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Editor's Note:

All items in green type are Midot-related.



See page 6 for a re-cap of the Chanukah Fair and Open House.

Congratulations to this year's winners of the Chanukah Card Design Competition: Moriya Berman, Gabi Englander, Rebecca Rosen, Yael Sacher, and Lauren Schechter (art pictured below).



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

Dear Parents,

When one thinks of a Torah Day School and the education it offers, one tends to think in terms of the four R's (*Rashi*, Reading, 'Riting and 'Rithmetic). At midyear, as I look back upon the myriad of Jewish learning experiences enjoyed by our students, it is evident that a Hillel education is much more than an exercise in the acquisition of the four R's. To be sure, our students have acquired important basic skills, each student appropriate to his or her abilities and grade level. But what more profoundly impacts our students are the lessons learned in terms of thinking skills, values education and *Torah* living. At Hillel, our children do not learn ABOUT Judaism, they LIVE it!

Mornings begin with *Tefilah*; students make *berachot* at snack time and wash *netilat ya'dayim* before eating bread. Middle Schoolers take a break in the middle of their busy day for *Mincha*. When something important happens in the Jewish world or there is an important development in Israel, our students learn about it and are helped to understand why these events are important to them.

Torah and *Tefilah* are not just subjects; they are a way of life. This notion is brought home to all Hillel students, not only in the classroom, but in the out-of-the-classroom experiences that are part of their daily routine. Can anyone who experienced our Student/Parent *Leyl Limud*, or who witnessed the special assembly to say *Tehilim* for the release of Gilad Shalit, take such powerful emotional experiences for granted? Grappling with "What is bothering Rashi?" as an eight year old, elevates the learning process to the highest levels of Bloom's Taxonomy and challenges students to constantly employ their higher order thinking skills.

Shabbat and *chagim* are looked forward to with great anticipation as hundreds of our Lower School students gather to welcome Shabbat and holidays with music, stories and song. Instead of being a day of don'ts, Shabbat is greeted with joy. Hillel students live their lives according to the rhythm of the Jewish calendar. Throughout the day, their *neshamot* are nurtured at every turn.

Perhaps most importantly, our children learn from *Morot* and *Rabbeim* who are role models of *Torah* and *Derech Eretz*. Through word and deed, our faculty teaches our children that good manners, positive interpersonal relationships and social skills are a prerequisite for being a true *Ben* or *Bat Torah*.

Please read this issue of the *Hillel Herald* carefully as it will give you a glimpse of school life at Hillel, a way of life that can only be found in a *Torah* Day School. The ubiquitous nature of school and the learning process sometimes can make us take our children's education for granted. As we begin the second half of what has been a wonderfully productive and successful school year, it behooves us all to take a moment to recognize and reflect upon our children's remarkable school experience.

Annual Journal Event In Review

With over 260 guests in attendance, Hillel Day School of Boca Raton raised over \$200,000 at its Annual Journal Event held at B'nai Torah this past December. 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.

This year, the *Defenders of Israel Award* was presented to **Congressman Ted & Jill Deutch**, and the *Tomchei Torah Award* was presented to **Dr. Mark and Helen Cohan**.



After welcoming remarks from **Sal Abady**, Financial Resource Development Co-Chair, **Rabbi Efreim Goldberg** delivered the D'var Torah and a compelling case on the importance of Jewish education, specifically a Hillel Day School education.



This year's event co-chairs were **Sal & Leslie Abady**, **Dr. Benjamin & Cara Freedman**, and **Dr. Lawrence & Debra Halperin**. After cocktails and mingling, guests entered the ballroom for tribute speeches and award presentations, followed by a delicious dinner. "Another Amazing Day at Hillel Day School of Boca Raton," a video produced by **Rabbi Mordechai Smolarcik**, was then shown featuring students, alumni, parents and faculty.



Also honored this year were **Chayim Dimont** and **Cindy Halbstein**, who each received the Oht Hameseroot Faculty Dedication Award for their 13 years of service to Hillel Day School.

Before the evening ended, mind-reader, illusionist and magician **Gary Goodman** performed for guests while they enjoyed dessert.



Special thanks to **Nancy Markovitch** for creating the beautiful table centerpieces as well as other components of the decor, to **Orlie Cohen** for her dedication to this event, to **Michele Dimont**, Ad Journal Editor extraordinaire, to **Elise Cohen** for invitation and journal graphic design, to **Leonardo Moran** for professional photography, to **Rabbi Mordechai Smolarcik** for multi-video production, and

to **Rabbi Josh Broide** and **Boca Raton Synagogue** for technical assistance. Last but not least, thanks to the many families, parents, grandparents, faculty, community members, students and alumni who helped to solicit ads, placed ads or supported this event by attending. Valuable funds were raised in the name of Jewish education.



Event co-chairs and honorees pictured above l-r: Sal & Leslie Abady, Dr. Lawrence & Debra Halperin, Jill Deutch, Helen & Dr. Mark Cohan, Cara & Dr. Benjamin Freedman.

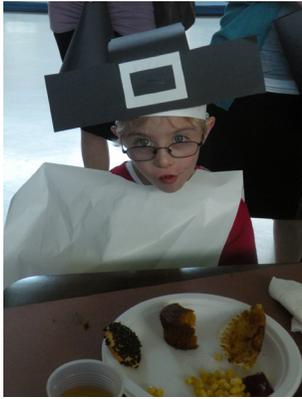
Photo Credits: Leonardo Moran

To make a donation to the Annual Campaign, please contact Suzanne Rice, Director of Development, at suzanner@hilleldayschool.org or call 561-470-5000 and help support Jewish education.

HOLD THE DATE
 Hillel Day School of Boca Raton
 Annual Golf Tournament
Monday, May 7, 2012
 15 Iyar 5772

STONEBRIDGE
 Golf & Country Club

Thanksgiving



Chanukah



Chanukah display by 3rd graders.



The debut of the 95th Ave. Band rocks the Cafetorium.



Thank you to the Ben-Zikry families for sponsoring the concert by Pirhei Yerushalaim.

Clockwise: EC2-K classes performed Chanukah songs for parents during a special program.

Center: The B'not Sherut light the giant Chanukah on the Milton B. Katz Campus.



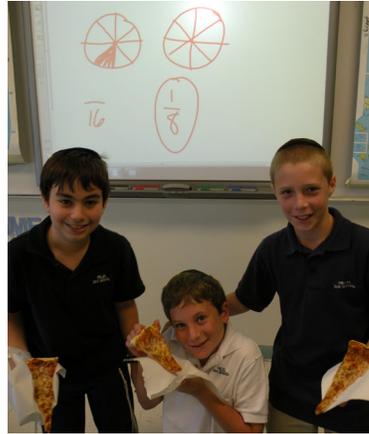
Our school prides itself on a continuous pursuit of excellence. Many factors contribute to an excellent school and we are blessed to possess many. A beautiful Beit Midrash, state-of-the-art technology, top-notch athletic

facilities and virtually non-stop educational and inspiring programming add so much to the student experience. However, what truly sets us apart and makes this a great school, are our outstanding teachers. Research shows that an effective teacher is the most significant school-related factor when it comes to student achievement and success. We, therefore, put tremendous energy and resources into ensuring that we attract great teachers, provide ongoing professional development and give training/mentoring to those who are new to the field.

The most effective professional development is ongoing and job embedded. We are proud that our teachers are engaged in two different, cutting-edge models. The first, "Critical Friends," is a program that has our own teachers (and occasional guests) present to their peers about crucial educational topics. Some recent presentations included how to help students prepare more effectively for exams, how to better handle teacher-parent communication and strategies for improving students' reading skills. Teachers also present mock lessons and solicit advice as to how to make them even better. The other model is "Peer Coaching." This gives pairs of teachers the opportunity to assist each other and work toward specific goals that improve instruction. Both of these programs are effective because they operate within a non-judgmental, supportive environment.

When it comes to supporting developing teachers who are young, passionate and trained but are only in their first two years of formal experience, we have also been very successful. We have continued our relationship with the Jewish New Teacher Project (JNTP), which trains veteran teachers in the art of mentoring young talent. This new teacher induction program, sponsored by Avi Chai, has an amazing national track record for success and our children have benefitted greatly.

Aside from the obvious growth and skill-building that occur through these programs, perhaps the greatest benefit is that it makes Hillel Day School a place where great teachers WANT to teach and great teachers WANT to stay.



Math is fun when pizza pies are used to help teach fractions.



Ms. Rosenstein's English students participated in a Publishing Party to celebrate the publishing of their personal narratives during this workshop.



4th graders build tee-pee displays for Thanksgiving.



5th grade students learn about the benefits of composting.

A memorial program was held on 16 Tevet, for our student and friend, Elijah Webberly, z"l, to commemorate his first *Yahrtzeit* (the Hebrew date of his passing). Students gathered in the Beit Midrash for a memorial program. Following the program, students in KAR²E Circles performed a chesed project on behalf of Chai Lifeline of South Florida, which included creating "Shabbat Packages" to give to families who are in the hospital over Shabbat.



Congratulations to the winners of the Middle School "A Moment in Time" writing contest.

Aaron Senfeld, 1st Place
Lana Rosenthal, 2nd Place
Leor Levenson, 3rd Place

Mazal Tov to the winners!





For my family, December break was not as I'd envisioned. Instead of a vacation, it was more of a nightmare. Flu invaded our home and soon our plans for a surprise, fun-filled visit to Orlando turned into sleepless nights, high fevers, and crying children (and adults!). There were painful periods of coaxing vile medication down fortified, little mouths and countless hours and co-pays spent at the doctor's office. (I admit the thought of escaping to somewhere quiet and germ-free did cross my mind, but I would probably not have a wife to come home to!)

As parents, we have all gone through that cataclysmic virus that consumes our entire household and lived to laugh about it (only afterward, of course). And even more importantly, as I reflect upon those days, I cannot help but smile because I realize now that during that "vacation" (see the quotes—they are there for a reason!), we actually spent a tremendous amount of quality time with our children. Whether it was playing games (in between Motrin fixes),

reading to them in bed, or soothing them with cold washcloths, we were simply being with our kids. And yes, at times it was truly agonizing, but looking back it was amazing at the same time.

Ironically, we are often presented with opportunities to interact with our children, but we don't realize it. The challenge is to make sure that we take advantage of these opportunities. When in the car doing errands, try to avoid the cell phone and use that time to talk with your kids about their day, about which friends they hang out with at recess, about what they like and dislike about school and why. When our children come to us and say they are "bored," have them choose a game and play it with them. Use the time wisely to be a detective and learn everything you can about what's going on in their lives. It's amazing how much more you can gain from a friendly game of Uno than from the standard parental query, "How was your day?"

Yes, it is definitely true, that in our busy lives, trying to find time for our children is challenging, but it is certainly attainable. And sometimes it takes an unforeseen incident—in our case, influenza A—to bring about some welcome, albeit forced, quality time into our family life.



Mazal Tov to **Lauren Schechter**, for her winning "Golden Ticket" design to be used for the promotion of this year's KTP performance.



Miss Rita's theatrical storytelling is always an anticipated visit.



ART THROUGH THE AGES

Over 100 parents attended the November "Art Through the Ages: A Gallery Exhibit of Early Childhood Art" and enjoyed an event that was truly a masterpiece! The 200 framed pieces of art, as well as the large-scale group murals, illustrated what the teachers themselves spoke so eloquently about: that a child's first explorations in texture, color, line, and brushstroke are indeed a thing of great



During a special visit from the South Florida Science Museum Star Lab, all of the students from EC2 through 5th grade had the opportunity to learn about the night sky and our planets. As part of our science unit on the solar system, the students stepped inside a portable planetarium to experience and identify how the patterns of stars change during the different seasons. They learned that even at 93,000,000 miles away, the sun is the closest star to the earth. They also enjoyed listening to the stories behind each of the major constellations, such as the Big Dipper, Orion the Hunter and Cassiopeia. Testimonials were heard throughout the halls about the amazing experience everyone had. Thank you, Mr. Dimont and Mrs. Klein, for making this visit possible.

beauty. A live jazz quintet performed in the second-floor atrium of the new Middle School building as parents sampled from a variety of wines and indulged in a cheese and dessert buffet by Caketory. And in addition to taking home priceless works of art, the attendees each received a gift of palette-shaped chocolates by Schokolad to enjoy later, or even share with the artists themselves. Special thanks to **Rachel Tripp** for making this event possible. Her attention to every detail truly paid off. Also thank you to the Art Through the Ages Committee: **Reut Aber, Lillian Aharon, Cara Beim, Vanessa Brooks, Orlie Cohen, Chayim Dimont, Michele Dimont, Chavi Drang, Huvie Gately, Elisheva Green, Keri Greenfield, Naomi Gross, Ana Haar, Lisa Houben, Caroline Katz, Naomi Katz, Batsheva Klein, Bruria Kodsi, Ilana Landau, Shlomi Lugassy, JoAnn Parker, Lisa Pinkis, Evan Shapiro, Naomi Shapiro, Jaimie Skoczylas, Hadassah Smolarcik, Sara Smolensky, Hadass Sommers, Gila Stern, Stephanie Stern, Donna Tripp, Deborah Young, Rachel Yudewitz and Andrea Zucker.**

Photo Credit: Caroline Katz

A CHANUKAH FAIR TO REMEMBER



Boundless enthusiasm resounded at the HDS annual PTA Chanukah Fair and Open House. Boasting a terrific turnout—as prospective parents and current HDS families entered the Milton B. Katz Campus in droves—the long-awaited December event was a grand success. From activities for children of all ages to ample food choices, this very special day offered something for everyone.

Outside, the school lawn was a hub of entertainment, as squeals of joy emanated from new bounce houses recently purchased by HDS, sponsored in part by the PTA. Under the leadership of **Gwenn Lerman**—and with the



much appreciated help of Middle School students, Weinbaum Yeshiva High School students, and parent volunteers—students also enjoyed an array of fun challenges at the annual Chanukah



carnival: creative balloons by **Nachum Braverman**, bowling, a dreidel dig, face painting, a lollipop tree, Lucky Ducks, a ring toss, and much more. Toddlers and siblings in need of some winding down time hopped aboard an all-time



Chanukah Fair favorite, the color-block train, which circled the carpool lanes in the Early Childhood parking lot.



And that's not all. While the sun was shining outside, the indoor Loewenstern Cafetorium radiated with excitement. Students participated in an array of fun arts and crafts activities organized by **Lisa Pinkis** and hosted by our B'not Sherut volunteers, **Ayala Nir** and **Ronee Rotterman**. Parents and students also visited the annual Scholastic Book Fair, organized by **Dvorah Eisen**.

When it was time to refuel from shopping and playing, cook extraordinaire **Steve Lugerner's** newly expanded menu brought added excitement to the day. Families enjoyed a new fine dining experience, with succulent steaks available, grilled to order with a serving of fries and extra large drink – served on fine dishes with 'real' cutlery. Steve's repertoire also included heavenly hot dogs and scrumptious chicken nuggets, supplemented with latkes, french fries, and ice-cold beverages.



Dessert and snack options included the highly popular Sno-Kones, sufganiyot (jelly doughnuts), and popcorn.

Prospective parents enjoyed informative tours of the campus from **Rabbi Adam Englander**, Upper School Principal, and **Chayim Dimont**, Lower School Principal, who gave them a glimpse into the quality Jewish education their children can receive at HDS.

The day concluded with the annual raffle, with winners receiving everything from store gift certificates and South Florida attraction tickets to complimentary salon services, sports lessons, and much more. We thank all of our vendors for contributing such generous prizes. The PTA commends **Sara Goldberg** for taking the lead in finding these vendors and also thanks **Shira Englander** and **Rachel Yudewitz** for their support. We also express our appreciation to the many teachers who donated their time and creative services as raffle prizes.

While the day offered much fun and prizes, it also provided other rewards—the joy that comes with giving back to the community. As children kept busy, adults fulfilled a very important mitzvah by donating blood. Thank you to **Beth Janock** for arranging this opportunity.



The day also typified the sense of commitment that permeates the HDS student and parent body. The dedication of the many student volunteers was greatly appreciated and the PTA applauds **Rina Lanner** for coordinating this effort. In addition, countless parents assumed shifts at the ticket booths and fair venues. We thank you so much for your support and, in particular, would like to mention **Lisa Houben** for recruiting volunteers and arranging schedules.

Most importantly, a hearty yasher koach to the Chanukah Fair co-chairs: **Cara Beim**, **Simone Broide**, **Tammy Pickholtz**. We are so sincerely grateful to you for organizing such a spectacular day. Hope to see you all again next year!



BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

Congratulations to the **Landau** and **Pinkis** families, our recent Box Tops raffle winners. The PTA is also grateful to **Charles** and **Roberta Rubin**, grandparents of **Elee Rubin** (6th grade), who won 1,000 Box Tops (a \$100 value) for HDS from the Publix Team Education Sweepstakes. Please remember to keep bringing in your Box Tops labels. To be entered into the PTA's monthly raffle, simply write your name on the back of each Box Top you submit. Winners receive a \$10 gift card donated by Aspaclaria Judaica.

FIRST PTA BAKE SALE RAISES 'DOUGH' FOR HDS



The first-ever Pre-Rosh Hashanah PTA Bake Sale was a tremendous success, raising over \$2,000 for HDS. Consumers rushed to submit orders for holiday treats, which featured everything from fruit strudels to multi-layer chocolate chip cakes and more. A special thanks to event co-chairs **Greta Baum** and **Rachel Greenbaum**, who

spent countless hours determining how and where to run the sale—and participating in the baking. We also express our appreciation to **CEK Caterers**, for donating its catering kitchen for three evenings; **Shaya Griner**, for donating his time and expertise as a mashgiach; **Gail Marcus**, for skillfully managing the orders; **Susan Herr**, for answering countless questions; **Diane Saketkhov**, for shopping at Restaurant Depot; and **Lowil Stoller**, for her expertise in the kitchen. The PTA also applauds the many bakers and consumers who made the sold-out event fun for everyone.

SUKKOT BREAK ACTIVITIES



Sukkot vacation activities organized by **Dvora Eisen** and **Lisa Houben** provided fun times with friends—at discounted prices. Students enjoyed gelato and ice-cream-making experiences at the Gelato Shoppe and New York Café, respectively, and a two-hour skating session at Saveology Iceplex. In addition, little ones delighted in a day of exploration at the Playtown Café.

TEACHER APPRECIATION BREAKFASTS



Sponsoring a Teacher Appreciation Breakfast is a great way to recognize our HDS teachers and staff. For information on upcoming sponsorship opportunities, or to help with shopping or setting up the breakfasts, please contact Cara Freedman at 561-750-3132 or carafreedman@yahoo.com.

CONTINUING ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

Infuse your morning with the spirit of learning at adult education classes, taught by Rabbi Smolarcik and Rabbi Moskowitz. Sessions are held Mondays and Tuesdays at 8:15 a.m. in the new conference room on the second level of the Middle School building. For additional information, please contact Rachel Greenbaum at rachelrgreenbaum@yahoo.com.

WITH PRAISE, THANKS & ADMIRATION...

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

September: **Aliza Ben-Shimon, Galit Freedman**

November: **Lea Saida**

December: **Cara Beim, Simone Broide and Tammy Pickholtz**

Thank you to **Dr. Sara Levine** who helped supply flu vaccines to HDS teachers and staff, and who donated her time and expertise to administer them. Besides helping to keep our HDS faculty and staff healthy, her efforts raised \$340 for HDS. Thank you also to **Nurse Robin** for helping to organize this initiative.

Under the leadership of **Dvora Eisen**, this year's Annual Scholastic Book Fair sold over \$4,400 worth of books. The PTA commends Dvora's outstanding leadership and also thanks our many parent and student volunteers.

Thank you to **Sharon Fein** and **Sara Goldberg** for coordinating class picture and retake day with LifeTouch® in October and to volunteers **Naomi Abramovitz, Alana Shepetofsky, and Andrea Zucker.**

Upholding its annual Chanukah tradition, the PTA provided every HDS student with a box of candles in honor of Chanukah, as well as a Hillel Lions magnet. Thank you to **Julie Erlich** for picking up the Chanukah candles, which were provided by **Jacob's Classic Market** in Aventura at a discounted price. Thank you also to **Robin Noble** for labeling the boxes and **Naomi Cohn** for overseeing distribution.

The PTA thanks the **Bernstein family** for coordinating the distribution and collection of HDS Tzedakah boxes. To obtain a tzedakah box, please contact Andrea Bernstein at 561-212-3072.

The PTA applauds **Alana Shepatofsky** for leading the Carpool Brigade and thanks the many volunteers at carpool time.

Thank you to the volunteers who have picked up challot for Early Childhood Shabbat parties, in particular we would like to acknowledge **Lea Saida** for recently assuming this weekly responsibility. We also express our gratitude to **Amazing Savings** for selling the challot to us at the incredible price of just 99 cents each.

HDS **EMET** CLUB WINNERS

Excellent

Daniel Aber
Rebecca Adler
Aber Balis
Sara Baum

Jacob Goldstein
Max Goodman
Jacob Greenbaum
Yair Gritzman

Amir Rindsberg
Noam Rindsberg
Jennifer Rosen
Simcha Rosen

Midot

Shmuel Belizon
Maya Ben-Zikry
Jessica Berger

Ariella Gross
Daniel Gross
Lily Herman

Lily Rudensky
Dafna Saketkhov
Akiva Scher

Every

Orin Berkeley
Caleb Berman
Orly Bierly

Leah Houben
Chanala Kahan
Chani Kaminetsky

Yosef Scher
Ashley Schiffman
Isaac Shapiro

Time

Hila Blanka
Mali Blanka
Asher Broide

Jordan Kaner
Katie Katz
Zev Kay

Ariella Sides
Doronit Skocyzlas
Aiden Smolensky



Mazal Tov to
all of the winners!

(as of 1/18/12)

Alexandra Cohen
Hailey Cohen
Sarah Cohen

Talia Kennedy
Daniela Kestenbaum
Sofia Kestenbaum

Gabriel Stern
Izak Stern
Aerin Tripp

Shaindie Cohen
Tamir Cohen
Akiva Davis

Talia Kodsi
Jacob Levinrad
Aden Light

Joshua Young
Yoni Yudewitz
Ethan Wirtschafter

Max Davis
Michael Feldman
Harry Freedman

Eli Lome
Daniel Lugassy
Mordechai Marcus

Yaheli Zehavi

Jonah Gabor
Ben Garby
Hilla Gerlitz

Yosef Marcus
Ari Mayzel
Dalya Pickholtz

Sammy Gerstein
Hadara Goldstein

Meira Pickholtz
Ariana Raab

AN EVENING OF MUSIC



Thank you to **Helen Cohan** and **Ana Haar** for co-chairing the "Evening of Music" featuring **Lorraine Marks** and the **Florida Intergenerational Orchestra** with the participation of HDS' 4th graders on their recorders. With over 200 in attendance



the evening was a success. Thanks to **Helen and Mark Cohan** and **Ana and Stanley Haar** for sponsoring the refreshments for the after-concert reception and to **Shula Amsalem** for helping. Also thank you to all of our student volunteers: **Noah Bernten, Aliza Bierly, Jordyn Dahan, Asher Eisen** and **Chen Ohana**, and to parent volunteer **Malka Schyndel**.



HDS AWARDED \$10,000 GRANT FROM ALBERTSON'S COMMUNITY PARTNERS CHALLENGE

Hillel Day School of Boca Raton was awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Albertsons Community Partners Challenge. Hillel was among 6 national recipients in the \$10,000 award category.

The grant will be used to implement an anti-bullying program, through the KidSafe Foundation, an anti-bullying and child Internet safety awareness organization. The school-wide proactive bully reduction program will increase awareness and teach intervention techniques for students in early childhood through 8th grade. It will also include training for administration, teachers, support staff, as well as in class programs.



A community-wide voting initiative helped the school reach 28,000 votes. The competition ran from October 1-15. "We started the competition in 15th place and ended up in 2nd. Our entire community worked together and succeeded in attaining this valuable and important grant for our school," explained Dvora Scher, Board member and grant writer for Hillel Day School.

Thank you to **Sharona Kay** and her students at **Boca Raton High School, Rabbi Goldberg** and **Boca Raton Synagogue, Rabbi Josh Broide**, the HDS PTA, the HDS Middle School students and all of the parents and students at HDS who voted!!!

Extra special thanks to **Dvora Scher** for submitting this grant as well as spearheading the voting initiative. Without her this would not have been possible.

Other award categories included \$1,000, \$5,000, \$7,500 and \$25,000 grants. "This is the largest grant received by our school not in partnership with other schools," said Head of School Rabbi Samuel J. Levine.

The children in 2nd grade are learning about the importance of "Service Learning" by helping the community. Service learning is a teaching strategy through which students identify research and address real community challenges, using knowledge and skills learned in the classroom. I would like to thank Chana Adina's mom, **Sara Schandelson**, for sharing with us the Kind Acts Performed Organization and their "Greeting Cards Senders Program" for seniors. Throughout this Mitzvot program, the class learned how to write a friendly letter in class. They focused on certain parts of a letter: greeting, body, closing, and signature. Then, the students designed original holiday cards filled with warm blessings for the elderly to help make them smile. Each card displayed artistic talent with a unique winter scene on the front. The children continued to extend their thoughtfulness and make homemade Chanukah cards for the administration, faculty, and their loving families.



IDF Soldier **Sgt. Gilad Yakir**, of the Yahalom Unit, visited our school to speak to students about what it is like being in the Israeli Army. The FIDF Fun Run, held in November, raised funding needed for a spinning room for his unit. Thank you to all of the families who participated in this event.



TRANSPORTATION DAY 2012

Thank you to **Dr. Orah Moshe** for chairing this year's Transportation Day. Participating this year were: **Winn Dixie, South Plantation High School, Anne Deakter, JM Lexus, Palm Beach County Sheriff, North Trail RV Center, American Friends of Magen David Adom, Sandow Media, Pero Family Farms, News Channel 20, Emerald Towing, Palm Beach County S.W.A.T., and Palm Beach County Fire Rescue.** Also thank you to **Nathan Zucker** for making a special aerial appearance in his plane!



Athletic Department



It is time for another exciting update on how our students did in the sports program during the late fall season!

The Girls Basketball and Boys Soccer seasons, which were competitive and a great challenge for our students, recently concluded. The sportsmanship that our players demonstrated was something to be admired and it served as a great example to our younger students. We will continue to focus on the strengths of our teams and look forward to the next season and the challenges that competition brings with it.

I would like to thank **Coach Jeff Harris** for volunteering his time and effort to instruct the Girls Basketball team. Our clinics continue to exceed our expectation with respect to the number of interested students who want to participate.

We have begun our winter season, which includes Girls Soccer and Boys Basketball, and we look forward to Girls Softball and Boys and Girls Tennis in the spring. I would like to also thank the parents for all of their support at the games. Go, Lions!



BOYS SOCCER WRAP-UP

By: Coach Moishe Aquart

The Boys Soccer team finished their season with 3 wins, 2 ties and 2 losses. Despite giving their best effort, the team was not able to defend last year's championship season. The team did play at a high level and we are proud of their sportsmanship.

The team captains, **Elie Zaghi, Tani Kay, Judah Baum** and **Jacob Katz**, were solid leaders throughout the season and were great examples for the younger players. The leading goal scorer was **Jacob Katz** with a total of 10 goals.

A big thank you to **Assistant Coach Nadav** for all his help. We look forward to a great season next year.



ANOTHER TERRIFIC GIRLS BASKETBALL SEASON

By: Coach Jeffrey Harris

The Girls Basketball Team had another terrific season this year! Led by a great group of returning players (**Maya Borzak, Sara Haar, Emma Harris, Eden Sabag** and **Malya Sacher**) and a group of very strong new players (**Chaya Cohen, Jordyn Dahan, Eliana Loskove, Shirin Khambalia, Isabella Berkeley, Gabby Englander, Ayelet Gross** and **Rebecca Rosen**) we accumulated a 6-3 record. Due to the Chagim, our team had very little practice

time but still put together a six-game winning streak and played with great teamwork throughout the season. The Lady Lions were the regular season champions of our division with a 6-0 division record. This is the first time in our school's history that our Basketball Team ended their division competition 6-0; way to go Lady Lions! Due to our great regular season, the Lady Lions had a bye in the first round of the playoffs. In the semifinals, the Lady Lions played against Parkway Academy (the League champions this year) and fought very hard throughout the game. The game was close throughout but in the end the ball did not bounce our way enough and we ended up losing to Parkway by 6 points. The girls truly gave it their all and fought until the last whistle sounded. As their coach I was so proud of their nonstop effort and even more proud of their sportsmanship. Throughout the season, our girls never forgot that while giving it their all and playing tough-nosed basketball, they made sure to do so while displaying the highest level of good sportsmanship. Last but not least, the girls really bonded together and truly enjoyed being teammates: you can't ask for anything more than that! Special recognition goes out to **Emma Harris**, our co-captain and leading scorer, **Eden Sabag**, our co-captain and starting forward, **Jordyn Dahan**, who as our point guard was our floor leader game in and game out, and **Isabella Berkeley** who came off the bench to give us a tremendous spark every time she was on the floor. Of course a special thank you goes out to **Maia Shaffer** who, as our Athletic Director, made this season happen!





EPC Thermometer on the Rise

By: Gila Stern, Every Parent Campaign Chair

This year, we continue to turn up the heat on our annual Every Parent Campaign (EPC)! To date, our EPC thermometer has reached only 26%, with a goal of 100% participation of all HDS families through a meaningful donation to the Annual Campaign, **no matter the gift amount**. These financial gifts provide scholarship assistance to those families who cannot afford a Jewish education for their children. Watch the thermometer, located in the lobby, continue to rise as we track the participation of families in the EPC.

Presently, financial assistance totaling \$1,573,000 is extended to 254 Hillel students. The school also raises money, beyond tuition revenue, to enable technological advancements in the classroom, facilities enhancements and staff development. Our Annual Fund Campaign provides the critical dollars necessary to bridge the gap in our budget.

Because of the challenges we face individually and as a community, we must continue to support Jewish education and observe the mitzvah of tzedakah. That means everyone's donation, from \$1 to \$1 million, 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. For those who have not, please help our thermometer climb to 100%!

You can participate in the Every Parent Campaign with a contribution to the Hillel Annual Fund Campaign any time during the year, including participating in our Annual Raffle. Tickets are on sale now at the front desk!

Our EPC Phone-a-thon will take place on Tuesday, April 17, calling those families who have not yet made their annual gift. For more information or to make a donation, contact Suzanne Rice, Director of Development, at 561-470-5000 x225 or email suzanner@hilleldayschool.org. We look forward to our thermometer reaching 100%!

Chance to win \$2,000 toward HDS tuition or \$1,000 in cash and other great prizes!
Raffle tickets are on sale now at the front desk - \$100 each or 3 for \$250!



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

It is with great excitement that we report that the final stained glass window in the Beit Midrash has been dedicated. There will be two more installations of the glass by **Crys Soderholm** artist, which will complete the series of four stained glass windows in our Beit Midrash depicting Israel's four holy cities. Thank you to our donors for dedicating the beautiful stained glass windows: **Anonymous** (Chevron), **Mark and Helen Cohan** (Yerushalayim), **Mervin and Elaine Jacobs** (Tiberias), and **David and Joyce Muller** (Tzfat). There are still plenty of naming opportunities available. Inquire through the Development Office at 561-470-5000 ext. 225.

Middle School Building

- \$1,500,000 Middle School & Building
- \$500,000 Beit Midrash
- \$250,000 Atrium
- \$100,000 Upper School Principal's Office
- \$100,000 Science Lab
- \$80,000 Apple-Mac Computer Lab/Hillel PTA**
- \$50,000 Elevator
- \$50,000 Faculty Lounge/Stanley & Ana Haar**
- \$50,000 *Classrooms
- \$36,000 Offices (3 available)
- \$36,000 Tutoring Classrooms
- \$36,000 Main Entrance Mezuzah
- \$36,000 Aron (Beit Midrash)/ Jackie & Rachel Tripp**
- \$36,000 BRS West Entrance Mezuzah
- \$25,000 Ner Tamid (Beit Midrash)/ Michael & Risa Zimmerman**
- \$12,500 Classroom Mezuzahs & Other Outer Door Mezuzahs

Outdoor Haar Athletic Fields

- \$100,000 Basketball Court
- \$100,000 Softball Field
- \$100,000 Soccer Field
- \$25,000 Scoreboards (3 available)
- \$25,000 Bleachers (6 available)

Other Naming Opportunities

- \$1,500,000 Lower School & Building
- \$500,000 Early Childhood Program
- \$3,600 Benches

Gymnasium Building

- \$1,500,000 Gymnasium
- \$250,000 New Lower School Playground
- \$100,000 Main Lobby
- \$36,000 Main Entrance Mezuzah
- \$50,000 Bleachers
- \$36,000 Offices (2 available)
- \$25,000 Scoreboards (2 available)
- \$25,000 Boys Locker Room
- \$25,000 Girls Locker Room
- \$18,000 Trophy Case
- \$12,500 Classroom Mezuzahs & Other Outer Door Mezuzahs

**Many classrooms in the new Middle School or main building available.*

All contributions have the option to be payable over as many as five years.



EC3 students create snowballs for their winter theme.

Teacher of the Month



Morah Cheryl Mirsky
December 2011

RINA LANNER NAMED GRINSPON-STEINHARDT AWARD RECIPIENT



Congratulations to **Rina Lanner** for being this year's *Grinspon-Steinhardt Award* Recipient for Excellence in Jewish Education. This prestigious national award is presented to outstanding Jewish educators by the Grinspon-Steinhardt Foundation and the local Jewish Education Commission (JEC) and brings with it a cash award as well as a grant for the teacher's continued professional growth. The award was presented by **Marilyn Nachman** of the JEC.

Save These Dates:

- Middle School Building Dedication - March 1**
- Jewish Federation's Super Sunday - March 27**
- Annual Golf Tournament - May 7**



If you have information to include in a future *Hillel Herald*, please e-mail suzanner@hilleldayschool.org.

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Calendar At-A-Glance

February

- 8 ▫ Tu B'Shevat
- 20 ▫ Presidents Day (school closed)
- 22 ▫ Chesed Day
- 29 ▫ Grades 1-8, Parent/Teacher Conferences (evening)

March

- 1▫ Middle School Building Dedication
- 1 ▫ Grades 1-8 Parent/Teacher Conferences (day); regular school day EC2-Grade 5; no school for grades 6-8
- 4 ▫ PTA Mother/Daughter Zumba
- 7 ▫ Fast of Esther (2:15pm dismissal grades 6-8)
- 8 ▫ Purim (school closed)
- 9 ▫ End of Second Trimester
- 11 ▫ Federation Super Sunday

April

- 3 ▫ Pesach Program (EC2-K)
- 5 ▫ Pesach Break begins (school closed through April 13)
- 16 ▫ Classes Resume
- 17 ▫ EPC Phone-A-Thon
- 19 ▫ Yom HaShoah
- 22 ▫ 8th Grade Israel Trip (through May 2)
- 25 ▫ Yom Hazikaron
- 26 ▫ Yom Ha'atzmaut

May

- 7 ▫ Annual Golf Tournament
- 8 ▫ Parent/Teacher Conferences (evening) EC2-K
- 9 ▫ Parent/Teacher Conferences (day) EC2-K; regular school day for all grades
- 10 ▫ Lag B'Omer
- 14-18 ▫ SAT Test Week (Grades 2-8)
- 20 ▫ Yom Yerushalayim
- 21-23 ▫ 6th Grade Sea Camp Trip
- 22-23 ▫ 7th Grade Washington, DC Trip
- 26 ▫ Erev Shavuot
- 27 ▫ Shavuot (Sunday)
- 28 ▫ Shavuot/Memorial Day (school closed)
- 30 ▫ Final Exams for Grades 7-8 (through June 8)

June

- 5 ▫ KTP Performance
- 7 ▫ Kindergarten Graduation
- 8 ▫ Last Day of School
- 10 ▫ 8th Grade Graduation

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.