



The Hillel Herald

Hillel Day School of Boca Raton

ד"ם

Winter 2015/5775
Vol. VIII ~ Issue No. 2



Congratulations to **Alexandra Cohen**, winner of the Chanukah Card Design Competition (pictured above).

In This Issue:

Middle School.....	2
Early Childhood - Grade 3.....	3
Judaic Studies/ Grades 4-5.....	4
The Lion's Den.....	5
PTA Pages.....	6-7
HDS Happenings.....	8-9
Campaign Matter\$.....	10-11
People Making a Difference.....	12



Rabbi Adam Englander, M.S. Ed. Head of School



Dear Hillel Families,

It is with great excitement that we publish yet another edition of the *Hillel Herald*! This publication will give you a broad perspective on some

of the significant happenings at HDS. The real "magic" is what happens every day in the classrooms but the many programs we organize to complement our outstanding education is crucial for a well rounded, enjoyable and inspiring experience. I am pleased to report that our reputation for excellence continues to spread far and wide. We have more student applications than ever and we continue to give many tours to interested families. The future of HDS, and Jewish education in general, is bright indeed!

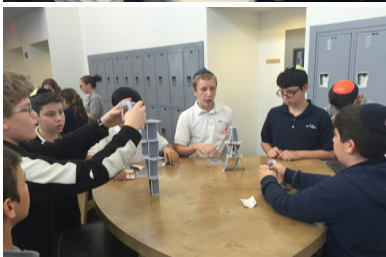
MIDDLE SCHOOL: GRADES 6-8

One of the most enjoyable and fulfilling parts of my job as Head of School is my day-to-day involvement with the middle school. This exciting stage of development marks the transition from child to young adult (and from adorable little kid to complicated teenager). This transformative period of growth and added independence must be accompanied by experiences that stimulate, challenge, inspire and connect if we are to accomplish our overall goal of raising the next generation of committed Jews. We have been blessed to have had many of these experiences over the past couple of months and it is my pleasure to share just a few of them with you here.

Our annual Shabbaton for 7th and 8th graders was better than ever. It was kicked off by a massive trivia game on Erev Shabbat called a "panoply," which fostered team building and critical thinking. The Shabbat, itself, was beyond beautiful with great meals, divrei Torah, uplifting singing, games, skits, learning sessions, stories and a visit to the Menorah House. The theme of the Shabbaton was T.G.I.S. - Thank G-d It's Shabbat - and centered around the notion that Shabbat must be appreciated for the countless practical benefits that it brings into our lives.

The speakers who addressed our students recently were some of the most engaging we have ever had, and all conveyed crucial messages. **Mr. Saul Blinkoff**, an animator and director for Disney, told our kids about his journey to Judaism, the kiddush Hashem he is able to make on a daily basis and how his religion enhances his life. The lecture was scheduled for 45 minutes, but ended up going twice as long as our students were thirsting for more! **Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks** talked to us about faith, the existence of G-d and how we must interact with one another. **Rabbi Yosef Mendelevitch**, the famous refusenik from the former Soviet Union, told our children about the struggles he endured to maintain his faith and religion in the most difficult of circumstances. We were all extraordinarily moved by the smile, positive attitude and encouraging words of **Mrs. Rachelle Fraenkel** who shared with us about the tragic loss of her son Naftali and the other two boys (Eyal and Gilad) this past summer in Israel at the hands of terrorists. Her messages of hope and achdut (unity) will never be forgotten by our students.

I look forward to sharing more programs of excitement and inspiration with you in future editions of the *Hillel Herald*.



CHEMISTRY LAB



Eighth grade students complete a chemistry lab in science. The students had three substances and three Ziploc bags. They put a different combination of substances in each bag and observed the chemical reaction that resulted. Some signs that a reaction was taking place were color change, temperature change and gas production. Some students had bags that produced enough gas to make them explode!



Chayim Dimont, M.S. Ed.
Principal, Early Childhood - Grade 3



The Middah of Face-to-Face Empathy

It is clear to all of us that our children are growing up in a world when face-to-face connections take on a secondary role in the building of relationships. With the ever popular social media sites, apps, and texting, humankind is less and less in tune with facial expressions and voice intonations, which can truly affect our conversation and perspective. How often does an e-mail or text message get misconstrued because there is that lack of one-on-one, eye-to-eye interaction? As our children grow up in this technology-driven world, we are faced with many challenges we never had as kids. We want our children to resist the temptation of technology but we hear their fears of possible social isolation without such gadgets. On the flipside, we fundamentally understand that technology is here to stay and we have to adapt and ride the technological current no matter the consequences.

There are no simple answers to these dilemmas—to let them get a phone and text, to allow restricted Instagram or Facebook accounts, etc.—and each position has many legitimate and compelling arguments. I do not claim to have all the answers, as I personally battle this internal argument of how little or how much technology to incorporate into my own children's lives, especially as they get older. However, what's most important in dealing with this parental-child issue besides the obvious one of keeping the lines of communication open, is the emphasis we should place on the human connection, a keshar (link) that can only lead to the vital Middah of learning how to be empathetic toward others.

Once a child chooses an electronic toy over an outdoors one, they are making a choice to shut themselves off from outside social connections. Once a teen answers a text, rather than picks up the phone to call a friend, he or she is missing out on that vital human link. Not interacting with others one on one cuts you off from learning about others, understanding, being compassionate and being empathetic toward others' feelings.

When our children can learn to read the emotions of their fellow man, not through an app or facial recognition scanner, but through a smile or a tear directly in front of their faces, then they are learning the true signs of caring and kindness, which will strengthen character to cause a domino effect to other Middot. The time we spend teaching our children how to behave directly *with* others is the most important education we can offer.

HEALTH WEEK FEATURES NFL PLAY 60

Hillel Thank you to **Chayim Dimont, Sheri Siegel and Neomi Aharon** for their hard work planning this year's Health Week.
Healthy Habits

During the Health Week this past October, Hillel Day School students participated in a variety of programming that engaged and excited them while promoting healthy nutritional choices, exercise and activities.

One of the highlights featured NFL Play 60 by the Miami Dolphins Youth & Community Programs, which set up an obstacle course for the children to experience a real NFL Pro Athletic training camp. The Gatorade JTC (Junior Training Camp) is a free grassroots program that teaches NFL skills to the youth of South Florida. They teach the importance of education, physical fitness and making positive choices. Students participated in both offensive and defensive drills featuring hurdles, knock-away dummies, ladders and halfback pads like the Miami Dolphins players and they had the chance to meet **Troy Drayton**, a former NFL player.



Thank you to the following community members, some of whom are Hillel parents, for donating their time to teach the students important healthy lessons throughout the week: **Lucille Beseler**, president of Family Nutrition Center of S. Florida; **Mrs. Elana Rackman**; **Tony Hall** of East West Karate; **Mrs. Dvorah Eisen**; **Dr. Tomer Haik**; **Dr. Dov Pickholtz**; **Chef Lowil Stoller**; and **Mrs. Elana Ostroff**, director of the PJ Library. In addition, thank you to **Dr. Penina Dorfman** and **Dr. Jordana Carmel**, for their interactive presentation to 1st through 5th graders about healthy bodies and minds.

Thank you to **Winn-Dixie** and **Cory Weissman**, manager, for sponsoring the event and generously donating food, snacks and ingredients, as well as other program supplies for the week.

And thank you to our amazing volunteers and staff members for their help during NFL Play 60: **Coach Moishe Aquart, Chayim Dimont, Dr. Penina Dorfman, Ricky Dorfman, Rabbi Adam Englander, Leslie Firestone, Hadar Gomry, Beth Janock, Jeremy Lurie, Leonardo Moran, Coach Maia Shaffer, Joe Sharp, Talya Shemesh, Cindy Zemel, and Nathan Zucker**. Also thank you to **Leonardo Moran** and **Chari Bernten** for Health Week photography, and to **Liz Pilkington** for her assistance with PR.



HDS EMET CLUB WINNERS

E xcellent	Daniel Aber	Eitan Gross	Paige Rackman
	Rebecca Adler	Natalie Grunberg	Noam Rindsberg
	Sarah Amiel	Shira Grunhaus	Jennifer Rosen
	Tamar Amiel	Joshua Haik	Anna Jane Rudensky
	Aryeh Bar Chaim	Ami Harow	Ella Saketkhou
	Gabe Beim	Emma Harow	Akiva Scher
	Yoni Ben-Josef	Netanya Herschberg	Yosef Schwarzman
	Caleb Berman	Benny Hochner	Ella Severin
	Jamie Birnbaum	Eitan Kaminetzky	Eliana Shapiro
	A.J. Broide	Ariana Kassorla	David Skoczylas
	Netanel Cohen	Katie Katz	Doronit Skoczylas
	Sarah Cohen	Joseph Kestenbaum	Merav Skoczylas
	Tamir Cohen	Lizzy Klein	Ari Spolter
Ari Cooper	Talia Kods	Shoshana Stadlan	
Elisheva Davis	Rafi Krawatsky	Kayla Stein	
Nava Davis	Rayli Kroll	Maayan Sussman	
Michael Deakter	Akiva Lanner	Zahava Tilis	
Ezra Dimont	Andy Levontin	Akiva Tokayer	
Abraham Eckert	Daniel Lugassy	Eliana Tokayer	
Avigayil Elkoby	Shirelle Lunski	Daniella Weiss	
Noa Elmakies	Miriam Marcus	Daveed Winograd	
Rebecca Freedman	Olivia Medjuck	Avi Young	
Adiel Frohlich	Ben Meltzer	Joshua Young	
Judah Frohlich	Zev Meltzer	Daniel Yudewitz	
Noa Gedz	Chavie Mergui	Gavriella Yudewitz	
Jacob Greenbaum	Rachel Mocheyat	Calev Zak	
Judah Greenbaum	Moshe Moskowitz	Shemaya Zangre	
Aryeh Gross	Sruli Muschel	Noah Zucker	
Daniel Gross	Kira Ohayon	Sydney Zucker	

Mazal Tov to all of the winners!

(as of 3-2-15)

Hadassah Smolarcik, M.S. Ed. Principal, Grades 4 & 5 and Judaic Studies



Recently, my husband and I were invited to attend an NCSY event in Toronto. The gathering included many past acquaintances, former students,

old NCSY teenagers and close friends. Around the nation, schools are using the buzz word of "grit," which experts believe is a better predictor of success than IQ.

Here at Hillel we buy into this notion and we have spent, and continue to spend, much time discussing, as a faculty, "mindset" and creating a "growth mindset" where the classroom culture involves struggle and risk-taking that is valued much more than just getting the correct answer. Failures and mistakes are normal parts of learning and not excuses to quit. Letting students squirm a little helps them get comfortable with struggles as they see it as a normal part of learning. Life isn't always easy. Let our students hit the wall sometimes so that they can learn to pick themselves up again; success comes from effort. We need to help our children disavow themselves of any notion of helplessness. As a nation, we are proof of resiliency; we are a people who have demonstrated to the world our resourcefulness even when the odds of success were almost nil. We, as a nation, have an astounding ability to recover from adversity and assault. We have contributed to the world in every field of science, literature, commerce and arts while Torah is being disseminated in greater numbers since the destruction of the Beit Hamikdash and our being dispersed throughout the world! We have done it, and will continue to do it--that is the story of our Nation and our personal story as well.

It was so gratifying, heart-warming and eye opening to reconnect after seventeen years. Today, many of our former teenagers are successful entrepreneurs, educators, community leaders and husbands and wives with beautiful families. As I gazed around the room, I gave much thought as to how some of these "kids" achieved such successes in life? Not all were endowed with great intellectual prowess, and not all had high SAT scores, or, for that matter, solid college educations! What do children today need in order to achieve success in the next seventeen years? Thirty years ago when I began my teaching career, we were told that high scores on tests, good SAT results and entrances to the best colleges were the keys to success. I believe that today's children are going to require perseverance, resilience, curiosity, optimism and self-control. Western society is dominated by instant gratification, high-paced technology, consumerism and globalization. So what should we do as parents and educators?

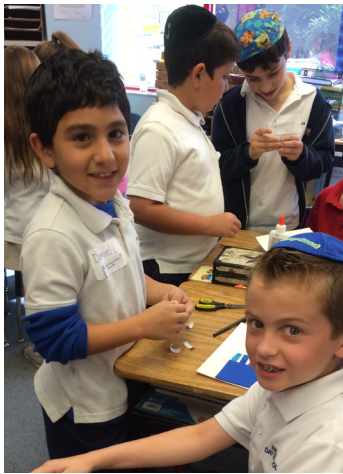
NEW BAT SHERUT ARRIVES FROM ISRAEL



Welcome to **Adi Wasserman** (left), our newest Bat Sherut, who is working with **Hadar Gomry** (right). Adi was born in Netanya, Israel and has an older brother, Eli, and an older sister, Meytal, as

CHESED DAY

Students in grades 1-5 participated in Chesed Day with other local Jewish day schools on December 10 at the Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County. If you haven't seen **Rabbi Drang** and **Eisenberger's** video, "Chesed Makes Us Happy," you can view it on HillelTube.



well as a niece and two nephews. Her father is from the kibbutz Kfar Gidon and her mother is from New York. Adi enjoys swimming and has been in a swimming program for 7 years. She has also been a guide in Bnei Akiva and took a course in touring at Israel's national parks. She is in her last year of National Service and worked at an orphanage with 12 sweet and beautiful children.

Adi and Hadar are teaching Hillel students about Zionism and the culture and history of Israel through activities, dance and other programs throughout the school year.



CHIDON PARSHIOT WINNERS ANNOUNCED



Mazal Tov to the winners of this year's Chidon Parshiot, **Zev Kay** and **Benjamin Cohen** as well as to all of the participants: **Caleb Berman, Hila Blanka, Haley Cohen, Sarah Cohen, Jacob Greenbaum, Joshua Haik, Ami Harow, Benjamin Kahane, Penina Kahane, Talia Kodsi, Jonathan Kogan, Daniel Lugassy, Noah Medjuck, Alexandra Roberts, Shayla Saida, Shuey Silkin, Dovid Skoczylas, Ethan Wirtschafter, and Yoni Yudewitz.**

TU B'SHEVAT



Photo Credit: Leonardo Moran

THE LION'S DEN

Maia Shaffer, Athletic Director



It is hard to believe that it is the end of two challenging but very exciting seasons - our late Fall and Winter seasons. During the late Fall season, our girls basketball team, led by **Coach Mike**, fought their way through 3 wins and 3 losses. Our girls JV basketball team showed a lot of enthusiasm looking toward next year.

GIRLS SOCCER

By: Coach Moishe

The girls soccer team had a very volatile season. We made the playoffs again for the 5th consecutive year, but weren't able to retain our championship from last year, losing in the first round.

The season ended with 4 wins and 2 losses. Team Captains were **Kayla and Rena Bensmihen, Sarah Baum, Rebecca Wirtschafter, and Jackie Zimmerman**. The leading scorers were Jackie and Sarah, each with eight goals. The championship is always our goal since we are a competitive program, but the progress and passion the girls gain are the foremost thing. Thanks to **Coach Samantha, Coach Aaron, and Coach Carlos**. Thanks also to Athletic Director **Maia Shaffer** for her never ending dedication.



The boys soccer team had an undefeated season for the very first time, but lost in a hard fought game in the first round of the playoffs. This was also the first year for our JV soccer team, which was launched in an effort to continue to build upon the outstanding program Hillel has developed over the years.

In a valiant effort, the girls soccer team once again made it to the playoffs, where they lost in the end due to penalty kicks. Their dedication and energy should be celebrated by all of our Lions.

Our boys varsity basketball team had many challenges to overcome and learned many valuable lessons in order to continue to strengthen their skills for next year.

Saving the best for last, our boys JV basketball team demonstrated the highest level of dedication, skill, and sportsmanship. Even though it was their first year as a new, official team, they managed to elevate themselves into a second place position in the league.

A huge shout-out to **Rabbi Englander** for all of his guidance and encouragement regarding the athletic program and the positive impact it has had on our students. I would also like to thank our basketball coaches --**Coach Mike, Coach Allan, Coach Noah,** -and also our soccer coaches--**Coach Moishe, Coach Samantha, and Coach Shapiro**--for their unwavering commitment to our student athletes. We look forward to our spring season, which includes girls and boys tennis as well as girls softball. In closing, I would like to also thank the parents for all of their support at the games.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

By: Coach Mike & Coach Allan



The girls basketball team showed determination and perseverance going 3-3 this season. With many of our players playing for their first time in a league game, the girls team missed the playoffs only on a technicality. The girls learned a lot about the importance of leadership and communication in both competitive sports and everyday life.

Our girls team put a lot of work and effort into this season and should be extremely proud of how far they have come from the first practice to the last.

BOYS SOCCER

By: Coach Moishe

The boys soccer team had a great season even though we didn't win the championship.

The boys ended with the best record in Hillel history, with 4 wins and 2 ties, and the only

loss post-season playoff game against Sagemont. Team Captains were **Isaac Shapiro, Yitzy Lanner, and Henry Bensmihen**. The leading goal scorer was **Yitzy Lanner** with seven goals. Overall we had a very young team and will continue to build our program, with the goal to win a championship in the next few seasons.



GIRLS JV BASKETBALL



BOYS JV SOCCER



BOYS JV BASKETBALL

By: Coach Allan

It was an amazing experience coaching this season of JV basketball at HDS and riding the highs and lows of such a competitive season. The result: runners-up in the championships. Looking at our journey from beginning to end of season, I am overjoyed with the progress and growth that has been developed within each individual player. Without the outstanding support from Hillel parents and staff, such progress could not be achieved. Lastly, thank you to the team players for their commitment and patience in our first year together. I am proud of them all. With valuable lessons learned from an exciting year, I look forward to next season.



By: Coach Mike

The boys varsity basketball team returned with only one player from last year's team. With a tough schedule and little experience, the boys team ran into many obstacles this season. With another Hillel Lions season in the books we all learned many valuable lessons about hard work and team work.



Special thanks to **Leora Cohn** for her assistance in taking the sports photos.

Meet Our Student Council



President/Vice President
Yitzy Lanner/Jacqueline Zimmerman

Secretary
Sydney Freedman & Neshama Pickholtz

Treasurer
Chani Kaminetsky & Sivan Mussaffi

8th Grade Class Representative
Meital Fixler & Dovid Zak

7th Grade Class Representative
Jacob Levinrad & Mayrav Saketkhau

6th Grade Class Representative
Eliana Broide & Alex Lurie



The 5th graders learned about the quilt code slaves would use when running away along the Underground Railroad. With the help of **Arlyne Wayner**, Mrs. Deichman's mom, students made quilts in class and Mrs. Wayner will be using the quilt blocks to sew a large quilt to be hung in the school.



The students also led runaway slaves (4th graders) on a journey to freedom in Canada. The activity was a great success!



4th grade students "shape up" to identify and describe geometric figures.

Teachers of the Month



Rabbi Yosef Kassorla
 September 2014



Morah Hana Marin
 October 2014



Mrs. Pamela Gene
 November 2014



Morah Lauren Glaun
 December 2014



Mrs. Beth Janock
 January 2015

Israeli Teacher of the Year Visits HDS

Dvora Shani, one of six "Teachers of the Year" in Israel, came from Kiryat Bialik, Boca Raton's sister community in Israel, to visit HDS. She was extraordinarily impressed with our warm, enthusiastic environment, our student-centered approach and our passion for excellence in all that we do.

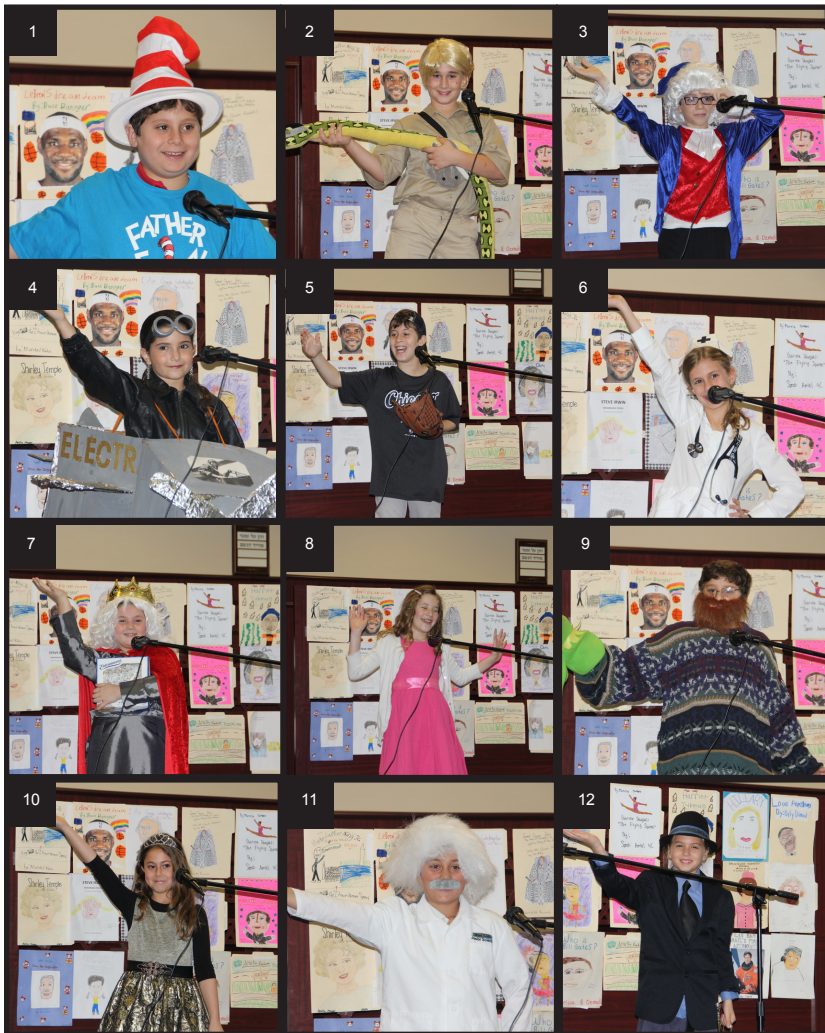
(pictured l-r): **Marilyn Nachman** (Director of School Educational Services Jewish Federation of SPBC), **Sheryle Spar** (Chair of P2G Committee), **Dvora Shani** (Israel's Teacher of the Year), **Rabbi Adam Eglender**, and **Rabbi Mordechai Smolarcik**.



David New visits HDS with his dog, Carmichael, and shows students interesting gadgets and technology that he uses to help him with his blindness.

4th Grade Biographies

Guess Who They Are! See the back page for the answers.



Chanukah



Thanksgiving



HDS HAPPENINGS

TRANSPORTATION DAY

Thank you to **Cara Beim** and **Michele Dimont** for organizing Transportation Day and to these companies for their participation: Cycle Party (quadricycle), Unique Transportation (trolley), Southeast Milk (milk tanker), Hip Pops (frozen treats), Sunshine Golf (golf cart), as well as the Palm Beach County Sheriff (squad car, motorcycle, mule, ATV, boat and mounted police on horses) and Palm Beach Fire Rescue. Special thanks to **Nathan Zucker** for the aerial fly-by in his airplane.



PTA PAGES

Sharona Kay, M.A., Ed. PTA President



PICTURE DAY

Thank you to **Sara Goldberg** and **Jen Kroll** for organizing Picture Day, and to volunteers **Naomi Abramovitz, Cara Beim, Shira Kroll, Rachel Tripp, Chava Weisstuch,** and HDS staff members **Susan Herr** and **Jill Kaminetzky.**

A GREAT DAY AT THE CHANUKAH FAIR

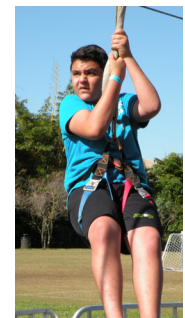


Boundless enthusiasm resounded at the PTA Annual Chanukah Fair & Open House. Boasting a terrific turnout—a prospective parents and current HDS families entered the

While the day offered fun and prizes, it also provided other rewards—the joy that comes with giving back to the community. Thank you to everyone who fulfilled an important mitzvah by donating blood. We are grateful to **Beth Janock** for arranging this opportunity.



Milton B. Katz Campus in droves—the December event was a grand success. From activities for children of all ages to ample food choices, this special day offered something for everyone.



Outside, the school lawn and sports fields were hubs of entertainment. While squeals of joy emanated from HDS' bounce houses, parents and students glided over the fields on the Fair's first-ever zip line. Students

The day also typified the sense of commitment that permeates the HDS student and parent body. With the much appreciated help of HDS teachers, middle school and Weinbaum Yeshiva High School students, and parents, this action-packed day created fond memories. And these moments have been captured in the beautiful collage of Chanukah Fair pictures created by **Phyllis Struhl**, on display in the main building.



RECYCLING PROGRAM

Please remember to drop off your used printer and ink toner cartridges, cell phones, laptops, digital cameras and other small electronics at the front desk. HDS is proud to be among the many schools participating in the Dade Recycling program. Thank you to **Andrea Zucker** for leading this initiative, and to the many families and businesses who are already contributing to this important effort.

AMAZON AFFILIATES



The PTA has joined Amazon Affiliates, a simple way to support HDS every time you shop at Amazon. **All you need to do is visit** <http://www.hillelpta.org/amazon.html> **to place your Amazon order, and the school will receive 6% or more back on your purchases.** You'll find the exact same prices, product selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon's standard website – with the added bonus of knowing you are supporting our school. Thank you to all of the HDS families who have helped us raise over \$200 in just two months. We express our gratitude to **Miriam Raul** and **Andrea Zucker** for coordinating this program.

also enjoyed finding their way through the new corn gelt maze, and played captivating games led by magician and entertainer **Avi Frier**. A host of fun carnival activities also provided great entertainment. Younger attendees in need of some winding down time hopped aboard the color-block train, a Chanukah Fair favorite, in the Early Childhood parking lot.



Most importantly, a hearty yasher koach to the Chanukah Fair committee: **Simone Broide, Shira Englander, Sharona Kay, Jen Kroll, Tammy Pickholtz** and **Stephanie Stern**. Hope to see you all again next year!

TEACHER APPRECIATION BREAKFASTS

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



While the sun was shining outside, the indoor gymnasium and Loewenstern Cafetorium also radiated with excitement.

Students played laser tag, and participated in fun arts and crafts activities. Parents and students also visited the annual Scholastic Book Fair, organized by **Dvorah Eisen**. When it was time to refuel from shopping and playing, chef extraordinaire **Steve Lugerner's** menu added extra flavor to the day.



Prospective parents enjoyed informative tours of the campus and got to see a glimpse into the quality Jewish education their children can receive at HDS.



Faculty and staff enjoy the February Teacher Appreciation Breakfast, sponsored in honor of EC-2, 5th and 6th grade teachers, administration and administrative staff.





Congratulations to the **Dimont and Freedman (Joseph & Galit)** families on being our recent BoxTops raffle winners! Winners receive a \$10 gift certificate to Chaya's Vitamins. Please support the PTA by saving your BoxTops. To enter the raffle, simply submit your name on the back of each BoxTop you bring in. Thank you to **Deena Frist** for coordinating our BoxTops campaign and to the HDS families who have helped us raise \$349 this school year.



Orlando Vacation

Kudos to **Michele Dimont** and **Dvora Eisen** for coordinating the sale of discounted Disney World® and Universal Studios tickets during January



vacation. Thanks to their efforts, families saved money on their vacations while raising funds for our school.



Thanks to a free, downloadable application for smartphones and tablets, HDS families are turning their grocery receipts into donations to our school. When you download Shoparoo, it does not matter what or how much you buy – every grocery receipt allows you to earn points for HDS just by snapping a picture of it. We applaud all of the HDS families who have helped us accumulate over 107,385 points. Your efforts have helped HDS earn an over \$200 donation from Shoparoo.

Perfect Presents

Tired of shopping for last-minute birthday party gifts? If you have a child or children in Early Childhood through fifth grade, you can save time, money and energy with the PTA's Perfect Presents program. For a one-time fee, your child receives a gift for his/her birthday and giving gifts to your child's friends is effortless. You no longer need to shop for presents! For more information, please contact **Naomi Katz** at nweisel@gmail.com.



Good & Welfare Cards

The PTA offers beautiful Good & Welfare cards to honor lifecycle events. The suggested donation per card is \$10 or three for \$25. The PTA saves you time and postage by sending the card(s) for you with your message! For more information, please contact **Dvora Scher** at dvora@dwpalaw.com.

Uniform Shoppe



Thank you to **Dvora Eisen** for running the HDS Uniform Shoppe. Because the PTA is responsible for storing, managing inventory and ordering and selling shirts, skirts, school spirit shirts and more, we are also able to provide students with wholesale prices on a regular basis. The Uniform Shoppe is also pleased to offer kippot and tzitzit at great prices.

Grade Get-Togethers

In an effort to give HDS families an opportunity to get to know each other, the PTA is pleased to coordinate get-togethers for each grade.

EC4

EC4 families enjoyed an afternoon at Patch Reef Park, coordinated by **Bina Asher** and **Aviva Klein**.



6TH GRADE

Sixth graders enjoyed an outing to Strikes at Boca, coordinated by **Shira Cohen, Suzy Ruttenberg**, and **Monique Saka**.



If you're looking for an easy way to get involved with HDS, consider enlisting in the PTA Troopers—and find the volunteer opportunities that are just right for you! Please email sharonakay@mac.com to join and learn more.

CAMPAIGN MATTERS

Orlie Cohen, Ph.D., Financial Resource Development Chair/Suzanne Rice, Director of Development

ANNUAL DINNER CELEBRATES HDS' COMMITMENT TO ISRAEL THROUGH EDUCATION

Hillel Day School of Boca Raton held its Annual Journal Dinner Event on Thursday evening, January 12, 2015, at Congregation B'nai Israel. Parents, grandparents, faculty members and community members gathered to "Celebrate Hillel's Commitment to Israel Through Education," the theme of the school's major fundraising event. Six faculty members received the Oht Hameseroot Faculty Achievement Award for 13 years of service to HDS: **Morgan Comart, Tova Gil, Rina Lanner, Leonardo Moran, Ofra Struogano, and Cindy Zemel.** In addition, **Karen Berman** and **Lea Friedman** received the Double Oht Hameseroot Faculty Achievement Award for 26 years of service.



Thank you to everyone who participated, either through attending the dinner, placing an ad in the Journal or joining the Tribute Committee. A list of the 2014-15 Tribute Committee is to the right. Thank you to this year's event co-chairs, **Dr. Chanoch & Rachel Harow** and **Dr. Joshua & Stephanie Stern**, and to our Master of Ceremonies, **Dr. David Kay.** The evening was filled with ruach, delicious food and our first official "Kahoot" contest, won by **Rachel Yudewitz.**

In addition, thank you to **Hadassah Smolarcik**, Principal, Grades 4 & 5 and Judaic Studies, as well as the **1st through 5th grade Judaic faculty**, for coordinating the meaningful letters to the IDF soldiers produced by the 1st through 5th grade students.



The letters were displayed during the dinner and are being sent directly to the Israeli soldiers.

Ambassador Ido Aharoni, Consul General of Israel in New York, delivered an inspiring message, and two videos produced by **Rabbi Mordechai Smolarcik** were featured.

Special thanks to **Dr. Orlie Cohen**, Financial Resource Development Chair, for her attention to every detail of the program as well as spearheading our fundraising campaign. Thank you to **Michele Dimont**, Ad Journal Editor, for her assistance with the Ad Journal. Journals are available on request through the Development Office.

Once again, thank you to **Deborah Young**, Got It Covered, for her time and effort with décor. The room looked beautiful thanks to her creativity. We also thank **Cara Beim** for helping make the giveaway mugs.

We would also like to acknowledge **Elise Cohen** for her graphic design assistance, as well as **Leonardo Moran** for photography, and **Noah Light** (HDS Class of '11), for video taping highlights of the evening.

Currently, the campaign has raised over \$450,000 for Jewish education scholarship assistance as well as ensured the high quality of Judaic and secular studies for all of our students. If you have not made your annual gift of tzedakah, you may do so through our website at www.hilleldayschool.org.



We thank this year's Tribute Committee for their support of Hillel Day School and Jewish education.

Sal & Leslie Abady (L)
 Chaim & Debbie Abramowitz
 Daniel & Liora Adler (L)**
 Anonymous
 Anonymous
 Avraham & Elana Belizon (C)**
 Lisa Kaufman Bensmihen (C)*
 Steven Berkeley & Rebecca Stern (L)(M)
 Boca Raton Synagogue
 Michael & Mirta Brown (L)
 Mark & Helen Cohen (M)(C)
 Donny & Freyda Cohen
 Eli & Orlie Cohen (L)
 Hillel & Chayi Cohen (M)*
 Meyer & Laura Cohen (M)
 Leo & Heni Ehrlich
 Rabbi Adam & Shira Englander
 Fred & Judy Farbman
 Marty & Ileana Flics (L)
 Menashe & Jamie Frank
 Ben & Cara Freedman (M)(C)(L)*
 Joseph & Galit Freedman (L)*
 Ayal & Deena Frist
 Bruce Gendelman Insurance Services (L)*
 Gerry Golden
 Glen & Rosa Golish (L)(C)
 Raph & Meira Gross
 Isaac & Ilona Grynstein (C)*
 Chanoch & Rachel Harow (M)*
 Jeffrey & Jodi Harris (L)
 Hillel PTA
 Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County
 Daniel & Caroline Katz (L)**
 Jean Katz
 David & Sharona Kay (L)(M)*
 Rabbi Jonathan & Jennifer Kroll
 Stephen & Elizabeth Landes
 Rabbi Samuel J. & Breindel Levine
 Robert & Linda Levy
 Josh & Sara Light (M)*
 David Markowitz & Sara Levine (C)
 Daniel Rosenthal & Sara Goldberg
 Barry & Dana Schechter
 Ira & Arlene Schwartz
 Jay & Tracey Schwartz
 Joe & Shira Sharp
 Leor & Gaby Skoczylas (M)*
 Rabbi Mordechai & Hadassah Smolarcik
 Adam & Shaani Splaver (M)
 Gil & Lysee Stein
 Ido & Gila Stern
 Joshua & Stephanie Stern (M)*
 Ted & Linda Struhl (L)
 Teddy & Phyllis Struhl (C)
 Benjamin & Donna Tripp (L)
 Jackie & Rachel Tripp
 Ashi & Chava Weisstuch
 Ari & Shoshana Wirtschaffer
 Michael & Risa Zimmerman (L)(C)*

* New Society Members for 2014-15
 ** Renewed Society Members for 2014-15
 L - Lamed Vav Society
 C - Chai Society
 M - Maimonides Society

Orlie Cohen, Ph.D., Financial Resource Development Chair/Suzanne Rice, Director of Development

HDS Joins Life & Legacy Planned Giving Program

Hillel Day School of Boca Raton has been accepted into a new 2-year "Life & Legacy" program, sponsored by the **Jacobson Jewish Community Foundation of the Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County** and the **Harold Grinspoon Foundation**, to help promote planned giving, endowments and other after-lifetime giving opportunities.

Through training, support and monetary incentives, HDS, along with 10 other local Jewish organizations, will be motivated to secure legacy gifts, steward donors and integrate legacy giving into the philanthropic culture of the Jewish community.

Hillel's Legacy Team members include **Sal Abady, Helen Cohen, Orlie Cohen, Glen Golish, Daniel Katz, Leigh Katzman** and staff members **Rabbi Adam Englander**, Head of School, and **Suzanne Rice**, Director of Development.

HDS will receive consulting services from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, and will be eligible to receive at least \$15,000 in unrestricted incentive grants over the next two years if 18 letters of intent are secured between now and March 30, 2016. Additionally, another 18 letters of intent must be secured between April 1, 2016 and March 30, 2017.

For information on how you can make your planned gift to Hillel Day School, and help with this effort, please contact the Development Office at 561-470-5000 ext. 225.

Mega Raffle Raises Over \$20,000!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the first-ever Mega Raffle! This fundraiser brought in over \$20,000 for Hillel Day School and Jewish education.

Thank you to Raffle Committee members **Orlie Cohen, Kimberly Frohlich, Aviva Klein, Jeremy Lurie** and **Liz Pilkington**. Also thank you to **Meira Gross** for her assistance with raffle sales and our Every Parent Campaign. And finally, thank you to our middle school students for assisting with this mitzvah.

\$100,000 Winner
Rabbi & Mrs. David Katzenstein
of Silver Spring, MD

Israel Trip or \$5,000 Cash
Mr. Mark Stern of Boca Raton, FL

\$1,000 Cash
Mr. & Mrs. Aaron Fischman
Margaret Kahn
Chesky Weiss
Sheldon & Sharon Klein
Chana Kirshenbaum

In addition, a drawing was held for those who sold tickets. The following people each won a \$100 American Express gift card:

Max Frohlich, 6th Grade
Aiden Harow, 6th Grade
Jeremy Lurie, HDS Parent
Liz Pilkington, HDS Parent
Joe Sharp, Executive Director & HDS Parent

Every Parent Campaign: Help Us Reach 100% Participation



Thank you to the following parents who have participated in this year's Every Parent Campaign (EPC) by making a gift of tzedakah to HDS!

You can still make your EPC donation of any amount online at <http://www.hilleldayschool.org/donations.php>.

- Zevi & Reut Aber
- Samuel & Naomi Abramovitz
- Daniel & Liora Adler
- Joseph & Lillian Aharon
- Yosef & Leah Amar
- Anonymous
- Anonymous
- Anonymous
- Ariel & Milcah Barashi
- Jeff & Greta Baum
- Ari & Cara Beim
- Avraham & Elana Belizon
- Joseph Bensmihen
- Lisa Kaufman Bensmihen
- Shmuel & Ilana Benyosef
- David & Ranana Berger
- Steven Berkeley & Rebecca Stern
- Rabbi Gur & Ira Berman
- Jay & Chari Berntan

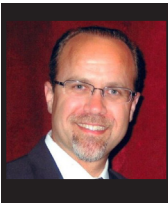
- Tyler Bierly & Aviva Reich
- Joshua Bierman Debbie Friedman
- Ari & Simone Blaine
- Michael Bock
- David Brafman & Sara Shapiro
- Rabbi Joshua & Simone Broide
- Michael & Mirta Brown
- Steven & Devora Burack
- Rotem & Jordana Carmel
- Donny & Freyda Cohen
- Eli & Orlie Cohen
- Eyal & Elise Cohen
- Hillel & Chayi Cohen
- Meyer & Laura Cohen
- Pam Cohen
- Todd & Naomi Cohn
- Erik Cooper & Aviva Klein
- Jonathan Cutler & Susan Mussaffi
- Daniel & Anne Deakter
- Brian & Jodi Deichman
- Chayim & Michele Dimont
- Yosef & Bracha Doch
- Richard & Penina Dorfman
- Richard & Julie Ehrlich
- Eric & Devorah Eisen
- Rabbi Gershon & Shoshana Eisenberger
- Rabbi Adam & Shira Englander
- Andrew & Sharon Fein
- Nomi Feinberg
- Marty & Ileana Flics
- Menashe & Jamie Frank
- Ben & Cara Freedman
- Joseph & Galit Freedman
- Samuel & Lisa Freedman
- Howard & Lisa Friedman
- Ayal & Deena Frist

- Seth Frohlich & Kimberly Galbut
- Ronald & Lori Gabor
- Atzmon & Gila Gedz
- Ilan & Tami Gerlitz
- Russel & Lauren Glaun
- David & Devorah Goldwasser
- Glen & Rosa Golish
- Howard & Claire Goodman
- Rabbi Josh & Dannie Grajower
- Rachel Greenbaum
- Avi & Sara Greene
- Steven & Kerl Greenfield
- Charles & Simone Griff
- Jonathan Gritzman & Tamara Liss
- Jeffrey & Naomi Gross
- Raphael & Meira Gross
- Isaac & Ilona Grynsztein
- Jill Gumpfer
- Tomer & Shirly Hanina
- Chanoch & Rachel Harow
- Matthew & Tova Hocherman
- Jonathan & Aliza Hollander
- Rabbi Yossi & Devorah Kahan
- Levi & Risa Kahane
- Shimmie & Beth Kaminetsky
- Noam & Jill Kaminetzky
- Josh & Liz Karsh
- Rabbi Yosef & Shoshana Kassorla
- Daniel & Caroline Katz
- Elliot & Naomi Katz
- David & Sharona Kay
- Marc & Ziona Kennedy
- Dovid & Vivian Kestenbaum
- David & Batsheva Klein
- Mark & Crissy Kogan
- Wayne & Tova Kotzker
- Yehuda & Dena Kranzler

- Rabbi Daniel & Shira Kroll
- Rabbi Jonathan & Jennifer Kroll
- Evan & Ilana Landau
- Joseph Landes
- Rabbi Chaim & Rina Lanner
- Charles & Gwenn Lerman
- Scott & Beatrice Levine
- Joshua & Sara Light
- Ruth Light
- Shlomi & Arielle Lugassy
- Daniel & Michal Lunski
- Jeremy & Deena Lurie
- David Markowitz & Sara Levine
- Daniel & Maren Mayer
- Marcus & Shirley Mayer
- Nir & Meredith Mayzel
- Douglas & Melanie Meltzer
- Trevor & Gabrielle Meyerowitz
- Aleksandr & Samantha Mochenyat
- Corey & Esti Ohayon
- Gil & Rachelle Ovadia
- Liz Pilkington
- Chaim & Leah Rosen
- Daniel Rosenthal & Sara Goldberg
- Frieda Rubin
- Mark Rubin
- Daniel & Rachel Rudensky
- Eric & Betty Rutner
- David & Suzy Ruttenberg
- Eric & Sabrina Saida
- Michael & Monique Saka
- Michael & Sarah Salpeter
- Herschel & Dvora Scher
- Jay & Tracey Schwartz
- Aaron & Elisheva Schwarzman
- Evan & Orly Shapiro
- Reid & Naomi Shapiro

- Joe & Shira Sharp
- Steve & Rachel Sicherman
- Leor & Gaby Skoczylas
- David & Lisa Slotnick
- Lon & Sara Smolensky
- Mordechai & Suri Spolter
- Carmi & Liz Stadlan
- Gil & Lysee Stein
- Ido & Gila Stern
- Joshua & Stephanie Stern
- Peter & Lowil Stoller
- Teddy & Phyllis Struhl
- Judah & Sharon Sussman
- Amiel & Edna Tokayer
- Benjamin & Donna Tripp
- Jackie & Rachel Tripp
- Rabbi Yaakov Waintroob-Roberts
- Cheskel & Miriam Weber
- Josh & Deena Weisfeld
- Mitchell & Ruthy Weiss
- Ashi & Chava Weisstuch
- Yitzie & Aviva Wernick
- Rabbi Matan & Yaffi Wexler
- Jonathan & Suri Winograd
- Ari & Shoshana Wirtschaffer
- Evan & Deborah Young
- Hedayat & Dori Zaghi
- Jason & Nechamah Zangre
- Michael & Risa Zimmerman
- Rabbi Noah & Michal Zisquit
- Nathan & Andrea Zucker

EPC participants as of March 2, 2015.



PEOPLE MAKING A DIFFERENCE Dr. Benjamin Freedman, Supporting AIPAC

Ben Freedman is a member of HDS' Executive Board and Chairs the Maimonides Society of Financial Resource Development. He and his wife, Cara, have 3 children: Sydney (7th grade), Jacob (5th grade), and Rebecca (2nd grade).

Thank you, Ben, for making a difference!

What is AIPAC (how long has this lobby group existed)? AIPAC is the American Israel Public Affairs Committee. Contrary to what many people think, AIPAC is not a "PAC" or "Political Action Committee." AIPAC is a lobbying organization that works day and night to help build and maintain a strong relationship between the United States and Israel. To do that, AIPAC works with lawmakers, policy makers, community leaders and organizers in Washington, D.C. and around the country. AIPAC's goal is to educate those involved to better understand why a strong U.S.-Israel relationship and a secure Israel is important not only for Israel but also for the U.S. AIPAC was founded more than forty years ago. During WWII the American Jewish community learned it had little influence in Washington, D.C. and could do little to help the Jews in Europe. In the aftermath of the Holocaust, the leaders of the U.S. Jewish community recognized that having a strong and influential voice is essential to protect Israel and the Jewish community both here and around the world.

How does AIPAC affect policy change? Perceived as one of the most powerful lobbies in Washington, AIPAC spends much of its time and resources working with and educating members of Congress and their staff. AIPAC provides briefings and information on all issues affecting Israel and the Middle East, and works to help pass legislation to secure a strong Israel, such as funding for projects like Iron Dome. In addition to its efforts on Capitol Hill, AIPAC works in communities around the country to educate state and local government officials, lay leaders, religious leaders (in synagogues and churches), students and ordinary citizens to better understand the role Israel plays in the Middle East. As the only democracy and the U.S.'s closest ally in the region, Israel plays a vital role in U.S. foreign policy. In addition, AIPAC has an educational foundation that sponsors trips to Israel for U.S. lawmakers and lay leaders. As many of us already know, it is hard to fully comprehend the challenges Israel faces and the tremendous work Israel does until one sees it firsthand. AIPAC's foundation sponsors a trip for all new members of the U.S. Congress to visit Israel (with their spouses) to witness how wonderful, vibrant and precarious the situation is in Israel. For many, it is a lifechanging experience and helps to cement their strong and continued support for Israel on foreign policy issues.

How/why did you get involved? How long have you been involved with organization? My wife Cara and I have been involved in AIPAC for almost a decade now. We first got involved because someone invited us to attend an AIPAC event and we immediately recognized the importance of the work AIPAC does.

What events do you host? Like many others in our wonderful community, we have hosted parlor meetings to introduce our friends, colleagues and co-workers to the important work AIPAC does. We have also helped organize larger community-wide events that AIPAC hosts throughout the year, at which a large audience has the opportunity to hear from amazing speakers such as: Ambassador Ron Dermer, Rabbi Daniel Gordis, lawmakers such as Congressman Ted Deutch and Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, *Wall Street Journal* editor Bret Stephens, and others.

What is Policy Conference? Who can attend? AIPAC Policy Conference is one of the most important events you could ever be a part of! Every year, thousands of people of all ages, religions, nationalities and political affiliation come to Washington, D.C. for one purpose - to promote the importance of a strong U.S.-Israel relationship. We hear from leaders around the country (and the world) including key members of Congress, Israeli leaders, and influential domestic and international figures. It is educational, informative and, most of all, inspirational. Being one of 16,000 people of different backgrounds, all of whom care so deeply for the State of Israel, is simply awesome! Every year, thousands of college and high school students from around the country attend. They are some of the most inspiring speakers and attendees. Anyone can attend Policy Conference--just sign up, book a hotel and hop on a flight to D.C...It is a lifechanging experience, and we strongly urge you to try it.

How can others get involved (or when can students start to get involved)? AIPAC is truly a grassroots organization. It depends on individuals getting involved and spreading the word to their friends, family and colleagues. Anyone can get involved. The first step is simply to attend an AIPAC event and learn more about what AIPAC does. Anyone who wants to learn more can certainly contact us and we would be happy to talk to you, invite you to join us at an upcoming AIPAC event, and/or put you in touch with the wonderful members of AIPAC local staff. AIPAC does a tremendous amount with high school and college students to help them be strong pro-Israel activists. Thankfully, AIPAC runs many programs at all of our local high schools, so it is easy to get involved. We hope to personally welcome you soon to be a part of AIPAC!

Do you know someone who makes a difference?

Email srice@hilleldayschool.org to make your nomination for the next *Hillel Herald*.

BIOGRAPHIES ANSWERS (from pg. 7) : 1) Dr. Seuss 2) Steve Irwin 3) George Washington 4) Ameila Earhart 5) Moe Berg 6) Florence Nightingale 7) Marie Antoinette 8) Shirley Temple 9) Jim Henson 10) Princess Diana 11) Albert Einstein 12) Louis Armstrong

If you have information to include in a future *Hillel Herald*, please email srice@hilleldayschool.org.

Editor: Suzanne M. Rice 561-470-5000 x225

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

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

2014-2015 Calendar At-a-Glance

March

29 Federation Super Sunday

April

2-10 Pesach Break (school closed)
3 Erev Pesach
14-24 8th Grade Israel Trip
20-22 6th Grade Sea Camp Trip
20-22 7th Grade Washington, D.C. Trip
6 Yom Hashoah
22 Yom Hazikaron
23 Yom Ha'atzmaut

May

7 Lag B'Omer
11-14 SATs (grades 2-8)
12 Parent/Teacher Conferences EC2-K (evening)
13 Parent/Teacher Conferences EC2-K (day)
14 Sports Night (tentative)
17 Yom Yerushalayim/1st Grade Chag Hatorah
22 Early Dismissal at noon
23 Erev Shavuot
24 Shavuot/Memorial Day (school closed)

June

4 KTP Night
11 Kindergarten Graduation
12 Last Day of School
14 8th Grade Graduation
22 Camp Ruach Begins



Officer Mike speaks to HDS students about fire safety.



Hillel Day School of Boca Raton • On the Milton B. Katz Campus • 21011 95th Ave. S. • Boca Raton, FL 33428
P: 561.470.5000 • F: 561.470.5005 • www.hilleldayschool.org