

THE Hillel Herald

A publication of
Katz Hillel Day School
of Boca Raton
2020-2021/5780-5781
Vol. XIV ~ Issue No. 1



561-470-5000 ~ www.hilleldayschool.org



IN THIS ISSUE

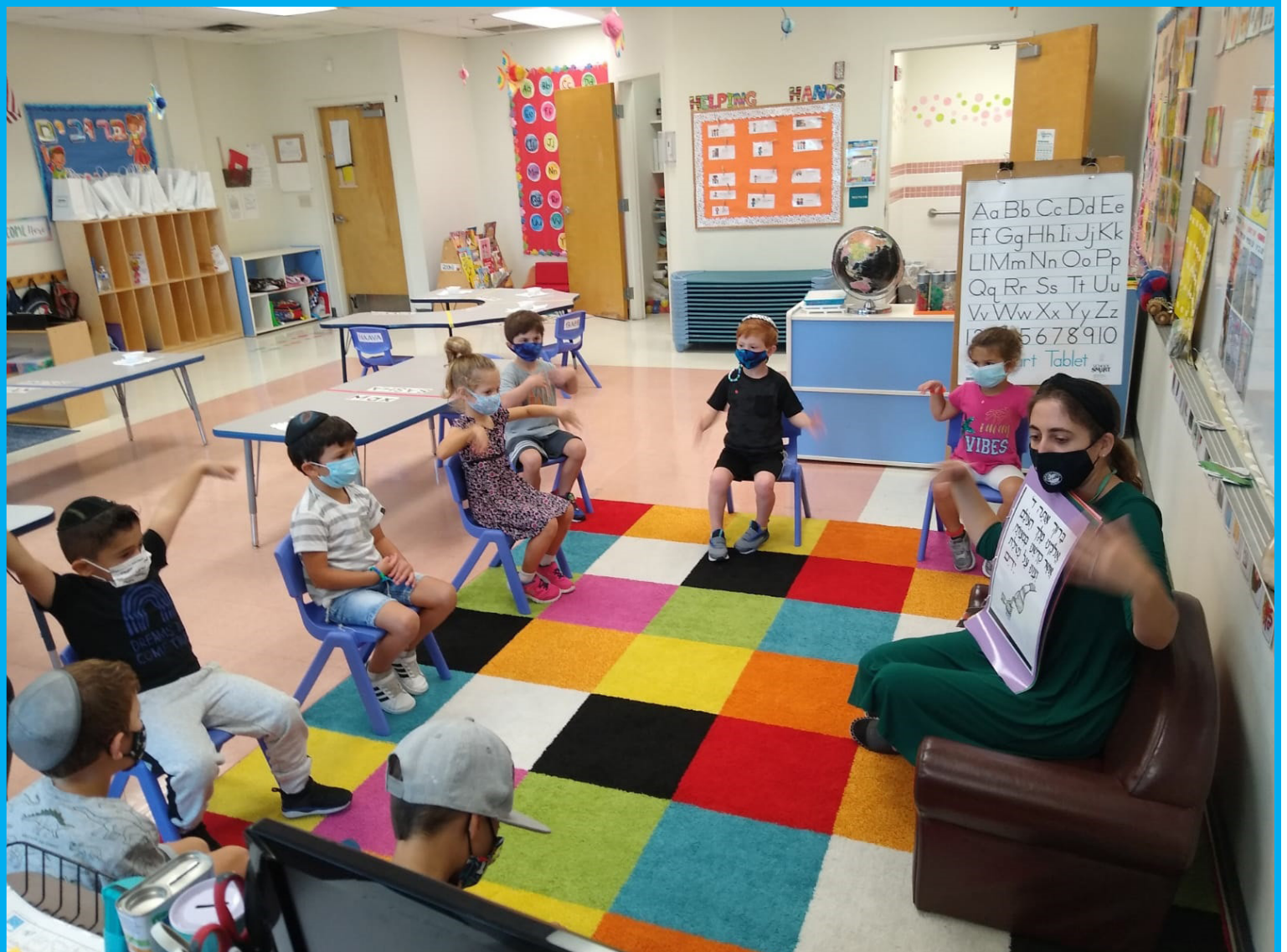


2020 Palm Beach County
Green School of Quality



#RTRH

Leadership Messages.....	2-3
Returning Home.....	4-5
Community, Chesed & Caring.....	6-7
HilleLites.....	8-15
Holiday Happenings.....	16-19
PTA Pages.....	20-21
Campaign Matter\$.....	22-23
Leadership Messages (cont'd.).....	24



2 Leadership Messages



**Rabbi Yehudah Potok, M.S. Ed.,
Head of School**

Resilience in the Face of Adversity

*"My child will not be able to wear a mask all day,"
"She is going to be scared to return to school with so
many restrictions, so we plan for her to be on Zoom
for now," "He will not be able to socially distance
from his friends."*

These are just a few of the many comments that I heard as a Head of School as we planned for reopening our campus this fall. As with every school around the country, our Reopening Task Force struggled with the dilemma of if/how to bring our students back to campus safely for live instruction after such a long break from in-person learning. We were determined to find a way to have children back in our physical school and as a result we developed many protocols, policies, and procedures to ensure a low risk environment for staff and students. As much as our community wanted the children back together in a normal routine, there were still so many worries.

Recently, I have been reading many articles about how the pandemic is having a damaging impact on our youth. I am not going to suggest that there have not been some real and serious struggles for our children. But every day, I also see great strength. Too often, we superimpose our own anxieties as adults onto our children instead of allowing them to feel and react in their own way.

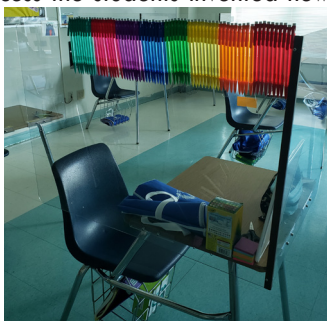
This is a story you have heard before, from so many angles. Change is hard, we fear the unknown, and children need routine and consistency. However, I want to tell you where my students are after six weeks of in-person summer camp and ten weeks into our school year.

I can honestly say that we do not give our kids enough credit. Our children are resilient!! As millennials and Gen Xers we have become so accustomed to protecting our kids from any discomfort, paving their path to success, controlling the variables in their lives. Until now, many of us have had the ability to shield them when a situation is too traumatic or reframe a story that might feel overwhelming. This global pandemic is so pervasive that we were unable to do so. Even our youngest students know the words "COVID" and "social distance." This is our new reality but the good news is, our kids are adapting.

In August, we opened our 520 student school with 90% of our students returning to campus and 10% of them online.

At the start of the year, as with any year, teachers spent a lot of time teaching classroom routines and expectations. But this year there were some new pandemic twists including, The 3 W's - Wear a mask, Watch your distance, and Wash your hands. New changes were added to our schedule such as "mask breaks" and "temperature checks." Lo and behold, the kids got it. Within two weeks, our students understood what was expected of them, and they use words like "pandemic" and "quarantine" in their creative writing--they adapted. The children understand that to safely be in school, their happy place, they must make changes to their routines and adjust.

But this is not the whole story, as some students took this new normal even further. They began to use our pandemic structures in ways we never even dreamed. Students began to personalize the plexiglass dividers on their desks, creating homey spaces within their classrooms. Children added drawings, colorful pen and marker "holders" strung across the top with elementary school precision. Their desks are now adorned with sticky note walls of favorite quotes. At recess the students invented new games that allow for social distancing (I would write more details about these games but alas I do not understand half of the rules, I can only watch the children run around with glee seeming to fully understand how these are played!). And in our middle school building is perhaps my favorite pandemic adaptation—the 8th grade mural. Every morning, we do temperature checks before students are allowed to enter the school building. As with many schools when the children are



cleared, they get a little sticker the size of a pea to indicate that they are allowed in. These stickers are different colors each day of the week so we as a staff can keep track of the process. So, one day as I was walking through our 8th grade wing I noticed a new bulletin board festooned with these small stickers organized by color. On closer inspection I saw that one of our eighth graders had sketched a beautiful beach scene in pencil and noted which color sticker belongs in each section. Every day the eighth graders walk by the mural, pick the appropriate colored section and deposit their sticker.



When I saw this mural, I nearly cried. All of these months of planning, the stress and anxiety for myself, my staff and our parents, and yet here were our children doing exactly what they are so capable of doing – creating beautiful and creative art! They took the materials we provided—and dreamed up new uses that never occurred to us. Children have such a deep strength and perseverance in the face of adversity and we tend to underestimate them.

Hopefully these systems we have in place will last us through the rest of this crisis and we will be able to continue to offer our students a productive and seamless year of learning, although I am sure there will be a few bumps along the way. But, the next time I am lying awake at three in the morning stressed out about my students, how are they going to handle this new curve, this added restriction, I am going to think about the resilience I see today and remember that they are safely sleeping in their beds dreaming up the next step that I had never even imagined.

This article was published in eJewish Philanthropy on Oct. 28, 2020:
<https://ejewishphilanthropy.com/resilience-in-the-face-of-adversity/>

REOPENING TASK FORCE ENSURES SAFE RETURN TO CAMPUS

We would like to extend Hakarat Hatov to the members of the KHDS Reopening Task Force. Countless hours were spent planning for the safe reopening of our amazing school. And their work is not done. The Task Force continues to analyze, plan and advise each and every day as we move forward. In a proactive effort, parents and faculty have been asked to provide the Task Force with feedback, via surveys, about the safety precautions that have been implemented. This will allow them to ensure that they are working effectively and to rapidly identify and address any opportunities for improvement. May we all be healthy and have a full and productive school year ahead.

ADMINISTRATIVE & STAFF MEMBERS

Rabbi Yehudah Potok
Joe Sharp
Chayim Dimont
Hadassah Smolarcik
Rina Lanner
Rabbi Gershon Eisenberger
Robin Noble, LPN
Risa Kahane
Jill Kaminetzky
Suzanne Rice
Jannine Richards Murphy
Veeta Abramchik
Kim Sivick

BOARD & LAY MEMBERS

Dr. Liora Adler
Dr. Harry Bloom
Dr. Ben Freedman
Dr. Evan Landau
Phil Landau, Esq.
Rabbi Samuel J. Levine
Dr. Todd Slesinger



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

In the last six months, we have all heard the phrases “unprecedented times,” “like no other period in history,” “living in exceptional, unparalleled, and extraordinary days,” etc. etc. Yet, have we spoken about what it means to get through these tough times—what it takes and what is truly needed?

Extra kindness, more care, an abundance of love—these can all go far nowadays. Going the extra mile with just a simple thank you, a compliment, or small notice of appreciation—whether to a neighbor, a teacher, a grocery cashier, a spouse—can speak mouthfuls. Even more importantly, having our kids see us taking that extra step to show our gratefulness during a very difficult pandemic can teach more than words can say.

Yes, we are living in a time of isolation, distance, and loneliness, but maybe we can make it just a little bit better, and in doing so, model for our children the best way to get through these “unprecedented times.”



Hadassah Smolarcik, M.S. Ed.
Principal, Grades 4-5 and Judaic Studies Grades 1-8

Getting ready for the school opening this year was “different” to say the least. Orientations were without parents and students were shown classrooms with desks carefully positioned and plexiglass galore! Masked half-faces greeted students as teachers tried to discern who the children were behind the masks. Staggered recess schedules, curbside pickups, temperature checks and screenings at carpools, labeled pencils and crayons, the smell of hand sanitizer, and safety and health protocols all made for a very different and daunting beginning. But different turned out to be exciting and energizing! Whether in person or virtual, learning began to take place with energy, enthusiasm and creativity while all the daunting issues faded into the scenery at KHDS.

“Mah Tovv Ohalecha Yaakov”- “How goodly are your tents,” this is a reference to the Shuls, Yeshivot and schools of the Jewish people. Bilam, the wicked sorcerer, was hired to curse the Jewish people, but Hashem transformed the intended curse into a blessing. Rav Abba bar Kahan said (Sanhedrin 105b) that this bracha would endure forever. Interestingly enough, throughout the history of the Jewish people, even in the bleakest of times, there was never a complete lockdown of our sacred institutions until now! How is it possible then based on Rav Abba’s comment? The answer is simple—the word “Ohalecha” (your tents) also, in fact, refers to the Jewish home. While Bilam wanted to eradicate the Shuls and Torah institutions—he failed to realize that the Jewish home could also be transformed into a “makom Torah”—and while schools and Shuls were in lockdown the tents of the Jewish people were just relocated for a bit. The pandemic forced us to make our homes into the “Ohel” and despite the various challenges, it was incredible.

We are now excited for a new school year and hope that we stay emotionally and physically safe. The support system of teachers, parents, and doctors all are working together to look out for the well-being of all.

May we stay positive, courageous and strong in our yearning to teach Torah and serve Hashem.



Everyone loves the EC Oneg with **Mr. Dimont** on Fridays!



Morah Hadassah teaches a middot lesson virtually.

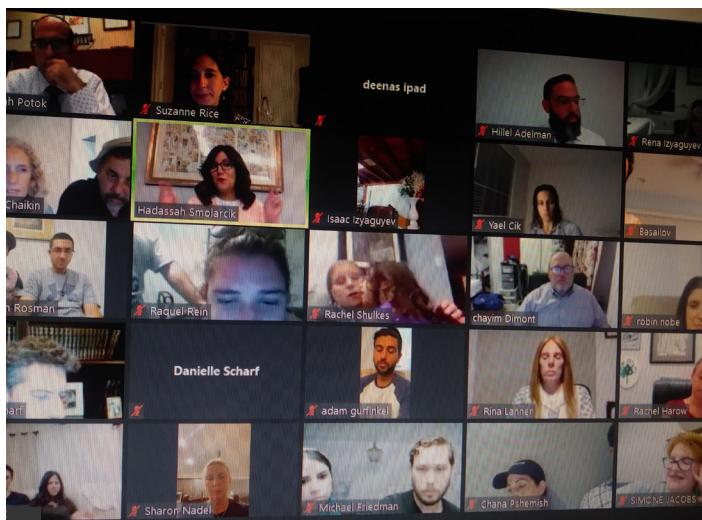
4 Returning Home

BOARD OF TRUSTEES UPDATE

The Katz Hillel Day School of Boca Raton Board of Trustees held its first official meeting for the new school year on Wednesday evening, September 16th. The school is excited to announce that KHDS parent **Alexander Mitchell** has joined the Board. "Mr. Mitchell has great ideas and will chair the Long Term Planning/Strategy Committee," said **Daniel J. Katz**, Board President. "We also welcome KHDS parent **Dr. Liora Adler** to the Board," added Mr. Katz. "Dr. Adler has been playing an integral role as a medical advisor on our Reopening Task Force and has been working countless hours over the past months to ensure safe protocols for our faculty and staff." The Board also announces that KHDS parents **Dr. Elan Rosenblat** and **Gil Stein** have accepted the positions of Co-Treasurers and the school looks forward to their financial leadership. "On behalf of the entire school, we give our heartfelt hakarat hatov to KHDS parent and outgoing Treasurer **Daniel Adler**, and to KHDS past parent and Immediate Past PTA President **Sharona Kay** for their many years of leadership and dedication to the Executive Committee and to our school," noted **Rabbi Yehudah Potok**, Head of School. "We also thank **Dvora Scher, Esq.** for serving as a long time board member."

Daniel J. Katz, President
Liora Adler, M.D.
Daniel Aghion, M.D.
Avraham Belizon, M.D.
Harry Bloom, M.B.A., Ed.D.
Orlie Cohen, Ph.D.
Benjamin Freedman, M.D.
Rabbi Efrim Goldberg
Rachel Harow, M.S.W.
Evan Landau, M.D.
Philip Landau, Esq.
Jessica Matias
Alexander Mitchell
Rabbi Philip Moskowitz
Elan Rosenblat, M.D.
Todd Slesinger, M.D.
Gil Stein
Joshua Stern, M.D.
Ted Struhl
Teddy Struhl
Ashi Weissstuch, M.D.

NEW FAMILY ORIENTATION WELCOMES ALMOST 50 NEW FAMILIES TO KHDS



A virtual New Family Orientation took place on the evening of August 12 for the almost 50 families who are new to our school this year. The program provided them with important information, Q&A, as well as the opportunity to meet the administration virtually.

Special thanks to **Rachel Harow**, and her daughters, **Lili** (8th grade) and **Emma** (6th grade), for assistance assembling the new family swag bags.

WELCOME, NEW FACULTY



Levana Amanou joins us as the new 2nd grade Judaics lead teacher. She is passionate about teaching Torah ideals and Ivrit to young Jewish children, and strives to make every lesson fun and exciting. Her goal is to help every child feel the warmth and beauty of our Jewish heritage, while developing their minds and middot (character traits) with Derech Eretz! Levana and her husband David have five children: Anaelle (age 19), Rephael (age 17), Moshe (age 15), Keren (age 13) and Asher (age 6). Levana was born in Casablanca and she loves art and enjoys painting about Yerushalayim. She also has lived in France, studied in England and has been a movie and play director.



Abby Brody is our new music teacher for EC2-5th grade students. Abby was born in the Big Apple and she and her husband Aaron have three children: Nathan (age 8), Dovid (age 5) and Gavriel (age 1). She loves to experiment in the kitchen and really enjoys preparing delicious foods for her family each week for Shabbat, including homemade challah, dips, healthy salads and main dishes...not to mention desserts!



Elana Ellman is our new 2nd and 3rd grade Etgar secular teacher. "I am excited to further the learning successes for my students and hope to encourage their love for reading while challenging their abilities to excel in math and many other areas of education with fun and excitement," noted Mrs. Ellman. Born in Miami, FL, Elana and her husband George have two children: Yonaton and Rabbi Micael (both married). She enjoys traveling and visiting her grandchildren in Israel and is also an avid cook who likes to try new recipes, and also enjoys needlepoint and reading as favorite hobbies!



Menucha Lipinski has recently joined us as the new 2nd grade Judaics assistant teacher and is working with Morah Levana Amanou. Menucha was born in Jerusalem, Israel, and has lived in four different countries. Since the Coronavirus, she has begun PowerPoint instructional workshops for teachers including how to create engaging presentations with animation, video, games and much more.



Jannine Richards Murphy joins the Business Office as Assistant to the Executive Director. Jannine is working with Joe Sharp to advance the operations of the Business Office and manage our facilities, among other roles. Jannine was born in Kingston, Jamaica and she and her husband Vaughn have one son, Jared (age 21). She loves spending time with family, reading, trying new recipes and exercising. She has a great interest in health and wellness, and became a Certified Health Coach through the Institute of Integrative Nutrition. Since Covid-19, and the closure of gyms, she has been spending more time outdoors including long distance walking and jogging. Her goal is to enter a 5K marathon.

FACULTY AND STAFF ON THE MOVE

Mazal Tov to **Dr. Jordana Carmel**, who has taken on the additional role of Director of Etgar/Mechina for grades 1-8.

Mazal Tov to **Rabbi Gershon Eisenberger**, who has taken on the additional role of Director of Technology Innovation.

Mazal Tov to **Samantha Witztum** who has moved to the Athletics Department.

Mazal Tov to **Yael Hirth** who is now the 1st grade secular assistant teacher.

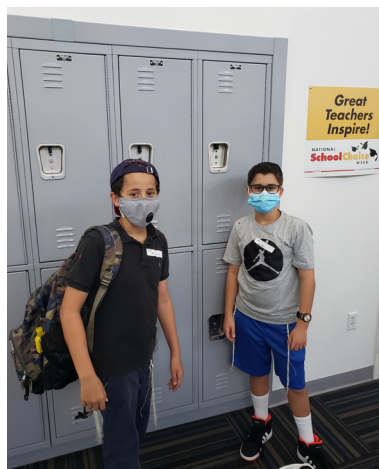
Thank you to **Kim Sivick**, former Director of Technology Innovation, and **Veeta Abramchik**, former Assistant to the Executive Director, for their years of dedication to KHDS.

Thank you to the Haik family for their kind words:

We can't begin to thank you enough for a successful first day for our daughter. She came home so happy and excited. From the amazing bags from the PTA to the yummy surprise treat! It couldn't have been a smoother transition for our children! I pray that it will remain this way and that everyone stays safe and healthy!!!! Thank you for all the time and effort. Believe me I know what goes on behind the scenes that most people don't know or take lightly!! This was not an easy reopening and B'H our children came home happier than I have seen in a long time!

*Thank you,
Shari Haik*

KHDS Middle School students "Returned Home" on Tuesday, August 18, for welcome activities, orientations and their math placement exams. It was wonderful to see everyone!!



Special thanks to **Dr. Gil Bloom** for coordinating our #RTRH countdown family video campaign and thank you to our participating families.



KHDS faculty "Returned Home" for teacher week in preparation of the new school year.



KHDS 8th graders returned home on August 24th as part of the Returning Home phase-in.



A phased in reopening began on Thursday, August 20th. EC2-2nd grade and 6th grade were the first to arrive for the official first day of school. The remaining grades joined in over the next week culminating with the arrival of the 7th graders on Monday, August 31st.



B Community, Chesed & Caring

Kol Hakavod to KHDS student, **Eitan Lasry** (7th grade), who received words of praise for his chesed over the summer:

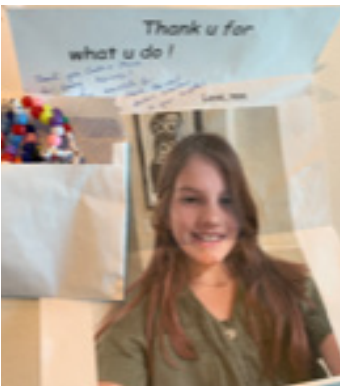
Today I had the amazing experience of seeing one of your talmidim at work. Let me explain, I help coordinate the volunteers who pack boxes of lunch food to distribute to the community children of NMB, Miami Beach and Hollywood. This week, we packed over 2,000 boxes for close to 4,000 children. Each box contains enough food for lunch for the entire week. It is a big operation to pack all those boxes.

Today, Eitan Lasry was one of our volunteer helpers. What a fantastic young man he is. He worked really hard today schlepping boxes and loading them on the table for the packers. If Eitan is any indication of the students that are educated in your school, you and your educators have done a fantastic job.

Kol Hakavod to Eitan!
Tizku L'Mitzvot,
Mark Roth

We are thankful to the **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services** for providing our school with 100,000 reusable masks for our students and faculty.

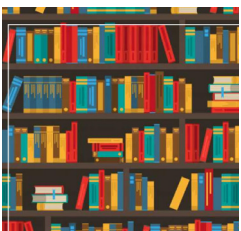
We also thank **Joseph & Lillian Aharon** (KHDS parents) for donating 1,000 masks to KHDS!



Kol Hakavod to KHDS student, **Noa Deichman** (4th grade), who created a project of making bracelets with inspirational words to donate to doctors and nurses. Simultaneously, Noa's mom, **Mrs. Jodi Deichman** (KHDS faculty and parent) found out that **Gabriel Glaun** (KHDS Class of '05) and his wife **Mica**, were working as doctors in trauma hospitals in the Houston area so the bracelets were sent to the Glauns, who then shared them with their co-workers. Below is their note of thanks.

Hi Noa!
Thank you so so much for your thoughtful card and beautiful bracelets!
We have already shared the bracelets with multiple members of our healthcare teams. It means so much to us to know that you took the time to make these bracelets and that you are thinking of us. It's rare for someone to be so thoughtful and caring at your age! Keep it up! We look forward to hearing about all the amazing things that you'll undoubtedly accomplish in the future!
Thank you!
Gabi and Mica Glaun

Sun safe!! Thank you to **Nina and Elaina Hamuy** of **Sun Safe Students** for donating a sunscreen station for our campers and students!



Kol Hakavod to KHDS Alumni, **Aiden Harow** (KHDS Class of '17), for coordinating the Community Read-a-thon this summer. Aiden, who is an avid reader, wanted to incentivize kids to read in a time when binge-watching shows on Netflix or spending hours on YouTube have become the norm.

"I decided to start this project because as the school year approaches, it's super important for kids to get excited about reading," Aiden explained. "After so many hours spent inside staring at screens over the last few months, it's crucial that kids start to sharpen their minds in preparation for the vigorous learning that takes place during the year. In addition, reading is an amazing way for kids to improve their vocabulary and sharpen their creative and critical thinking skills."

Seventy participants read 54,363 pages and a donation of \$500, to be shared among the participating schools, was made by an anonymous donor who had pledged the donation if 50,000 pages were read.



Thank you to **Chuck**, and our neighborhood **Carvel** on Glades Road, for donating ice cream for our students on the first day of school.

Carvel also offers all KHDS students a 10% discount every day in-store!



JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES: COMMUNITY SUPPORT

JFS has worked closely with KHDS to bring a wide array of support services to its students/families. If you or someone you know is in need of assistance, please reach out to the Community Outreach Coordinator, **Elissa Love**, at 561-852-3298.

For additional information on the services JFS provides please visit www.ralejfs.org.

Thank you to KHDS parents, **Chaim & Leah Rosen**, of **Kira Labs & www.medyskin.com**, for donating personal sized hand sanitizers to each KHDS faculty member as well as the large pump bottles for each classroom.



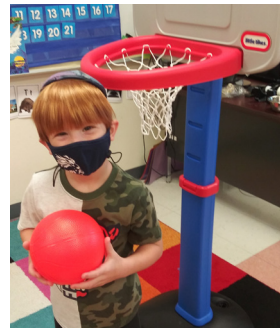
Thank you to **Nurse Robin** for coordinating flu shots for our faculty and staff. Pharmacy manager, **Casimir Maciulewicz**, and interns, **Lori Murchison** and **Zach McCrocklin**, from the **Publix at The Reserve of Boca Raton**, administered the shots and not only made it convenient, but everyone also received a \$10 Publix gift card with their shot. We encourage everyone to receive a flu shot this year to help keep our campus healthy.



Shlomo (3rd grade) and **Ezra Wexler** (1st grade) participated in a chesed program for the hungry making 55 sandwiches and writing nice notes to go with them! What a wonderful mitzvah!



Hakarat Hatov to **Rachel Harow**, her daughters **Emma** (6th grade) and **Lili** (8th grade), and **Gavi Yudewitz** (6th grade), for their work on making lunch bags for the TLC (Tzedakah, Learning and Chesed) Program. They spent hours shopping and making 55 lunches (sandwiches, fruit, chips, and water) and then beautifully decorated the lunch bags with encouraging notes. Rachel made the delivery to **St. Gregory's Church**, which feeds the most vulnerable members of our community.



Thank you to the **Menczer family** for this EC-4 class gift! It will come in handy on rainy days and will be utilized for fun literacy activities!

KHDS administration thanks the entire faculty and staff for their incredible dedication and hard work through these challenging times with some java treats from the **Coffee Ark**.



Thank you to **Drs. Jordana Carmel** and **Penina Dorfman** for taking good care of our faculty and staff and creating a mental health and wellness program. The initial session took place during teacher work week as the special guest presenter, **Jenna Lazar**, Community Outreach Coordinator from **Jewish Family Services**, spoke about the importance of self-care.

The Guidance Team also arranged for all faculty to receive \$25 toward an activity beneficial to their own self-care. We thank the **Epstein and Grajower families** for generously sponsoring this through the **Dannie Grajower, z"l, Professional Development Fund**.

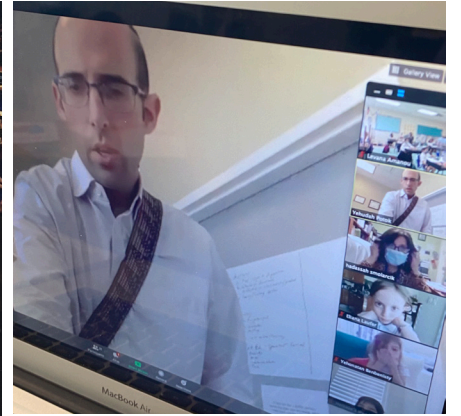
Other self-care programs will continue through the year including Schmooze with Dr. D. or Dr. C., yoga, mental health support outside of school, and much more.

8 HilleLites

Remote Control! These remote learners are all ready for school...uniform: check; backpack: check; computer: check; homework: check; outdoor activity: check!



Friday Onegs have returned... the elementary school Oneg features story time with **Morah Hadassah** while **Mr. Dimont** always has something fun to share (like blowing the Shofar) at the Rosalind Henwood Early Childhood Oneg. **Rabbi Potok** always brings his guitar to both Onegs, adding to the ruach.



Enjoying lunch al fresco!



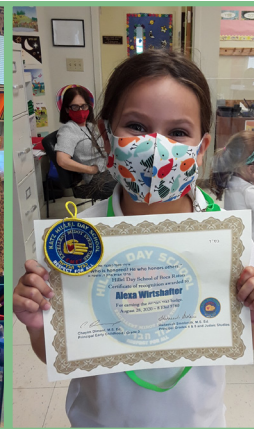
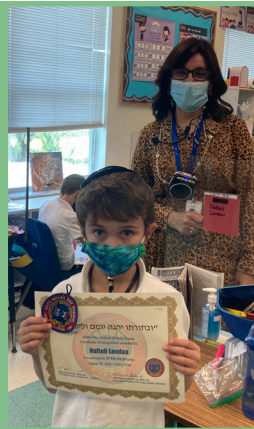
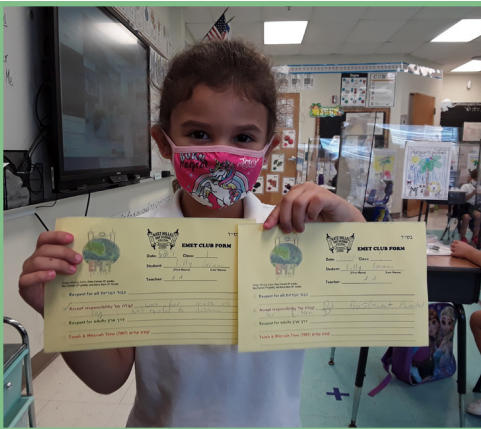
Coach Moishe gets everyone moving!



1st graders return home.

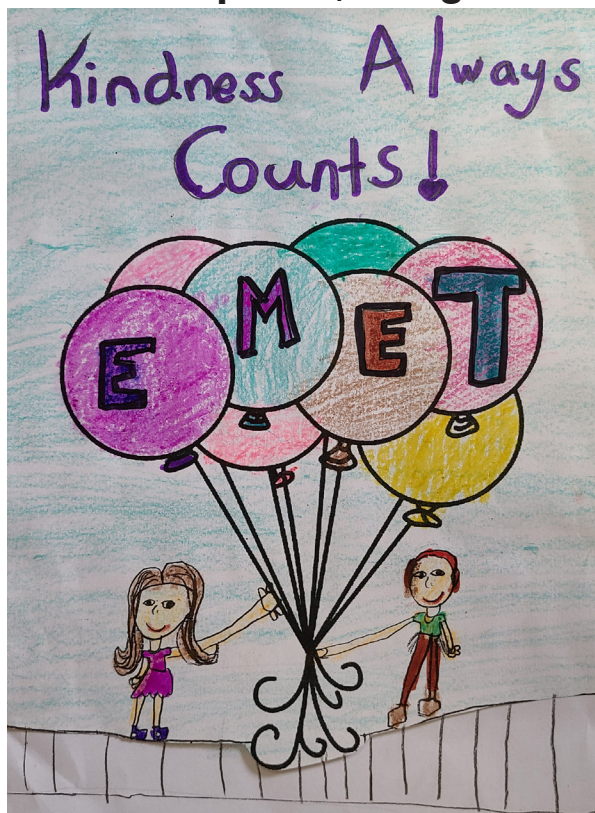


Excellent
Midot
Every
Time



The EMET (Excellent Midot Every Time) Program has begun again.
Mazal Tov to all of our EMET Club participants and our EMET Club badge winners!

**EMET logo design contest winner,
Ruthie Epstein, 3rd grade**



Ruthie's original design has been printed on a banner, EMET notes, and posters.

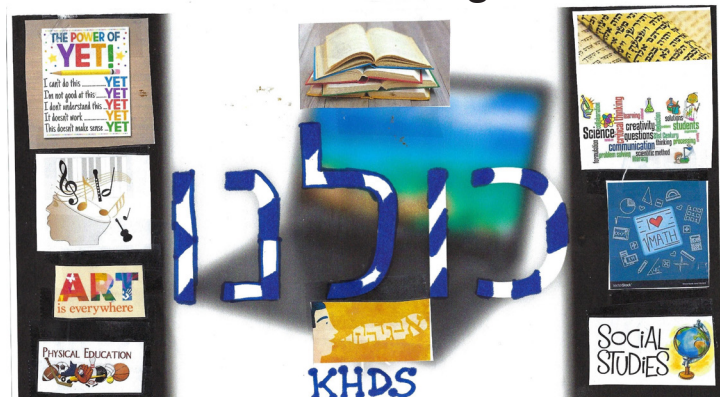
**Rosh Hashanah card design contest winner,
Eitan Gross, 6th grade**

*Designed in 5th grade during 2019-2020 school year,
under the direction of Lisa Pinkis, KHDS Art Department.*



Eitan's original Andy Warhol design was printed on this year's 5781 holiday card.

**Koolanu remote learning logo design contest winner,
Matan Scher, 5th grade**



Matan's design will be featured on the Virtual KHDS remote learning platform.

**Congratulations to all of
our creative artists!**



EC-2



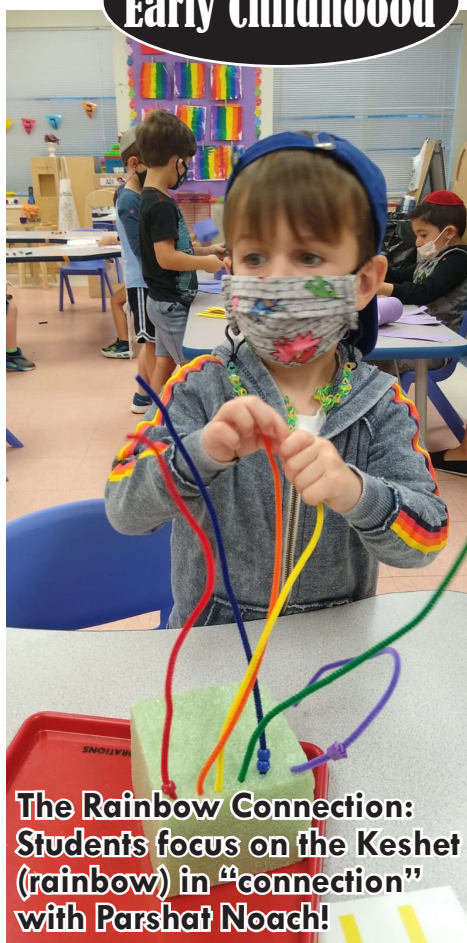
Making mask lanyards while practicing hand-eye coordination and spelling.



EC-3

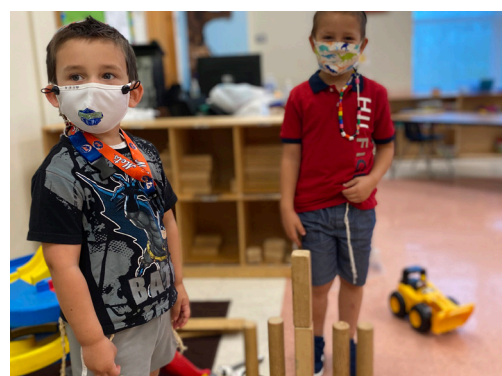


Early Childhood



The Rainbow Connection: Students focus on the Keshet (rainbow) in "connection" with Parshat Noach!

EC-4



Lights, camera, action!

Fun on Aunt Jessie's Playground!



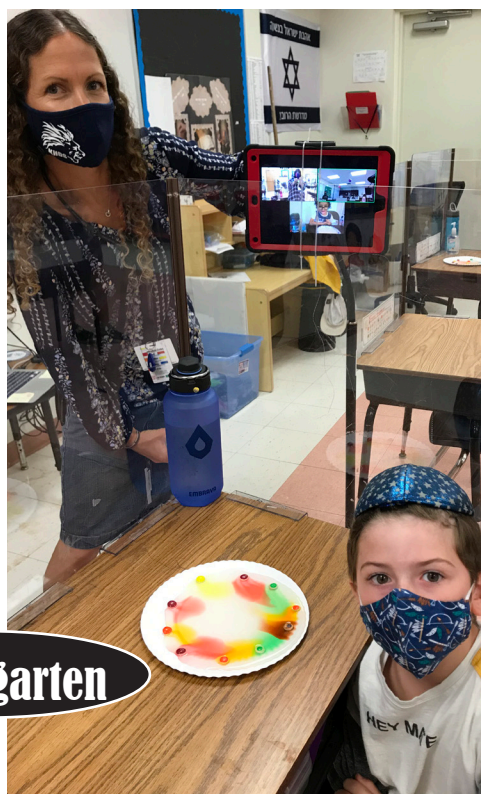
Experimenting with the color wheel.



Solving math problems - virtually!



What happens to M&M's inside your mouth? Students use water to find out in Mrs. Klein's science class.



Hip hip hooray for Spirit Day - ROAR!



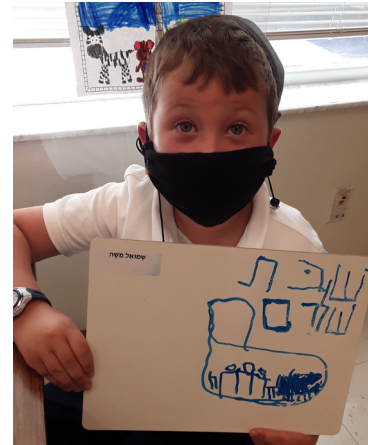
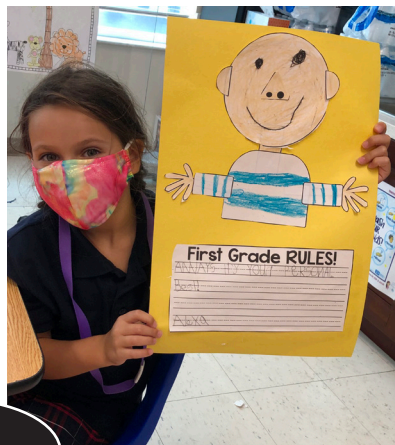
Kindergarten

Kitah Alef has fun reviewing the Alef Bet in the classroom and at home.



1st grade rules!

Good Shabbos from 1st grade!



1st GRADE

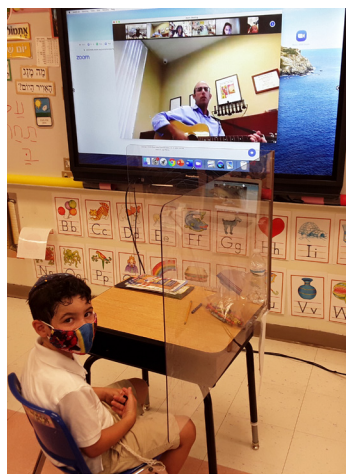
"Superkids" remote learner.



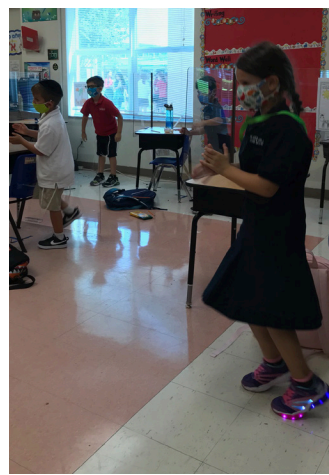
This remote learner acts out the mitzvah of Bikkurim that she learned during Parsha class.

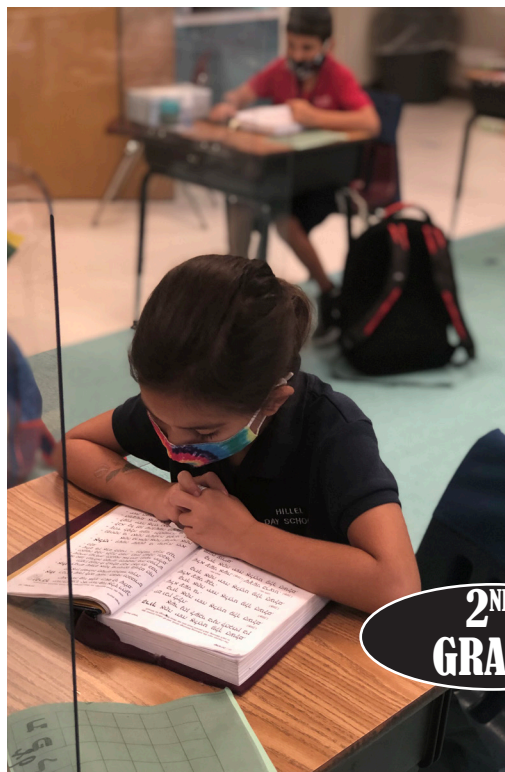


Oneg time means it's Fri-yay!



Dancing in music class.



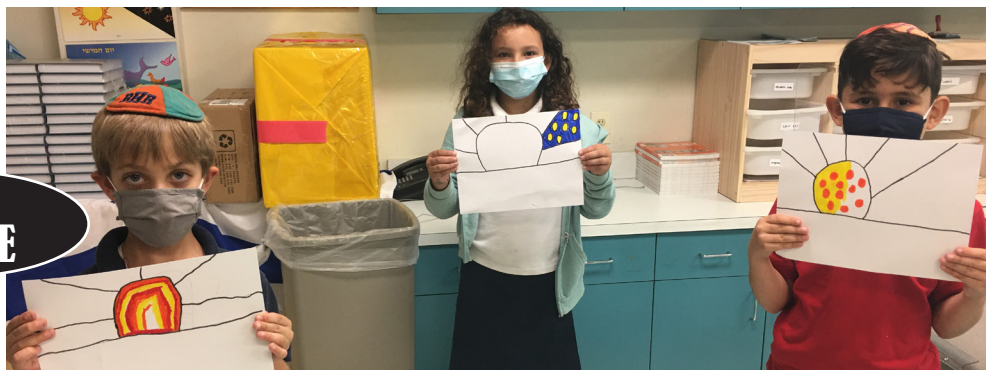


2ND
GRADE

2nd graders enjoy classroom time indoors as well as exercise outdoors.

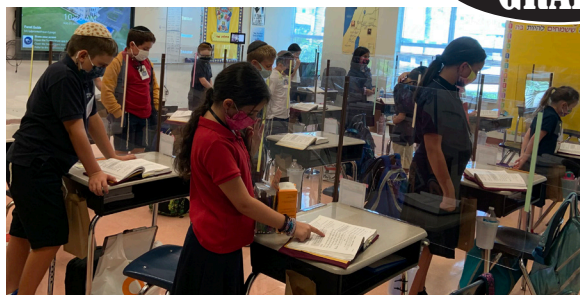
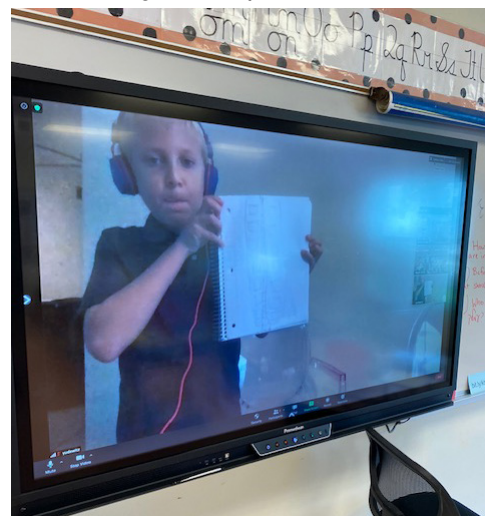


Students create their **Romero Britto** inspired sunsets by using different lines and patterns to color in their artwork.



3RD
GRADE

3rd grade kicked off the Growth Mindset program with a STEM activity. Students had 15 minutes to plan how Harry, the pool ball, would crest the tallest tower! They could only use the materials provided to them, and nothing more. They did such a great job growing their brains and learning how to persevere!



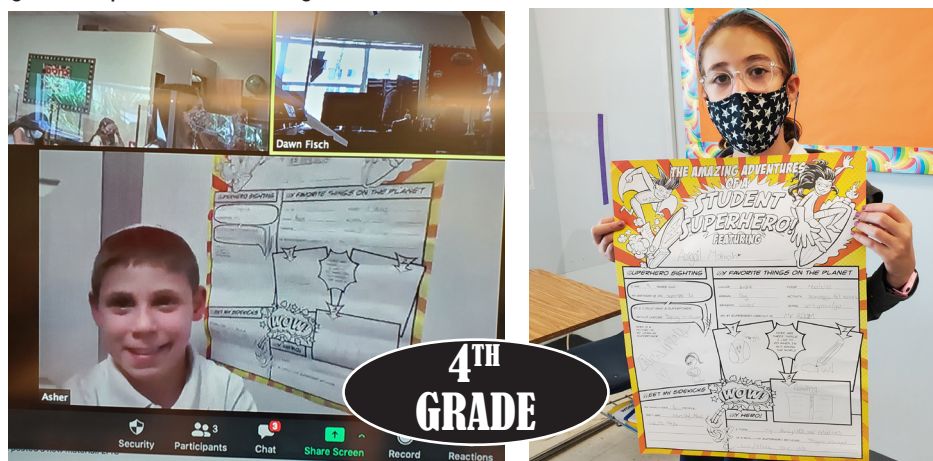
The 3rd grade is truly grateful to **Rabbi Matan Wexler** for coming to their classroom to teach them about the last mitzvah in the Torah: writing a Sefer Torah. The students were enthralled and got to find the beginning letter of their name.



Ms. Kridos treated 3rd graders to cool and refreshing Popsicles in honor of their great behavior so far this year! Bravo!!!



The amazing adventures of our 4th grade student superheroes! Students created superhero posters and answered questions about their real life heroes and fictional questions about superhero qualities they would desire. It's been a great experience learning more about one another!



When the weather is just right, 4th graders enjoy learning outside.



Extra! Extra! Read all about it -- in the Scholastic News.



Students participate in the weekly elementary school Oneg.



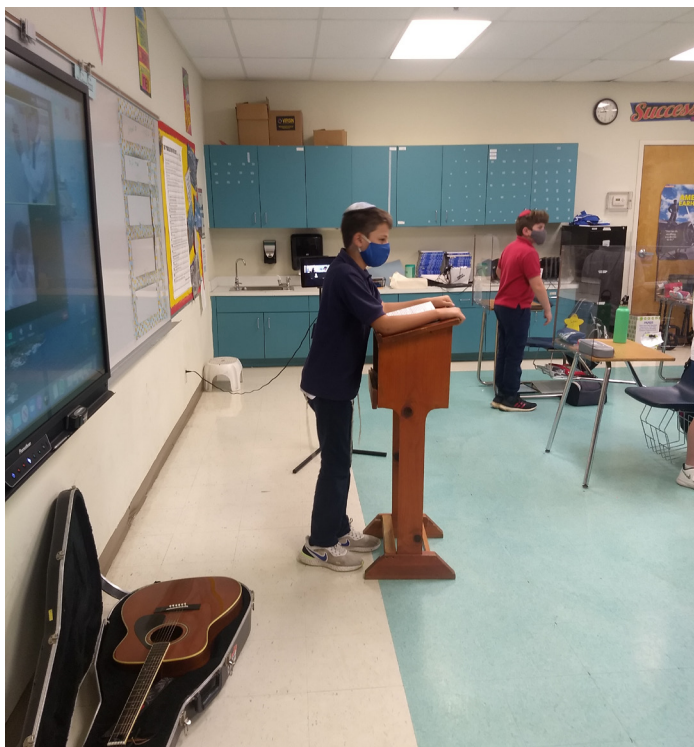
Enjoying a game of Four Square.



Young scientists create representations of a virus replicating itself in cells.



Students learn how to lead the davening in **Rabbi Drang's** class. One parent commented to Rabbi Drang, who is known for playing guitar and teaching new tunes in his class, "My son said it's because of all the tunes and songs that make it so much fun. It's so special for him to associate davening with fun."



Music is in the air as students learn with **Mrs. Brody** in the breezeway.





**Rina Lanner, M.S. Ed.,
Middle School Coordinator**

Enthusiasm and energy abound in the halls of the KHDS Middle School. While you may not be able to see them, we all feel the smiles hiding beneath the masks. One student even recently exclaimed, "I love being back in school with all of my friends and teachers!"

Despite the social distancing we are strictly observing, our hearts and relationships are as close as ever. Though things look and feel different this year, KHDS Middle School, as always, has continued to focus on strong academic achievement, character development and spiritual growth. Our teachers continue to provide engaging and rigorous lessons. Enjoying a 1:1 Chromebook program allows many of our teachers to create Chromebook friendly lessons by digitizing their materials and bringing their teaching to a whole new level. The sounds of chavrutas and collaborative learning, while socially distant, are still vibrantly echoing through the halls and classrooms of our Middle School.

Advisory continues to play an integral role in Middle School. It is an opportunity for our students, in a small group setting, to create bonds with both their peers and teachers.

Discussions about personal goals for the year and monitoring academic progress are just some of the things that take place during that time. Our newest initiative, "Middah of the Month", was recently launched. Each month will focus on developing a particular character trait, through discussions, stories and activities. Please ask your children about it!

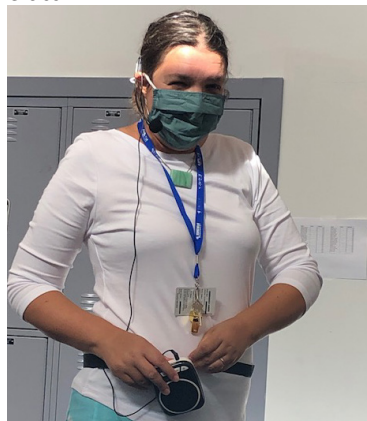
Igniting our neshamot in preparation for and in celebration of our holidays is always a focus in Middle School. Before Rosh Hashanah, the Ivrit teachers taught our students the lyrics to Ishay Ribo's song "Keter Melucha" culminating in a beautiful kumsitz. Leading into Sukkot, students participated in a program that involved role-playing the Ushpizin, delving into Kohelet by learning the lyrics to "Turn, Turn, Turn" by the Byrds, collecting wheat (yellow and brown yarn) for "Chag Ha'asif," and creating Sukkah decorations for the Menorah House.

The mishna says:

הלומד תורה ילד למא הוא דומה? לדין כתובה על גיר חדש

"One who studies Torah as a child, to what can he be likened? To ink written on fresh paper." We at KHDS, are honored and excited to continue filling your children's pages with Torah and general studies!

Sound check - **Mrs. Ricard** tests her microphone before class.



Students work on sichot during Hebrew class.



7th graders attend an orientation before officially returning home.



**Ms. Meyers 7th grade
Math class**

Student Council Election Results



President/Vice President
Rhyann Rackman
Adina Lazar

Secretary
Rebecca Oppenheimer

Treasurer
Ari Mergui

6th Grade Representatives
Gabriella Aghion
Aryeh Gross

7th Grade Representatives
Abby Rosenblat
Amiel Kieffer

8th Grade Representatives
Elana Tilis
Daniel Yudewitz

8th grade girls display their Toshba presentations.



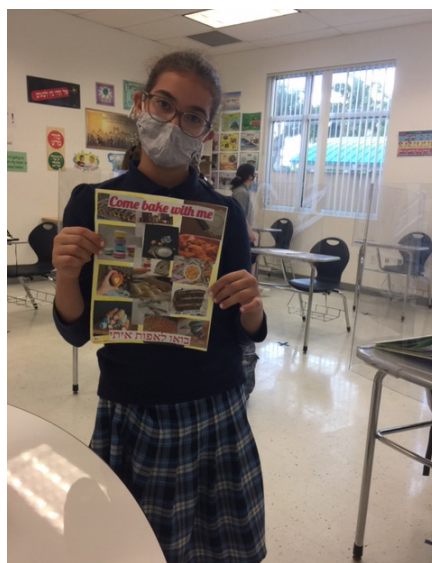
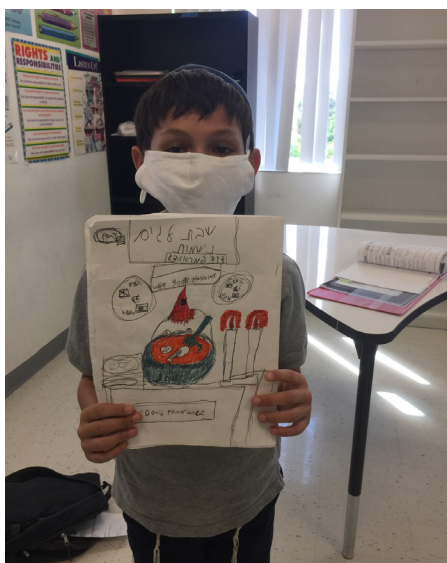
Students give **Rabbi Mirzoeff** their full attention.



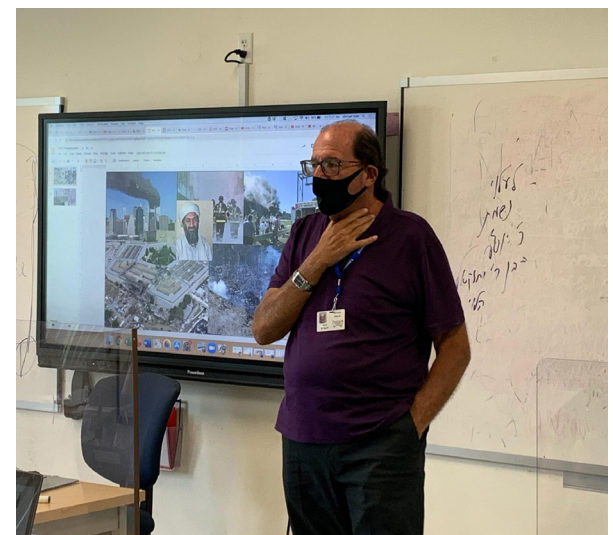
8th graders explore the properties of dry ice during science class.



6th graders created their own books in Hebrew with English translation, while 7th graders designed class magazines in the Mechina program.

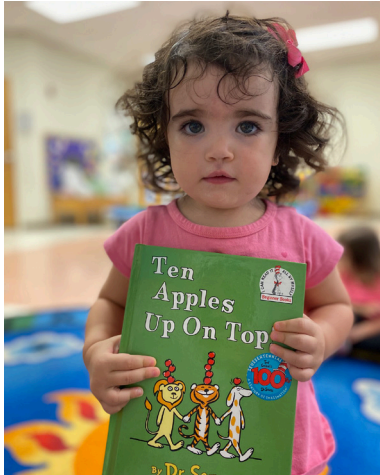


Remembering 9/11: The Middle School social studies department put together a powerful program to share with their students in commemoration of 9/11.



16 Holiday Happenings

EC2-A is for Apple!



Rosh Hashanah

Shofar so good!



EC4-C students participate in activities with apples that incorporate fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination, color recognition and literacy!



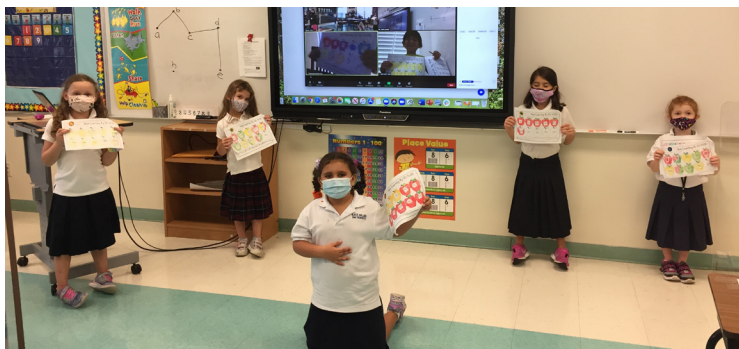
It was a sweet week in EC4 as students explored everything "bee and honey" related! Beading honeycombs, patterning, transferring nectar, tracing names with honey and counting bees in the hive!



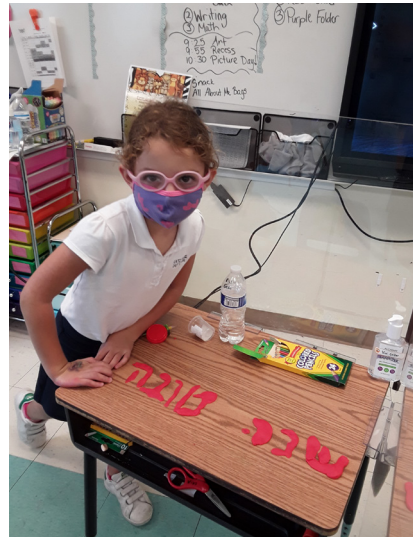
BEE happy! 3rd graders are abuzz.



An apple a day! 1st graders count apples by 10s for Rosh Hashanah!



During the month of Elul we are very aware of the importance of repentance and being prepared for the upcoming holidays of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.



SHANA TOVA 5781

Holiday Happenings

17

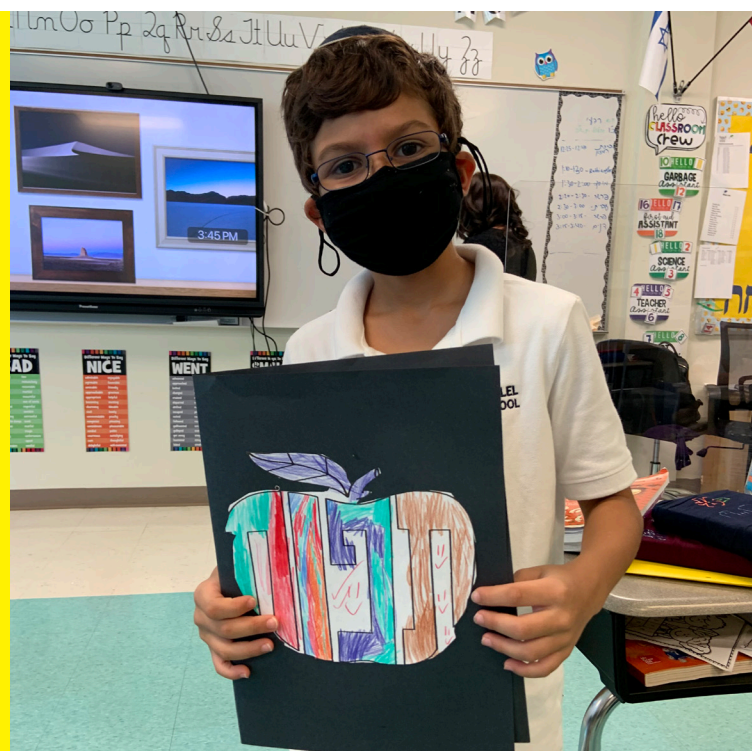
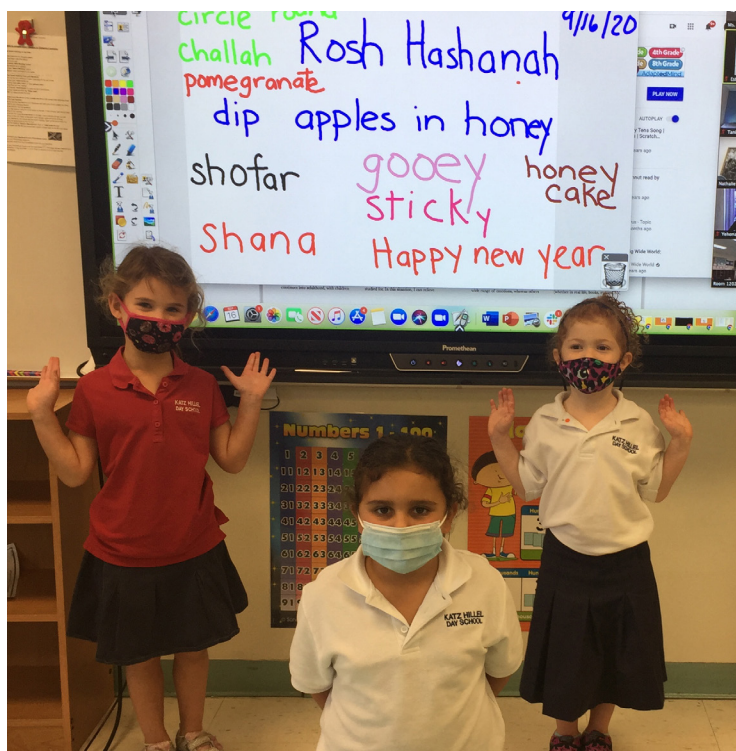
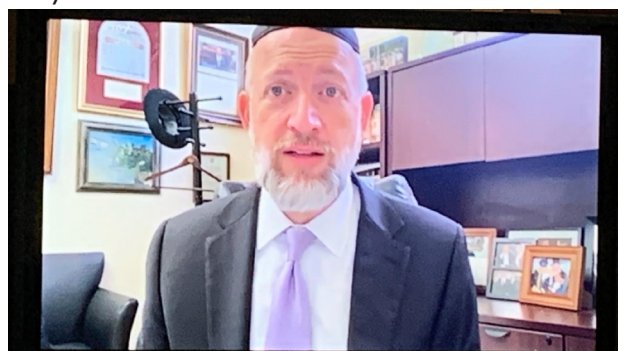
Although different than usual, Middle School students had the opportunity to participate in an inspiring pre-Rosh Hashanah kumzitz, filled with divrei Torah and beautiful singing.



A remote learner prepares her apples and honey while another student makes honey cake for a sweet New Year.



While they couldn't be here in person, our local rabbis continued to inspire our Middle School students in preparation for Rosh Hashanah - remotely! We thank **Rabbi Efrem Goldberg** (pictured below), of Boca Raton Synagogue, **Rabbi Yaakov Gibber** of the Boca Jewish Center, and **Rabbi Yosef Weinstock** of Young Israel of Hollywood-Ft. Lauderdale for addressing our students before the holiday.





EC4-B learns about apples.



EC2-B decorates a mural about how honey is made.



Judaic ETGAR baked honey cake and challah rolls and set the holiday table.



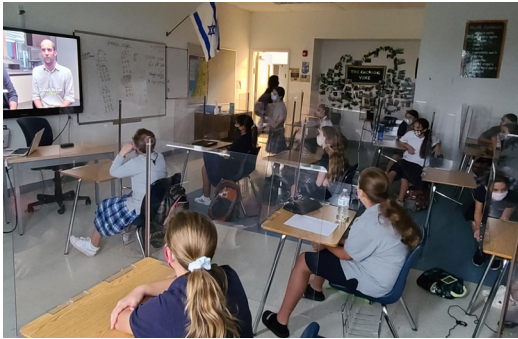
Morah Hadassah visited Kitah Alef to tell the story of Yonah in preparation of Yom Kippur.



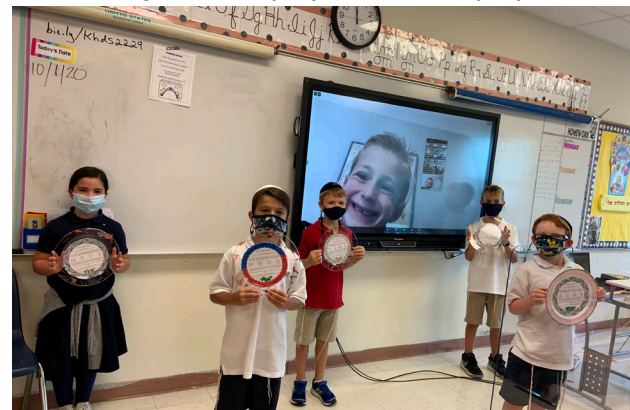
Sukkot

Middle School Sukkot programming.

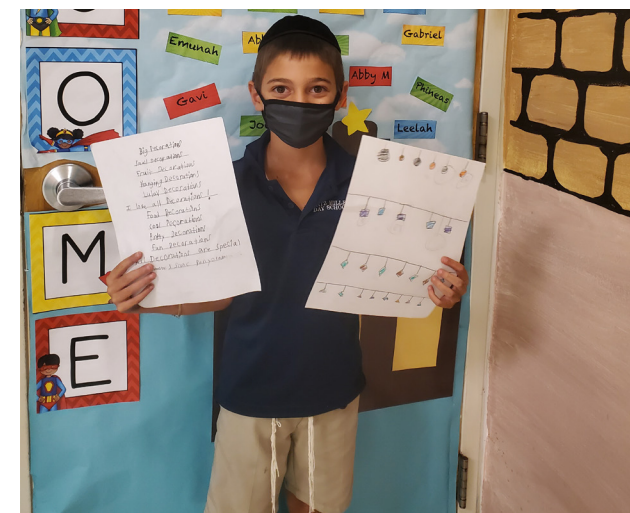
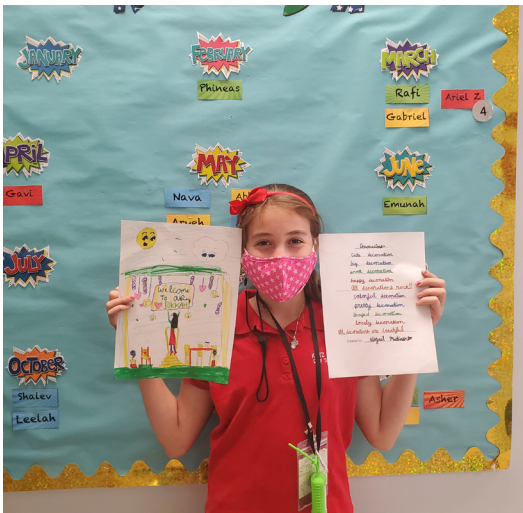
EC learns about Sukkot and Simchat Torah



3rd graders display their Sukkot projects.



4th graders show off their holiday recipes and poems. They wrote adjective poems about a specific noun that relates to Sukkot.





Rachel Harow, M.S.W., PTA President

The year has certainly had a unique start, but it has been incredible to see KHDS come back to life, albeit under new circumstances. My kids have never been as eager to get up early and go to school on time as they are now! I guess there are hidden blessings in everything! Though we cannot physically be in the building, as of yet, PTA continues to work behind the scenes to help make the school experience as positive and enjoyable as ever before for our children.

It has been tough to operate remotely, but we remain dedicated to fostering connections among the KHDS community, fundraising, and the overall enrichment of the KHDS environment. The PTA is constantly seeking new and innovative ways to achieve these goals, as our success is largely due to the time, effort, creative ideas and suggestions that are continually being contributed, and we always welcome your input. Please reach out with anything that you would like to share! As always, please continue to scan your receipts for Box Tops, connect your Amazon app and shop with AmazonSmile, and support our sponsors! We are all in this together!

TZEDAKAH MITZVAH



Back in early Tishrei, EC4-C received tzedakah boxes from the PTA to decorate and collect charity! One month later the class donated what was collected in honor of Rosh Chodesh! Mazal tov on this mitzvah!

You can also fill your PTA tzedakah box and return it to the school to do your tzedakah mitzvah. If you need a PTA tzedakah box please contact **Rachel Harow**.

**2020-2021
PTA Officers**

Rachel Harow, President
Chava Weisstuch, Secretary
Andrea Zucker, Treasurer
Sharona Kay, Immediate Past President

Board Members

Liora Adler
Shari Bloom
Jordana Carmel
Orlie Cohen
Cara Freedman
Deena Frist
Cara Harris
Yael Hirth
Jill Kaminetzky
Naomi Katz
Arielle Kieffer
Miriam Raphael Klein
Shira Menczer
Lea Saida
Dvora Scher
Holly Seidenfeld
Marisa Weg-Chametsky

TABs: TEACHER APPRECIATION BREAKFASTS

COVID hasn't stopped us from hosting our monthly Teacher Appreciation Breakfasts (with pre-packaged foods) to honor our incredible teachers and administrators for their commitment to our students and our school. We are so grateful to all of our annual and monthly sponsors! Special thanks to **Cara Freedman** for organizing the breakfasts and to **Simone Jacobs** working so hard to digitize our forms. We also thank volunteers **Jacob Freedman**, **Rebecca Freedman**, and **Eitan Kaminetzky**, for setting up the breakfasts.



MOMS' NIGHT OUT

Moms' Night Out is virtually back! Thank you to **Suri Spolter** for coordinating this popular program. To volunteer to host your child's grade Moms' Night Out please contact **Suri Spolter** at suri280@yahoo.com.

ONGOING PROGRAMS

You can continue to support KHDS easily from the comfort of your home!



AMAZON SMILE: Add 'KHDS' as your "charity choice" and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the PTA. Log on through smile.amazon.com.



BOX TOPS®: Scan your receipts and the school will make 10 cents for each Box Tops item that you buy. Log on through boxtops4education.com or download the app.



GOOD & WELFARE CARDS: Save time and postage by having PTA send a card(s) for you with your message! Contact **Dvora Scher** at dvora@dwpalaw.com



MABEL'S LABELS: PTA earns 20% back on orders when you choose our school on the "Support a Fundraiser" page. Contact **Sara Greene** at sagreen74@gmail.com/310-614-1836.

READY TO RETURN HOME GIFT BAGS



All KHDS students received a fun surprise on the first day of school: a #RTRH (Ready to Return Home) gift bag sponsored by the PTA. The contents included a face mask, a foldable mat to use outdoors at lunchtime, and some yummy treats to start the year off on a sweet note. Thank you to the **Harow family, the Weisstuch family, the Zucker family, and Paige and Rhyann Rackman** for helping to assemble the 550 swag bags that were distributed. Kudos to **Shari Bloom, Chayim Dimont, Yael Hirth, Naomi Katz, Shira Menczer, Elana**

Rackman, Holly Seidenfeld, Marisa Weg-Chametzky, Chava and Ashi Weisstuch, and Andrea Zucker for transporting the bags to school.

The PTA also gave each student a branded mask with the Hillel lion logo adorning the front! Thank you to **Simone Jacobs, Jill Kaminetzky** and **Marisa Weg-Chametzky** for facilitating distribution.



FACULTY GIFTS

To show appreciation for our hardworking faculty and staff, PTA sponsored a selection of gifts at the beginning of the year. Teachers were able to choose from one of the following: a poncho (with KHDS logo), a no-contact door opener/stylus, a portable voice amplifier, or a cart to transport teaching supplies and materials.

PTA CALENDAR



We hope that by now, all parents have received an official KHDS PTA Calendar. Even though we lowered our ad prices this year in support of the small businesses in our community, we

were still able to raise over \$18,000 for the KHDS PTA, at a time when we need it most! We greatly appreciate the generous support of all our advertisers, and our steadfast sponsor, **The Grove Kosher Market**. Their participation in this fundraiser will allow the PTA to continue to provide the extras which enhance the school environment for our students and staff. A tremendous thank you goes to **Lillian Aharon** and **Jordana Carmel**, who spearheaded this project, with the assistance of **Holly Seidenfeld** and **Marisa Weg-Chametzky**.

ONLINE UNIFORM SHOPPE

Although we can't be in person at school, the KHDS PTA Uniform Shoppe is open for business online! Thank you to **Marisa Weg-Chametzky** for her tireless efforts in setting up our online store. Go to <https://www.khdsptashoppe.com/> and shop away! Our stock will be continually updated, so be sure to check back if you don't find what you need, and be on the lookout for new products. To place your order, provide your contact information, and we will be in touch with instructions on how to receive your goods. We are also working to set up curbside pick-up options, which adhere to health and safety guidelines, so stay tuned!

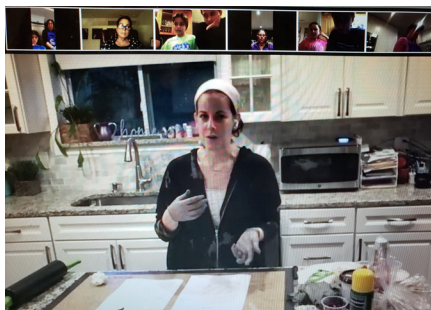
ICE CREAM TREATS



We definitely missed hosting our annual PTA ice cream social this year, which is typically our welcome event for all of our KHDS families. Instead, we were excited to provide a cup of tasty Carvel ice cream to each student during the first week of school. Everyone enjoyed the cool, refreshing treat! Thank you to **Chuck**, from **Carvel** on Glades Road, for once again donating the ice cream.

VIRTUAL BABKA BAKE

Our first-ever virtual Babka Bake with **Chef Naomi Elberg** (@naomi_tgis) was amazing! Over 50 participants, including parents and students, had so much fun learning tips and tricks for making the most delicious, chocolatey babka from scratch, just in time for Rosh Hashanah! Special thanks to **Chava Weisstuch** for helping to organize the event and for assembling the beautiful pastry chef baskets. Thank you, as well, to **Cara Freedman** and **Andrea Zucker** for delivering the baskets to our special sponsors.



OFF-CAMPUS SWAP SHOP

This year, PTA organized a uniform pop-up swap shop, hosted by the **Harow family**, where shoppers could pick up donated, gently used uniforms at no cost. Thank you to all those who donated your uniforms. At this time, we are out of storage space and can no longer accept donations. If anyone is still looking for polo shirts, skirts, shorts, and pants, please contact **Rachel Harow** at rachelharow@yahoo.com.





Danny Aghion, M.D., FRD Co-Chair
Orly Cohen, Ph.D., FRD Co-Chair
Suzanne Rice, Director of Development

Greetings from the Financial Resource Development office. We hope that you and your families are all doing well as we approach the end of this most unusual year of 2020.

We kicked off the 2020-2021 school year with our **Pledje**

campaign (see the official wrap up to the right) and we are so thankful to all of our donors and matching donors for making this a success in exceeding our goal!

We still have a lot of work to do though! We must continue to raise the funds that are crucial to our scholarship efforts so that all families are able to provide their children with a quality Jewish education. We also must continue to help subsidize the additional expenses that have been a result of the pandemic.

Our next fundraiser is the **Annual Mega Raffle** with a chance to win \$100,000 and other great prizes - including extra prizes for "Early Bird" entries before December 24 (and just in time for your tax deduction) as well as the grand prize drawing in early February 2021.

Although we will be unable to host our in-person **Annual Journal Dinner** this year, we are in the process of brainstorming other options to help us reach our annual fundraising goal.

The **Boosterthon**, which was cancelled just before it was supposed to begin last March, has been rescheduled for March 2021 and we are working on a possible return to the fairway with our **Annual Parent-Child Golf Outing**, G-d willing.

One of the largest income sources for our Annual Campaign is from our **Major Gifts Societies**. Please see the list of generous donors on the following page. If you know someone who may be a prospect for our Major Gifts Societies - please let us know.

Visit our website for more information about all of our giving opportunities including **dedicating a siddur**, sponsoring a day of learning through the **Koppie Cohn Day of Learning Program**, donating to the **Charles Scher Teacher's Discretionary Fund**, or purchasing merchant gift cards through **SCRIP** or **DLYTED**, as well as easily donating your spare change through the **Changebowl** app.

There are also many naming opportunities available through our **Capital Campaign** - what a great way to honor or memorialize a loved one. And our **Atid Legacy Society** is one of the most important initiatives you can participate in. Joining can be as easy as designating the school as a beneficiary online through your retirement account. See the next page for more information and a listing of KHDS' generous Atid Legacy Society members.

However you choose to participate, we are so thankful! We are all in this together - and together we can make a difference!

OVER \$280,000 RAISED TO SECURE OUR NEW FUTURE



We are excited to announce that KHDS successfully reached, and exceeded our goal, during the Pledje campaign to **Secure our New Future** this past September. The funds raised during this effort will go toward the \$2 million in scholarship assistance for our growing number of families in need, and it will also bridge the gap in our budget due to increased expenses from the pandemic. The school has had to adjust to new health guidelines, restructure classrooms, expand our technology for remote learners, and increase our maintenance and facility needs -- all of which bear tremendous costs.

Baruch Hashem, over \$280,000 was raised from almost 300 donors, including a cumulative match from our power donors during the crowdfunding campaign, which used the Pledje.com online platform.

Kol Hakavod to Financial Resource Development Co-Chairs **Dr. Danny Aghion** and **Dr. Orly Cohen** for their leadership, time and dedication during this intense fundraiser. Hours and hours of planning went into this campaign behind the scenes to ensure its success, and we are grateful to have them leading our fundraising efforts.

Special thanks to **Head of School Rabbi Yehudah Potok**, **President Daniel J. Katz**, the **KHDS Board of Trustees**, and **Director of Development Suzanne Rice**, as well as to KHDS parent volunteers **Dr. Gil Bloom** and **Dvora Scher**, for their assistance with this effort. We also thank everyone who created a team page (57 teams - woohoo!) and helped our school! We hope you enjoyed the challenge and many of you successfully met and exceeded your own personal team goal - kudos!

And last, but not least, thank you to everyone who donated to this important campaign. No matter the size of your gift, every dollar makes a difference, and together we made this a winning campaign!

On behalf of our faculty and students -- thank you and may Hashem bless you for your wonderful support!

Congratulations to our Pledje raffle winners!

Shabbos Makeover Kit
Albert & Esther Cohen

Silver Kiddush Set
Gil & Shari Bloom

Michael Kors Smartwatch
David & Ally Steinberg

iRobot® Vacuum
Gil & Lysee Stein

Lenovo Tablet and Earpods
Yaakov & Deena Handelsman

THE MEGA RAFFLE IS BAAAACK!

<https://www.racetothetop.net/katzhillel/raffle>

GRAND PRIZE
WIN \$100,000

First Prize
TRIP TO ISRAEL
AIRFARE FOR 4 OR \$5,000 CASH

Early Bird Special
ENTER BEFORE DEC. 31, 2020
FOR A CHANCE TO WIN 1 OF 2 PRIZES!
4-DAY TRIP FOR 4
TO ANYWHERE IN THE USA
OR **\$500**
ONLINE SHOPPING SPREE

Second Prize
\$1,000 CASH
5 WINNERS

ENTER NOW

1 TICKET \$100 7 TICKETS \$500
2 TICKETS \$180 15 TICKETS \$1,000
3 TICKETS \$250 30 TICKETS \$1,800

Katz Hillel Day School of Boca Raton
21011 95TH AVE. S., BOCA RATON, FL 33428
CALL 561-470-5000 EMAIL 100K@HILLELDAYSSCHOOL.ORG
WWW.RACETOTHE TOP.NET/KATZHILLEL/RAFFLE

ATI
LEGACY
SOCIETY
KATZ HILLEL DAY SCHOOL
OF BOCA RATON

KATZ HILLEL DAY SCHOOL OF BOCA RATON ATID LEGACY SOCIETY

Becoming our partner in ensuring the Jewish future will not only make a huge difference in the lives of so many, but is the most powerful statement you can make to your family and your community about what you truly value!

ד"ר

Sal & Leslie Abady
Daniel & Liora Adler
Danny & Emely Aghion
Anonymous
Ari & Cara Beim
Rabbi Gur & Ira Berman
William & Batzion Berman
Marc & Sara Bienenfeld
Harry & Shelly Bloom
Rabbi Josh & Simone Broide
Rotem & Jordana Carmel
Mark & Helen, z"l, Cohan
Aaron & Sarah Cohen
Anna S. Cohen
Eli & Orly Cohen
Eyal & Elise Cohen
Jerry & Jeanne Cohen
Meyer & Laura Cohen
Todd & Naomi Cohn
Rabbi Adam & Shira Englander
Benjamin & Cara Freedman
Rabbi Simcha, z"l, & Anna Freedman
Rabbi Efram & Yacheved Goldberg
*Glen & Rosa Golish
Jeffrey & Naomi Gross
Chanoch & Rachel Harow
Matthew & Tova Hocherman
Noam & Jill Kaminetzky
***Daniel & Caroline Katz**
David & Sharona Kay
Sheva Rock Kipperman, z"l

Evan & Ilana Landau
Philip & Jennifer Landau
Stephen J. & Elizabeth Landes
*Rabbi Samuel J. & Breindel Levine
Robert & Linda Levy
Howard & Lisa Lubet
Mark & Jessica Matias
Zoltan & Jolana Matias
Aryeh & Brandy Meiteles
Rabbi Yehudah Potok & Shira Loewenstein
Michael & Jill Rose
Herschel & Dvora Scher
Aron & Penina Schoenfeld
David & Rand Schwartzwald
Reid & Naomi Shapiro
Joe & Shira Sharp
Joseph & Selma Sitrick, z"l
Rabbi Mordechai & Hadassah Smolarik
Gil & Lysee Stein
Ido & Gila Stern
Joshua & Stephanie Stern
Ted & Linda Struhl
Teddy & Phyllis Struhl
Hommy & Syd Tannenbaum
Neal & Bonnie Weinreb
Ashi & Chava Weisstuch
Jonathan & Suri Winograd
Uri & Rachel Yudewitz
Hedy & Dori Zaghi
Michael & Risa Zimmerman

*Founding Members

Legacy Gift Confirmation Received

**KHDS gratefully recognizes the generosity of our
Major Gifts Society members.**

(blue names are active members for 20-21 year)

* **Society Renewals**

HILLEL SOCIETY
**Over \$1 million in
cumulative lifetime giving**

Anita Katz
Daniel & Caroline Katz
Teddy & Linda Struhl

MENACHEM BEGIN SOCIETY
\$100,000

Cheryl Kari Golden Memorial Fund
Anita Katz
Daniel & Caroline Katz
Alex & Yochi Mitchell

LAMED VAV SOCIETY
\$36,000

Sal & Leslie Abady
Daniel & Liora Adler***
The Alliance for Education
Anonymous
Al & Evelyn Begas
The Bensmihen Family
Steven Berkeley & Rebecca Stern
Michael & Mirta Brown**
Eli & Orly Cohen***
Dani & Gilah Danino**
Michael & Sheryl Dennis
Brian & Sharon Ferber
Ben & Cara Freedman**
Joseph & Galit Freedman
Roger & Lisa Gladstone
Glen & Rosa Golish**
Hillel & Esther Gomolin
Avi & Laura Greenbaum

Stanley & Ana Haar
Jeffrey & Jodi Harris****
Bernie & Melanie Kaminetsky
Daniel & Caroline Katz*****
David & Sharona Kay*
David & Marissa Levenson
Rabbi Alejandro, z"l, & Sandra
Lilienthal
Harold & Donna Richter
Michael & Jill Rose
Michael & Amy Schiffman**
Reid & Naomi Shapiro
Paul & Caryn Sherman
Teddy & Linda Struhl*****
Warren & Robin Struhl**
Ben & Donna Tripp
Michael & Risa Zimmerman

CHAI SOCIETY
\$18,000

Avraham & Elana Belizon
Lisa Kaufman Bensmihen
William & Batzi Berman
Mark & Helen, z"l, Cohan
Eli & Laurie Epstein
Ben & Cara Freedman
Glen & Rosa Golish
Avi & Laura Greenbaum
Stanley & Ana Haar***
Bernie & Melanie Kaminetsky
Philip & Jennifer Landau

Rabbi Alejandro, z"l, & Sandra Lilienthal
David Markowitz & Sara Levine
Jack & Marilyn Pechter
Michael & Jill Rose
Stuart & Hindy Rubin*
Michael & Amy Schiffman*
Teddy & Phyllis Struhl
Warren & Robin Struhl
Hedy & Dori Zaghi
Michael & Risa Zimmerman

MAIMONIDES SOCIETY
\$15,000

Danny & Emely Aghion
Steven Berkeley & Rebecca Stern
Mark & Helen, z"l, Cohan
Hillel & Chayi Cohen
Meyer & Laura Cohen
Ben & Cara Freedman
Chanoch & Rachel Harow
David & Sharona Kay
Evan & Ilana Landau
Philip & Jennifer Landau

Rabbi Yehudah Potok & Shira Loewenstein
Elan & Juliana Rosenblatt
Jason & Eva Saka
Paul & Caryn Sherman
Adam & Shaani, z"l, Splaver
Josh & Stephanie Stern*
Teddy & Phyllis Struhl*
Ashi & Chava Weisstuch
Jonathan & Suri Winograd
Rabbi Akiva & Rachel Wolk

ATI
LEGACY
SOCIETY
KATZ HILLEL DAY SCHOOL
OF BOCA RATON

Please think about joining our Atid Legacy Society and help us build a foundation for the longevity of our school through planned giving. You can participate easily by including KHDS as a beneficiary in your will, retirement plan or IRA. We are offering **FREE** confidential consultations and services, which include a last will and testament, codicil and/or trust amendment and other useful guidance about planning your legacy, thanks to the donation of pro bono services by **Dvora Weinreb (Scher), Esq., KHDS parent.** Please contact the Development Office if you would like to set up a time to speak with Dvora.

Leadership Messages (continued)



Joe Sharp, Executive Director

ברוך אתה ה'... שְׁחַיֵּנוּ וְקִיְמָנוּ וְהִצֵּינוּ לְזֶמַן הַזֶּה

It was hard to suppress the tears and gratitude to Hashem that overcame me when I saw our children arrive for their first day of Camp Ruach on June 29th. It was even harder to hold back those emotions as I made my way through the lines of appreciative parents and grandparents on August 7th, after another safe and exciting summer. Too many of those moments have become routine to me over the past 8 years, but after so many months of walking this campus, eerily devoid of the sounds of children playing and learning, it was impossible to take those days, and our first day of in-person school this August, for granted.

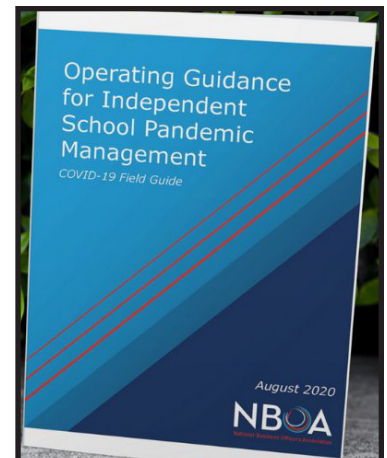
While our gratitude for being able to return to a safe campus is primarily focused on Hashem's blessings, we can't underestimate our gratitude to the many people responsible for creating and maintaining a safe environment for our students and staff. Although the work is ongoing, our efforts first began way back in February, when we began anticipating our needs and stockpiling essential supplies such as large quantities of soap, towels, sanitizer, gloves, wipes, and solution for our electrostatic disinfecting machine.

Our preparation grew in scope as we geared up for Camp Ruach this past June with thermometers, outdoor sinks, masks, gowns, face shields, acrylic shields, bottled water, instructional signs, floor decals, and so much more. Our foresight and actions during those uncertain times was modeled by many schools and camps across the country, and it wouldn't have been possible without the vision and dedication of **Karin Wongsam**, **Veeta Abramchik**, and **Cara Beim**.

More than ever before, great demands were placed upon our maintenance team to shake the rust off of our campus, still adorned with the Purim decorations that were hung over 3 months earlier. Coming on the heels of losing a team member to COVID and with several of their colleagues still ill, we witnessed a herculean effort and a consistently positive attitude that had to be seen to be believed. We're blessed to have a partner as dedicated as **Lina Colon Feliz** of **Jani-King** and her incredible team, led by **Esteban Mercedes** and **Alberto Torres**. We also welcomed our newest team member, **Jannine Richards**, who's been able to seamlessly coordinate our daily sanitizing demands.

As the summer rolled safely along, we transformed indoor and outdoor spaces to adapt to the new safety protocols. We introduced a wellness app and a visitor management system, procured custom-made acrylic shields for all students in grades K-8, thermal temperature screening kiosks with facial and mask recognition technology, touchless water bottle fillers and hand sanitizer dispensers, Chromebooks, and a host of other equipment to enable a better quality of distance learning. As we began the new school year, we doubled the size of our maintenance team, obtained several more electrostatic disinfectant machines, purchased a large tent to host outdoor classes and activities, and outfitted our HVAC system with a UVC light disinfection system.

We also acknowledge the various grant opportunities from the Federal and State governments that helped to defray the costs of meeting these new demands, as well as donations from the **Dept. of Health & Human Services**, **Mr. & Mrs. Chaim Rosen of Kira Labs**, **Yosef & Lillian Aharon**, and friends like you. In spite of the pain, suffering, and inconveniences of these past many months, we've witnessed how the very best of us all has shone through to uplift one another and with Hashem's help, we've seen our school thrive.



Thank you to **Joe Sharp**, Executive Director, who was one of the contributors, on behalf of KHDS, to the NBOA Operating Guidance for Independent School Pandemic Management.

This COVID-19 field guide is a resource through the National Business Officers Association.

VISIT US ONLINE!

Visit our website for the most up to date calendar of events. The publications page features a library of previous *Hillel Heralds* and *Annual Reports*, supply lists, forms and much more!

Katz 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.

To submit information for a future *Hillel Herald*, please email Suzanne Rice at srice@hilleldayschool.org.