahi        |
| Ty Kay          | Jonah Rose           |

**Mazal Tov to all of the winners!**



**President/Vice President**  
Lilly Katz/Daniel Mizrahi



**Treasurer**  
Mollie Markowitz



**Secretary**  
Shara Saketkhou

### Student Council Officers 2009-2010

**8th Grade Home Room Representatives**  
**Jonathan Kennedy**  
**Ari Mazor**  
**Avi Schneider**

**7th Grade Home Room Representatives**  
**Claire Abramovitz**  
**Moshe Markowitz**

**6th Grade Home Room Representatives**  
**Maya Borzak**  
**Simcha Stadlan**

**Mazal Tov to the winners and thanks to everyone who ran for office.**



Boca Raton Community Hospital thanks our children for the hand-made Rosh Hashana cards (above).



The students of the 5th grade participated in an in-school field trip about recycling.

Community outreach representatives of the Solid Waste Authority facilitated the classroom presentation where students viewed an on-line tour of the recycling and garbage facilities and took part in the recycled paper process.

Students left the field trip with a memento – a piece of recycled paper made by themselves - not to mention an appreciation for the importance of recycling and Tikkun Olam.

## HDS Happenings

### New Parent Orientation



New parents received a warm welcome to HDS at the annual New Parent Orientation. Held on August 24 in the science lab, the event offered the opportunity to meet and mingle with administrators, Board of Trustees and PTA Board members, and learn more about the distinctive aspects of our school.

Head of School Rabbi Samuel J. Levine greeted guests with an interesting presentation that highlighted the incredible dedication of the HDS faculty. By way of example, he cited the work of the Middle School teachers Rabbi Gur Berman and Rabbi Aaron Levitt, who worked throughout the summer, on their own time, to perfect the school's new Gemara curriculum. Next, President Daniel J. Katz spoke about the importance of communication between parents



and the school, and encouraged HDS parents to contact him any time ("24/6") to share their insights and ideas. PTA President Sharona Kay also addressed the group, describing some of the exciting ongoing and upcoming PTA programs. She, too, encouraged parents to become involved, emphasizing that the PTA has volunteer opportunities to suit a variety of interests and talents. Leonardo Moran, Technology



Integration Specialist, concluded the program with a captivating presentation of how SmartBoard technology is being used in our classrooms to create a lively and interactive learning environment. At the conclusion of the program, attendees were invited to join school tours led by Lower School Principal Chayim Dimont, Upper School Principal Rabbi Adam

Englander, and Judaic Studies Coordinator Hadassah Smolarcik. New parents also received a special gift bag, which included items such as the Hillel Herald, a Bentscher, an HDS mug, and other goodies.



We express our gratitude to Lori Landa for coordinating this event. Thank you to each of our speakers, Director of Development Suzanne Rice, and the following Board of Trustees and PTA Board members for joining us in welcoming our new parents: Naomi Abramovitz, Cara Beim, Meira Gross, Stanley Haar and Michael Schiffman.

### Technology Update

Technology is evolving at an unprecedented rapid and ever increasing rate. The information and communication revolution is making a pronounced and significant impact on nearly every facet and aspect of life. Activities that once were distinct and separate are merging, the perception of geographic distance is shrinking, and the volume of readily accessible information (as well as misinformation) is escalating and gushing at a geometrically increasing rate. Technological hardware that only a few years ago was available only to governments and higher learning institutions, is now affordably available to nearly everyone.

As educators, we need to keep pace with these advances and incorporate the use of technology in education as appropriate. We need to approach technology as an opportunity to enhance the quality of education and delivery of educational services to students.

To this end, Hillel Day School of Boca Raton, in collaboration with Donna Klein Jewish Academy and Weinbaum Yeshiva High School, is embracing the opportunities and benefits offered by technology and the information and communications revolution. These three schools applied and were granted an Avi Chai Foundation Day School Cost Savings Grant. The grant facilitates the engagement by the schools of a "shared" Technology Integration Specialist.

The mandate for this newly funded specialist includes training teachers in various aspects involving the implementation and use of technology in the classroom, educational technology resourcing and implementation, and application for funding of professional development, hardware and software. We are pleased to inform you that our consortium of schools has hired Kathie Yuz to fill this position. To learn more about Kathie see page 2.

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● **Excerpt from an e-mail by Rabbi Binny Freedman**  
● **to Rabbi Samuel J. Levine and Daniel J. Katz:**  
● So... I'm in our library in Efrat taking out a book for Yair,  
● and discover it's been donated by Hillel Day School in  
● Boca Raton! So I Googled and found the story of the  
● incredible donation of library books to our Efrat Library!  
● What a beautiful thing to do! And who imagined it would  
● benefit one of your very own Hillel alumni, living in Efrat:  
● Yair Freedman! Was not sure who deserved this special  
● thank you, though the two of you are clearly the reason  
● for all the good work Hillel Day School is doing...Thought  
● you would want to know, and maybe pass on, that such  
● a special mitzvah is definitely making a difference!  
● Best wishes for a Ktivah ve'Chatimah tova,  
● and a sweet happy and healthy new year,  
● Shanah tova and love to all,  
● Binny  
● .....

# FALL SPORTS - Hillel Lions Roar into a New Season



## Boys Flag Football



## Girls Volleyball



## New Gymnasium Opens for Business Home of the Hillel Lions

We are proud to announce that our new gymnasium is officially open for business. The 17,600 square-foot facility will be home to the Hillel Lions, as they now will be able to host volleyball and basketball games. In addition, physical education classes and the After School Program will

take place in this state-of-the-art gymnasium. Hillel Day School would like to thank the PTA for their generous donation of gymnasium equipment. If you would like to make a donation earmarked for the gymnasium, please contact the Office of Development at 561-470-5000 ext. 225.



### Every Parent Campaign Update (EPC) Libby Rombro & Gila Stern, EPC Co-Chairs

Each year Hillel Day School conducts the Every Parent Campaign. The financial gifts to the Every Parent Campaign are designated for the Annual Campaign, which provides scholarship assistance to those families who cannot afford a Jewish education for their children. We encourage and hope for 100% participation.

Presently financial assistance totaling \$1,275,000 is extended to 40% of Hillel students. Given the current environment this number is bound to grow. The school also raises money, beyond tuition revenue, to enable technological advancements in the classroom, facilities enhancements and staff developments. Our Annual Fund Campaign provides the critical dollars necessary to bridge the gap in our budget. It is with the help of each one of us that Hillel Day School is able to provide the highest quality Religious Zionist and General Studies education, grounded in Torah, Derech Eretz and Jewish values, and inspired by the belief that all Jews are part of Klal Yisrael: responsible for one another.

Because of the challenges we face individually and as a community, this year it is even more critical that we observe the Mitzvah of Tzedakah, in support of the education of our children. That means everyone's donation, from \$18 to \$18,000, is more important than ever. Every contribution, no matter how large or small, makes a difference in the lives of our children. For those families who have already made their annual gift, we thank you, especially given the current economy.

As a parent, you will be standing side by side with all who help Hillel Day School to maintain its high Judaic and secular education standards. You can participate in the Every Parent Campaign with a contribution to the Hillel Annual Fund Campaign any time during the year in any of the following ways: a donation to the Scholarship Fund; participating in the Annual Golf Tournament by purchasing a sponsorship, playing in the tournament or purchasing a raffle ticket; or by participating in the Annual Journal Event by placing an ad in the journal, joining the Tribute Committee or attending the event. For more information or to make a donation, contact Suzanne Rice, Director of Development, at 561-470-5000 x225 or e-mail [suzanner@hilleldayschool.org](mailto:suzanner@hilleldayschool.org).

### **Dor L'Dor: Grandparent & Grand-Friends Society** *By: Helen Cohan, Anna Freedman & Fern Silver*

We are a group of three "bubbies" who love our grandchildren and feel proud and privileged that our grandchildren are attending the exceptional Hillel Day School of Boca Raton. We would like to share with each and every one of you our enthusiasm and sense of connection for this special place. With that in mind, we are beginning to plan a series of opportunities for you to get to know the school better. We'd love some input from all of you. What would you like to learn about Hillel Day School? Would you like to participate in some of the events that happen here? Are you interested in volunteer opportunities -- if so, what are your skills and interests? There are so many areas of help the school needs. Let's start the dialogue. If you have an e-mail address, please send it to us so that we can keep you easily posted about activities and events. And parents, if you would like to involve **your** parents, please keep us updated with contact information so that we can stay in touch.

As you would expect, last year has been a very productive year for our school, and yet a difficult one, too. In response to the problems in our economy, the leadership of the school has had to be very discerning with regards to expenses in many programs and activities. Yet they are determined that the students, our grandchildren and our "Jewish future," keep up the high level of Jewish and general studies. For the coming year the school has received more than \$1.25 million in legitimate financial aid requests. The Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County is supporting Hillel with about \$300,000. The rest of the costs, almost \$1 million, the school and its supporters must raise.

Please join us in helping this wonderful school, Hillel Day School of Boca Raton, to be all that it can for our children. There are many ways YOU can be a part of your grandchildren's future success, with your time, with your interest and with your financial support. E-mail us with your interests to either Helen Cohan at [bocacohanim@bellsouth.net](mailto:bocacohanim@bellsouth.net), Anna Freedman at [annasimcha@bellsouth.net](mailto:annasimcha@bellsouth.net) or contact Suzanne Rice, Hillel Day School Director of Development at [suzanner@hilleldayschool.org](mailto:suzanner@hilleldayschool.org) or 561-470-5000.

### **Hillel Day School of Boca Raton** *Annual Golf Tournament*

**Monday, November 2, 2009**  
**15 Cheshvan 5770**



**Hillel parents, grandparents, grand-friends and friends are welcome!**  
**Call 561-470-5000 ext. 225 for more information. Reserve your space now!**

**On August 24 HDS opened its doors for the first day of school for the 2009-10 year. Hope it's a great year for everyone!**



## 2009-10 Calendar At-A-Glance

### November

- 2 ▫ Annual Golf Tournament
- 25 ▫ End of First Trimester
- 26 ▫ Thanksgiving Break - school closed
- 27 ▫ Thanksgiving Break - school closed



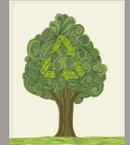
### December

- 6 ▫ Chanukah Fair/Open House
- 15 ▫ Chanukah Programs
- 27 ▫ Fast of 10th of Tevet
- 26 ▫ Winter Break Begins - school closed through Jan. 1



### January

- 4 ▫ Classes Resume
- 25 ▫ Mid-Year Break Begins - school closed through Jan. 29
- 30 ▫ Tu B'Shevat



### February

- 1 ▫ Classes Resume
- 15 ▫ Presidents Day - school closed
- 25 ▫ Fast of Esther
- 28 ▫ Purim



### March

- 5 ▫ End of Second Trimester
- 14 ▫ Federation Super Sunday
- 25 ▫ Pesach Programs
- 29 ▫ Pesach Break Begins - school closed through April 7



### April

- 8 ▫ Classes Resume
- 11 ▫ Yom Hashoah
- 18 ▫ Yom Hazikaron
- 19 ▫ Yom Ha'atzmaut



### May

- 2 ▫ Lag B'omer
- 19-20 ▫ Shavuot - school closed
- 22 ▫ Yom Yerushalayim
- 31 ▫ Memorial Day - school closed



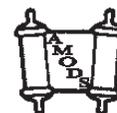
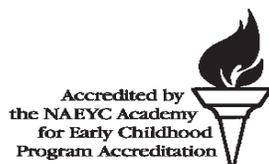
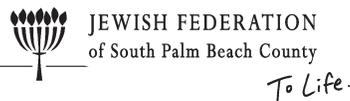
**Save These Dates:**  
**Annual Golf Tournament - November 2, 2009**  
**Chanukah Fair/Open House - December 6, 2009**  
**Super Sunday - March 14, 2010**



If you have information to include in a future *Hillel Herald*, please e-mail [suzanner@hilleldayschool.org](mailto:suzanner@hilleldayschool.org).  
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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.



**TORAH UMESORAH**  
 National Association of Hebrew Day Schools