

THE Hillel Herald



A publication of
Katz Hillel Day School
of Boca Raton
2022-2023/5782-5783
Vol. XVI ~ Issue No. 1



561-470-5000
www.hilleldayschool.org



IN THIS ISSUE

HilleLites.....	2-10
Spotlight by Grade.....	11-18
The Lions' Den.....	19
Holiday Happenings.....	20-26
Campaign Matter\$.....	27
Community, Chesed & Caring.....	28-29
PTA: Here to Help.....	30-31

"We're gonna have a great year!"

Teddy & Linda Struhl Elementary School

Chayim Dimont, Z"L, Entryway





Rabbi Yaakov Sadigh Head of School

In last year's spring edition of the *Hillel Herald*, I wrote about my "My Dented Garage Door." The article was about my son Netanel's journey towards making the hockey team after initially being cut. I spoke about our duty today as parents, more than ever, to teach our children resilience and grit. So

many of you reached out to me, sharing how much this resonated with you. One of our grandparents mentioned that they would love to hear more about this topic and it didn't take much convincing, as this is a subject that I'm extremely passionate about.

A close friend of mine who works in the finance industry often reminds me how lucky I am as an educator to have beginnings and ends in my profession. In his line of work, there are no starts and finishes, no pause or time to reflect and plan for the following work year. I think that's why the beginning of school is one of my most favorite times of the year. I look forward to regrouping with our amazing staff and welcoming back the children, now a year older, wiser, more mature, and ready to shoot for the stars.

Simultaneously, there is another "beginning" that takes place around the same time, the reading of the weekly Torah portions from Parshat Bereishit. Just prior to the actual creation of man, Hashem said, "Naaseh Adam—let us make man." There is much discussion among the commentaries regarding who Hashem was recruiting to assist him in making man. Until this final stage of

creation, Hashem handled everything on His own. Whose participation did Hashem deem necessary at this point? Rav Moshe Feinstein writes that even though this is a dangerous statement and may lead heretics to claim there were multiple gods involved with making man, it needed to be said to teach us an important life lesson. Rav Moshe explains that Hashem "physically" created Adam's body but it will take man himself and "a village" to turn him into a "mensch." Man, similar to other creations, grows physically in both size and strength. But unlike the others, man must also undergo a process of emotional and spiritual maturation, which results from his own efforts guided and directed by parents, teachers, and friends. Prior to his creation, man was notified that he will play a major role in his own development together with his support team. Naaseh Adam – Hashem addressed him saying, "We will make man. You and I will work hand in hand. I will give you the capacities and potential, while you must be prepared to work at the lifelong task of working on yourself."

Ultimately, fostering a growth and resilience mindset in our children is something that takes time and effort. We have another opportunity again this year to "Naaseh Adam"—together help our children become an Adam. It is an honor and a privilege to partner with you on this ever so vital endeavor.



Rabbi Deon Nathan Executive Director

The concept of Hakarat HaTov is one that is seeped in our Torah values. From Parshat Bereishit, when Adam is chided for lacking it, to one of the reasons that we recite Brachot before eating any foods, you don't have to go very far to find examples of just how

important this mitzvah is. This is a concept that we teach our students at KHDS, and one that we try to lead by example with as well. As an extension of this, I would like to expand this concept to our requirement to show genuine Hakarat HaTov to the **State of Florida** for their generous State Scholarship programs. This extends to the **Academic Achievement Accessible Scholarship Foundation (AAA), Step Up for Students, Early Childhood Learning Coalition**, and to the various county level programs that are tremendous resources for our families. A very specific thank you is also extended to **Teach Florida**, headed by the venerable **Mr. Daniel Aqua** and **Mrs. Malka Kownat** for their tireless efforts to make these programs more diverse and more accessible to those in our community.

If we look at the impact of these programs, we see that this year KHDS alone will receive over \$2 million of State funding via the State Scholarship programs. As the eligibility requirements for these scholarships have been expanded, more and more of our families have been able to qualify, which has benefited both the families and the school. This additional funding has



allowed dozens of students that would not otherwise be able to attend a Jewish day school to receive the Jewish education they so richly deserve. In addition, the lightened burden has allowed many families to reallocate some of their funds to other areas and help support the lifestyle of Torah observance.

These State scholarships have also benefited the school by increasing the overall amount of tuition dollars that are collected. Many families are able to pay less out of pocket in tuition while still ensuring the school receives its fair share. As these programs continue to develop and the talk about making School Choice completely unrestricted in Florida, we expect these benefits to continue to impact both the families and the school positively.

As a side note, if you are the recipient of a State Scholarship, and you have the means, we ask that you please consider giving some of that money back to the school in the form of a donation.



Hadassah Smolarcik
Judaic Studies Principal,
Grades 1-8

It is with sincere gratitude to Hashem that we were able to start the academic year sans face masks, social distancing, and cohorts! We began the year with anticipation, enthusiasm, excitement, and with renewed energy and focus to educate our children.

Twice a day, we say the "Shema" where the Torah commands us to teach our children about mitzvot so that "they will speak in them while sitting in homes, while traveling, while lying down and getting up..." Why couldn't the Torah simply say that we should teach our children Torah so that they will speak about the Torah?"

The Ksav Sofer explains that it is not enough for our children to learn Torah and keep mitzvot while they are at home, but they must be educated to the extent that they keep Torah and mitzvot without prompts from us. It is easy to influence our children to act appropriately when we are present, however, when they grow and are no longer in our vicinity, we need to be assured that they follow in the Torah. The Ksav Sofer addresses the obvious question, "How then do we do this?" He explains that the way to ensure that our children continue in Torah is to instill in them Emunah and the awareness that the purpose of life is Divine Service and keeping Hashem's mitzvot.

The following lesson was told to me recently. A Rabbi and Rebbetzin ran learning groups each Shabbat in their community. The Rabbi had 21 boys and the Rebbetzin had 18 girls and both groups would learn and say Tehillim. The children received prizes for attendance each week. One week, the Rabbi and Rebbetzin asked the children, "What would they say to persuade others to come and join in the learning each week?" The boys said that they would encourage others to join because of the prizes; not one boy mentioned that the mitzvah of learning and saying Tehillim is what was important. The girls heard the same question, but without fail almost each girl said that one should attend because saying Tehillim and learning together makes them better. Most of the girls made no mention of the prizes.

The Rabbi was bewildered as to what could explain the different reactions? After discussing with the Rebbetzin, it became apparent that the different reactions lay in the different approaches. The Rabbi would make a big deal about the prizes and he would distribute them with great ceremony. In contrast, the Rebbetzin would emphasize how special it was for the girls to come out and say Tehillim together, and how happy it makes Hashem...she would then give them a prize.

The obvious outcome would mean that the boys would be likely to be motivated to do mitzvot if the mitzvah "was worth it." The girls were inculcated with an attitude that would encourage them to do mitzvot because by doing so, we become better.

In today's world more than ever, we need to do our utmost to teach our children the importance of mitzvot. We work so hard to develop children's minds; let us not neglect their hearts and teach them how a Jew must live.

MEET THE B'NOT SHERUT



ORI BAR & ORI ELYASHIV

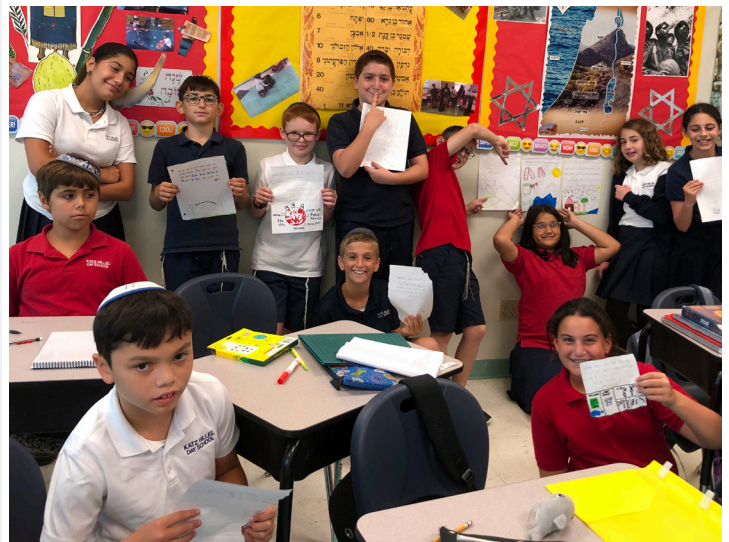
KHDS is so excited to welcome our new B'not Sherut, **Ori²** -- **Ori Bar** (right) and **Ori Elyashiv** (left)!

Ori B. was born in Netanya, and Ori E. was born in Jerusalem. We are thrilled to have the girls here and they can be seen each morning welcoming students during carpool.

They are also teaching lessons about Tziyonut to our Kindergarten through 5th grade students and have been implementing programs to enhance the KHDS experience through a love of Israel, Torah, and mitzvot.

If you would like to host the girls for Shabbat, Chagim, or any other time, please contact:
Chava Weisstuch at
chava.weisstuch@gmail.com

In **Morah Racheli's** Hebrew language classes, students in grades 3-5 wrote about what they did over the summer and then shared it with their classmates.





Shireen Butman
General Studies Principal,
Grades 1-8

This year we launched two new curriculums in Lower School: one in ELA (English Language Arts) and another in math, all with the objective of providing our younger students with the strongest secular education possible at KHDS.

The need for these curriculums stemmed from discussions with our general studies teachers, who wanted more robust, rigorous, digital, and differentiated curriculums to help address the learning needs of our diverse learners. British educationalist and author Martin Robinson believes that "the quality of curriculum that a school has shapes the quality of thinking that goes on in the school and therefore shapes the quality of the minds engaged in the common curriculum pursuit." This philosophy aligns closely with that of our secular teams, as we want to ensure that our students are engaged in learning that opens their minds, and fosters both critical and creative thinking with a tenacity and appreciation for learning.

Post-Covid educational gaps, stronger reading comprehension and writing demands, and the need to ensure that math skills are grounded in real world applications were amongst the rationale for revamping and enhancing the previous curriculums. A further consideration for our choice of curriculums was that both programs better allow our LS Etgar students to learn and work within the same arena of skill sets in ELA and math, at a pace that is differentiated for each student's learning goals, thereby aligning secular mainstream and Etgar instructional skills.

The search for a curriculum that would provide a continuity and scaffolding of skills along with greater cultural connections began in earnest for our Kindergarten through fifth grade students. Our general studies team explored various English and math curriculums. After attending presentations and gaining a better understanding of the foundation and premise of each curriculum, we chose two that best fit our academic and learning goals.

Wonders, a comprehensive research and evidence-based literacy program by McGraw-Hill, "is designed to foster a love of reading in all children." Through the exploration of texts, students develop daily skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. This program provides an extensive set of connected resources (literature, grammar, vocabulary, daily writing, and more) that give our teachers the tools to adapt and differentiate instruction in a manner that allows literacy growth for all our students.

Go Math! Florida by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt for K-3 is designed using the proven 5E instructional model (engage, explore, explain, elaborate, evaluate). The program combines content, authentic learning connections, prior knowledge, personalized and adaptive practice, assessments and digital games on their Waggle platform to help guide every math learner toward mastery of skills.

The feedback on the ground from teachers has been very positive, as they settle in to using the full scope and range of these new curriculums.

STUDENT COUNCIL ELECTED

The ballots are in! Mazal Tov to this year's Middle School Student Council! Thank you to **Mr. Doss** for coordinating, and Kol Hakavod to everyone who worked hard and campaigned in this year's election!



Officers

President:
Kayla MacLeod

Vice President:
Annabelle Sokal

Treasurer:
Ari-Benjamin Lobato

Secretary:
Nava Hess (not pictured)

Class Representatives

6th Grade Representatives:
Emunah Rosen & Phineas Yablon

7th Grade Representatives:
Orel Golan & Adi Shemesh

8th Grade Representatives:
Zahava Tilis & Shemaya Zangre

Middle school students learned about crystals in **Mrs. Tinio's** G.E.M. Lab elective. They explored their formation and used a combination of chemicals, food coloring, and heat to simulate how they grow.

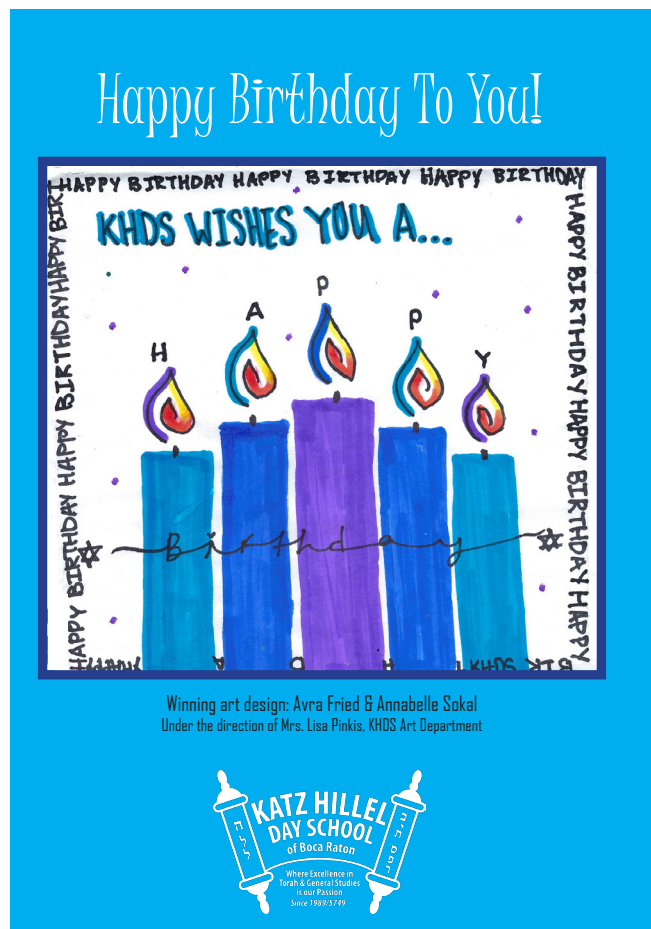


Mazal tov to these winning student artists for their beautiful designs that are being featured this year!

Art designed during the 2021-2022 school year under the direction of **Lisa Pinkis, Art Teacher.**

Student Birthday Card

Avra Fried & Annabelle Sokal



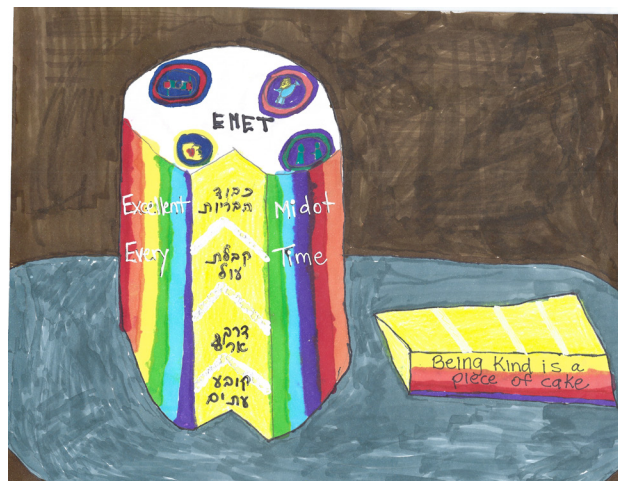
Rosh Hashanah Card:

Collage inspired by the artist Romero Britto, designed by 2021-2022 5th grade student artists.



EMET Logo:

Joseph, Ethan and Henry Tarlowe



Students in Kindergarten through 5th grade participate in the EMET program (**Excellent Middot Every Time**). The essence of the program is to teach children about the behaviors we hope to cultivate and then "catch them in the act."

The four EMET categories are:

Kavod Habriyot - Respect for All

Derech Eretz - Respect for Adults

Koveh Eitim - Torah and Mitzvah Time

Kabbalat Ole - Accepting Responsibility

When a student receives five EMET notes in the same category, they redeem an EMET badge and will be publicly recognized at the Shabbat Oneg that week. After receiving a badge in each of the four categories, students will earn the highest of honors — the Superbadge!



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

KHDS welcomes our new Board members for the 2022-2023 school year, **Joe Averbook** and **Deena Ganz**.

We also thank our President, **Daniel J. Katz**, for his ongoing leadership, and **Rachel Harow**, for continuing to serve as KHDS PTA President.

Executive Committee
Daniel J. Katz, President
Daniel Aghion, M.D., Vice President
Gil Stein, Treasurer
Liora Adler, M.D., Secretary
Rachel Harow, M.S.W., PTA President
Orlie Cohen, Ph.D.
Rabbi Efrem Goldberg
Philip Landau, Esq.
Rabbi Philip Moskowitz
Elan Rosenblat, M.D.
Joshua Stern, M.D.
Ted Struhl

Trustees
Joe Averbook
Gil Bloom, D.M.D.
Sandy Cohen
Deena Ganz
Evan Landau, M.D.
Jessica Matiash
Rivka Schlager, Esq.
Mor Shapiro, M.D.
Todd Slesinger, M.D.
Ashi Weisstuch, M.D.

ON THE MOVE...

Mazal Tov to our administrators, faculty and staff who are on the move as we work together to make *America's best Jewish Day School* even better!



Gwenn Baer
Early Childhood
Director



Rina Lanner
Assistant Principal,
Middle School



Simone Jacobs
Facilities Director



Karene Mordechai
Middle School
Counselor

SAFETY & SECURITY FIRST



Rabbi Deon Nathan, Executive Director, presented an in-depth security review of Standard Response Protocol (SRP) for KHDS faculty and staff prior to the opening of school. The **"I Love U Guys" Foundation's**

programs for crisis response and post-crisis reunification are used in more than 30,000 schools, districts, departments, agencies, organizations, and communities around the world. **Alan Poland**, Community Security Director of **SCN (Secure Community Network)**, visited our school and gave an important active threat presentation.



MEET THE TEACHER

Parents had the opportunity to meet their children's teachers during "Meet the Teacher" evenings. Grades 1-5 met on August 23rd, while early childhood and middle school took their turn on August 30th.



NEW FAMILY ORIENTATION

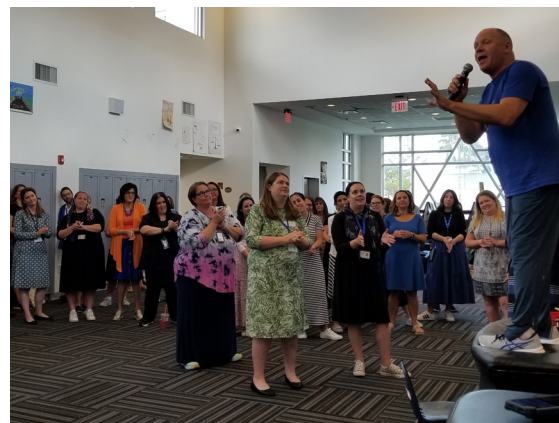
New families to KHDS were invited to attend the New Parent Orientation on the evening of August 16th. The program provided them with an opportunity to interact with the administration and ask questions in an open forum. Families also mingled with other KHDS newbies, received a welcome swag bag, and enjoyed refreshments.



FACULTY & STAFF RETURN

They're baaaaack!!!! KHDS faculty and staff returned for teacher work week as they geared up for another amazing year! They received a welcome gift (thank you to **Jill Kaminetzky** and **Rina Lanner** for stuffing the bags) and enjoyed coffee and donuts while schmoozing with new colleagues and catching up with those they had not seen since before the summer break. The opening meeting was followed by fun and games with **Silvio**!

Special thanks to **Jill Kaminetzky** for producing the video highlighting teacher work week!



ICE CREAM SOCIAL & DROP-IN DAY

It was wonderful to see everyone at the KHDS PTA Annual Ice Cream Social and Drop-In Day on Sunday, August 21st. Much appreciation goes to **Elana Rackman** and **Bru Pool** for organizing this fun treat, as well as to our neighborhood **Carvel** on Glades Road for generously donating the ice cream.

Thank you to our amazing volunteers for making sure the morning ran smoothly: **Barbara Cohen, Sandy Cohen, Tamar Feld, Deena Ganz, Cara Harris, Naomi Katz, Young Mi Skehen, Marisa Weg-Chametsky, and Andrea Zucker**, PLUS, our awesome student volunteers: **Mordy Abed, Gabi Aghion, Matan Aghion, Noam Dorfman, Nely Eisenberger, Aitan Gross, Aryeh Gross, Daniel Gross, Emma Harow, Benny Hochner, Dani MacLeod, Kayla MacLeod, Judah Rackman, Paige Rackman, Emunah Rosen, Hadara Rosen, Meirav Skoczylas, Annabelle Sokal, Eliana Tokayer, Akiva Tokayer, Yehudis Weg, Jacob Zucker, and Noah Zucker**. Special thanks to **Ben Beim** for being our mascot, **Ari**, and greeting all of our families with a spirited "ROAR!"



BACK TO SCHOOL!

Tuesday, August 23rd, was the official first day of school as students reunited with old friends and made new ones!



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The 6th grade girls worked on improving their volleyball skills in PE with **Coach Sam**. They practiced bumping, setting and serving. "It's great to see the girls enjoying learning new skills and seeing their pride in their achievements," she noted.



ONEGS

Elementary school Onegs are back in full "sing"!



SCIENCE

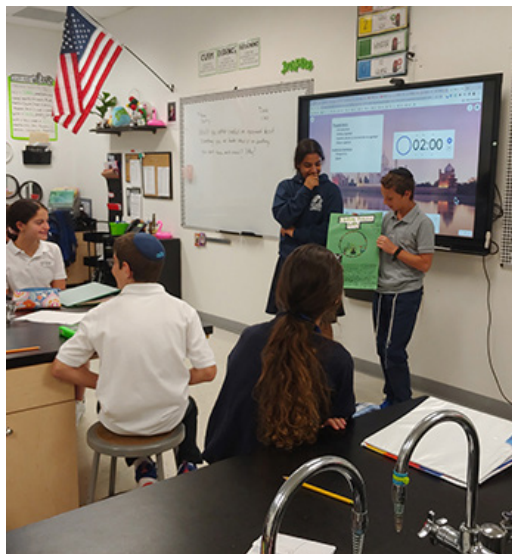
Safety first! **Mrs. Morris'** scientists in Kindergarten through 4th grade learned about lab safety and how to use different science tools.



Students in **Mrs. Einhorn's** 7th grade science class learned how to create testable questions, formulate hypotheses, and perform experiments to see if they were correct during a lab called, "Come Fly With Me." Students determined if the independent variable, the weight of the paper used to construct the airplane, made a difference in the distance the plane travels.



Group work and collaboration took place in **Mrs. Tinio's** 6th and 8th grade science classes. Students modeled and practiced working in mini-scientific communities, carrying out experiments, collecting data, analyzing results, and presenting in front of their peers.



7th graders practiced using microscopes in **Mrs. Braun's** science lab.





The **Kids' Time Program (KTP)** offers students a variety of after-school options.



NAMES, NOT NUMBERS HOLOCAUST PROGRAM KICKS-OFF

Once again, KHDS has been selected to participate in the *Names, Not Numbers* project, which transforms the traditional study of the Holocaust into an interactive program that involves survivors who lived through the history being taught.

The 8th grade students, under the direction of **Rabbi Ari Mirzoeff**, are engaging in serious, meaningful dialogue with the survivors and are forging relationships with them. In addition, during the program the students will be learning interviewing techniques, documentary film tools, and editing skills - culminating in the final documentary which will premiere later in the school year.

We shall never forget!



8th graders were introduced to our *Names, Not Numbers* program by **Rabbi Sadigh** on August 31st.



We were blessed to have **Mrs. Marcelle Fischler**, a *New York Times* reporter, visit KHDS to teach the students different interviewing techniques and skills. It was especially unique as she is a child of a survivor and hearing her mother's personal story was just as special!

Names, Not Numbers is generously supported by a prominent national foundation.

Names, Not Numbers, INC: an interactive, multi-media Holocaust FILM DOCUMENTARY project created by educator, Tova Fish-Rosenberg.

www.namesnotnumbers.org



Gwenn Baer
Early Childhood Director, EC2-K

It has been an amazing and productive start of the year. We have started new and exciting initiatives in the Rosalind Henwood Early Childhood Learning Center! There is nothing more exciting than starting a new school year. It has been my greatest pleasure helping our teachers launch an amazing year!

This year we started integrating Conscious Discipline into our early childhood classrooms. Our teachers are being trained throughout the year to bring this comprehensive classroom management and social-emotional curriculum into our classrooms. Teachers are building a "School Family" in each classroom to increase connections and create an optimal learning environment. To date, we have made great strides and are looking forward to building our curriculum throughout the year.

We are pleased to welcome to our team **Mrs. Nili Davis, LCSW**, as Director of Counseling and Support. She comes to us with a wealth of knowledge and experience. Mrs. Davis is integrating social emotional learning into our classrooms. Stay tuned...Mrs. Davis will be starting guidance lessons in our early childhood department to further enhance the emotional well-being of our children in their most formative years!

In addition to all of our other initiatives, we started Chalav u'Dvash, an innovative Hebrew language program this year in EC! The program is designed with our earliest learners in mind. These lessons are completely in Ivrit! The children are learning conversational Hebrew through interactive and engaging lessons with **Morah Yifat**! We are so excited to watch the children engage and converse in Ivrit!

Our EC programming is being brought to new heights! We have many fun and exciting holiday and special day activities planned throughout the year to enrich and enhance our program...from library visits to Transportation Day, and Thanksgiving to Lag B' Omer, this year is jam packed with fun and exciting events!

And this is only the beginning of the year! The best is yet to come!

EC-3 students had a blast in **Coach Sam's** PE class. They got moving and danced to songs (including the popular animal song) and also played with squishy foam balls!



Early Childhood

It's all about me! The EC4-C yeladim were focused on their "all about me" unit and enjoyed creating facial expressions from loose parts with **Morah Ivana**.

Another amazing day in EC2-A!



Kindergarten students began to learn the Aleph Bet.



12 Spotlight by Grade

Students in the **Rosalind Henwood Early Childhood Learning Center** cooled off in the **SATA-PTA Pool** during swim class.



Students in EC2-EC4 enjoyed a visit from the **Palm Beach County Library**! They listened to stories and sang songs.



Kindergartners discovered the importance of teamwork with a hula hoop activity and worked in pairs to get from one side of the gym to the other by hopping in and out of the hoop. This was a great activity for strengthening social bonds and improving relationship skills.



EC4-C enjoyed hands-on activities to learn and explore the days of creation.



Students enjoyed playtime on **Aunt Jessie's Playground**!

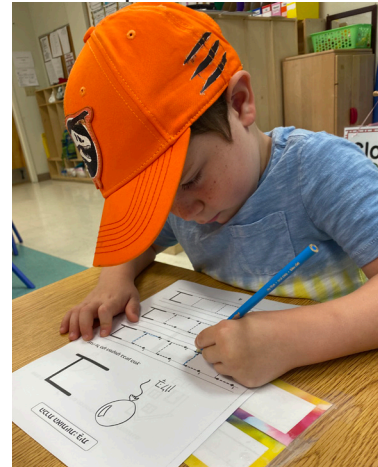


Early Childhood

EC2 students sang along with music teacher, **Simone Haddad**.



EC4-C learned the ABCs and Aleph Bet!



EC2 prepared for Shabbat.



EC3-B exercised their vocal chords and sang songs with their morahs.



Students enjoyed shooting hoops and learning basketball skills.

Morah Tami worked with students on their writing of the Aleph Bet.



Kindergarten

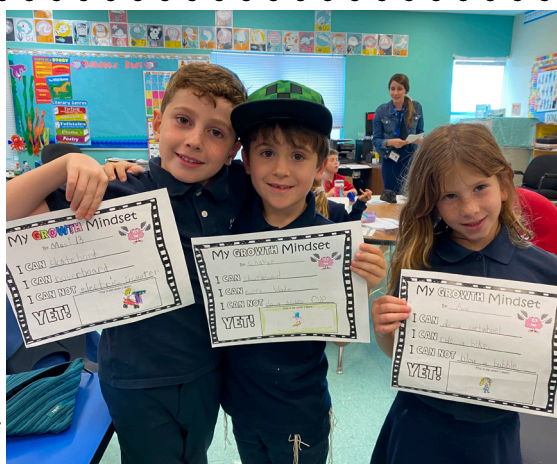


We heard it through the grapevine that September 15th was the 17th day of school! Kindergarten students celebrated by making the number "17" using raisins.

Students learned about the scientific method as they tried to figure out how many drops of water can fit on one penny.



Believe in the "Power of Yet!" **Mrs. Schulman's** 1st graders participated in a mini unit about having a growth mindset. They spoke about the magical power of the word "YET" after reading books to help change their mindset. Then they wrote about their growth mindset goals and the things they can do now, as well as the things they can't do YET (but want to). It's time to say, "yes I can!"



1st graders practiced skip counting by 2s, 5s, and 10s with cereal in **Mrs. Kantor's** class.

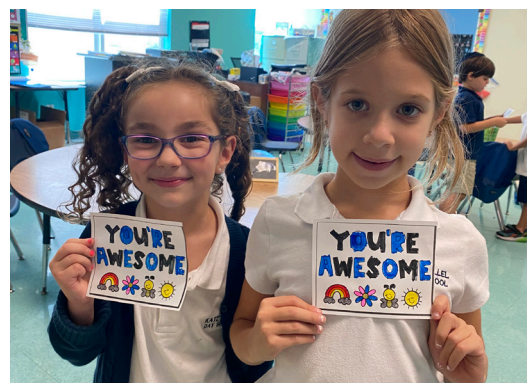


1ST GRADE

Morah Hadassah visited Kitah Alef to tell the story of Yonah.



1st grade students prepared thoughtful and colorful cards that were sent to the victims of Hurricane Ian.



14 Spotlight by Grade

Odd or even? **Mrs. Schwarzer's** 2B class reinforced the skill of identifying even and odd numbers by creating the characters, "Odd Todd" and "Even Steven." Students decorated the character's clothing with odd and even embellishments including teeth, kippot, patterns in a tie, freckles, and even mustaches and beards!



Check please! **Ms. Edelson** checked student's work during a class assignment.



Morah Yona's students worked on a project for the week's parsha.



3rd graders thanked **Rabbi Wexler** for teaching them about the last mitzvah in the Torah -- writing one! The students learned so much about the way the Sefer Torah is crafted.



In **Morah Racheli's** 3rd grade Hebrew class, students built sentences with the new words they learned.



In honor of Parsha Ki Tavo, **Morah Peninah's** 3rd grade students learned about Eretz Yisroel, a land flowing with milk and honey (and yummy chocolate and Bamba too!)



Students learned how to play chords on Boom Whackers - plastic tubes of different colors and lengths, each corresponding to a musical pitch. As part of their STEAM curriculum, students learned that the longer the tube, the lower the sound it produces.



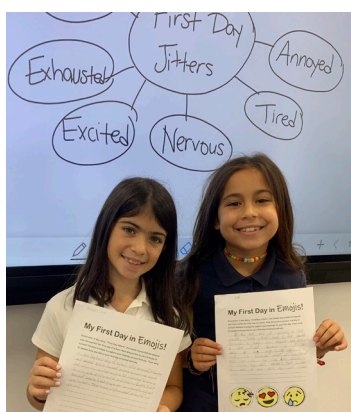
4th graders used critical thinking and teamwork to "Save Fred," during a super-fun STEM activity in **Ms. Janock's** class.



Mrs. Landau's students played a fun dice game to review place value with large numbers.



4th graders in **Morah Racheli's** Ivrit class created beautiful family trees using the Hebrew words that they learned and then presented them to their classmates.



Mrs. Morris' class read *First Day Jitters* and discussed the various emotions they felt on their first day of 4th grade. They wrote a paragraph using a topic sentence, details, and a closing sentence to describe their emotions. Then they chose emojis to represent their feelings!



Students dressed up for Idiom Day! They had fun trying to understand new figurative language, including blessing in disguise, feeling blue, lend me an ear, once in a blue moon, class clown, hold your horses, two peas in a pod, and it's raining cats and dogs (to name a few)!

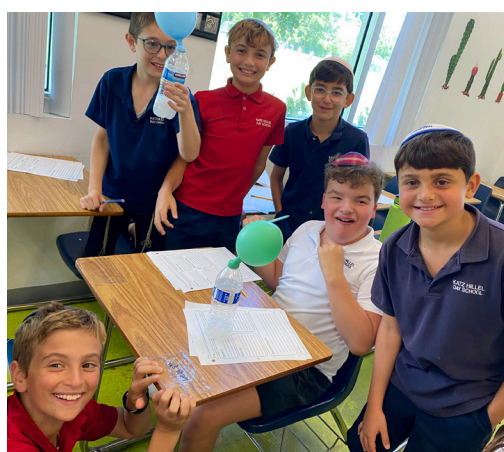
Students mastered the science of formulating a hypothesis in a delicious way using M&M's®.



Students worked diligently in **Mrs. Alverio's** class.



Students implemented their knowledge of the scientific method while performing an exciting acid-base reaction in **Mrs. Braun's** science class.



5th graders had a special visit from 6th grader, **Aiden Lerman**, as he inspired the students to be a part of the MBP (Mishnayot Bial Peh) program.



Students that participated in **Rabbi Drang's** RDHC (Rebbe's Daf Ha'Chumash) program reviewed each page of their Chumash four times and kept track of their progress using their RDHC charts.



16 Spotlight by Grade



**Rina Lanner, M.S. Ed.,
Assistant Principal,
Middle School**

The Middle School lounge was reverberating with passionate singing and inspiring Divrei Torah at our pre-Rosh Hashana kumsitz. In particular, the song "Ki karov eilecha hadavar meod, b'ficha ub'lvavcha la'asoto" was echoing in the halls. This passuk, which is found at the end of Sefer Dvarim translates as "the thing (Torah) is very close to you, in your mouth and in your heart, to observe it." At this juncture in the Torah, Moshe is encouraging Bnei Yisrael by stating that the Torah isn't found in the heavens or across the sea. Rather, it is very close to us, in our mouths and hearts. Moshe is instilling confidence within the nation that the Torah, though difficult at times, is attainable for all.

Rav Yosef Dov Soloveichik expounds on the above passuk and explains that the reason the Torah is close to each of us is because when we learn Torah, it isn't new information we've never been exposed to before. Rather, it is a review for each

of us. How can this be so? Chazal famously state, as babies grow in their mother's womb, they are learning Torah with an angel. We all have had the privilege of being a chavruta with a malach! Upon our birth, the angel taps above our lips (yes - that's what that imprint is from!) and we forget all that we've been taught. One can wonder - what was the purpose of learning it in the first place if we were destined to forget it all? Rav Soloveichik explains that this passuk is the answer. Hashem brought us into this world already feeling connected to the Torah and it is in fact close to each of us. As babies, we were gifted with Torah knowledge that came to us with ease. As we develop as Ovdei Hashem, our job is to put in the effort to access the Torah knowledge once again. The inspiring Torah lessons and values inform and guide our lives, as we work to remember all that we have learned in the womb.

At Katz Hillel Day School, we have the zechut to be partners with you and your children as they blossom into invaluable Bnei and Bnot Torah. We are looking forward to an incredible year of growth and rediscovery of the Torah that is already enmeshed within them!

Middle school advisory began with students and advisers getting to know each other with fun icebreaker games!



8th graders worked in groups to identify different primary and secondary sources in **Mr. Doss'** U.S. history class.



The first Kumsitz of the school year took place on August 26th.



In **Mrs. Braun's** science class, 6th grade students applied their knowledge of the scientific method by testing different solutions to measure which one formed the biggest bubble.



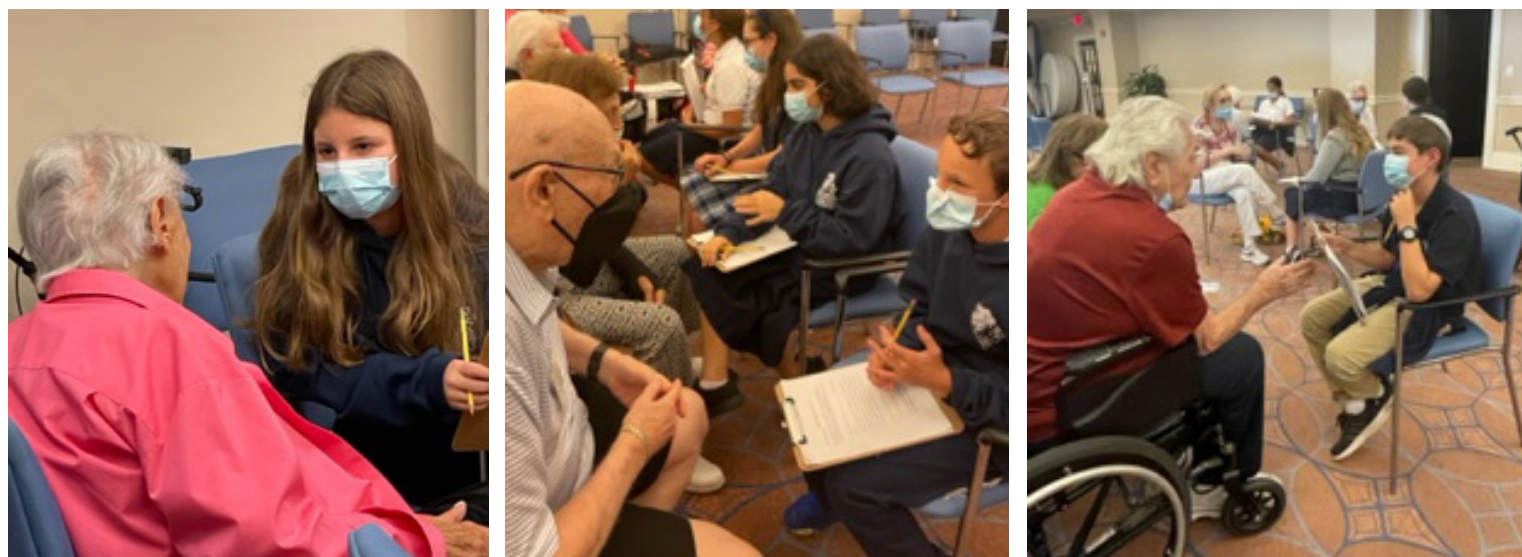
The Middle School Elective Program kicked off on September 7th with lots of excitement from the students. This program gives students the opportunity to learn, grow, explore, and develop different skills and ideas that they wouldn't necessarily be exposed to in the traditional classroom setting. This year's electives offerings include: Dor L'Dor, Fun with Frisbee, Debunking Disney, So You Think You Want To Be A Lawyer, Jewelry Making, Jeopardy, Watch-ya Making, Pilates, Basketball, Acrylic Painting, Ceramics, DICE Comics and much more. Thank you to many of our faculty, as well as parent volunteers, for their commitment to this program and for participating as teachers in the electives program, as well as to **Mrs. Nechamah Zangre** for coordinating.

Middle School



Elective Spotlight: Dor L'Dor

In this special elective designated just for 8th graders, students visit with our neighbor residents at **Sinai Residences** (right here on the **Jewish Federation** campus). This program provides a unique opportunity for KHDS students and the seniors to build and foster relationships with each other. During this elective students engage in conversation, read aloud, play games, and participate in other bonding activities. Linking generations is important in our culture for so many reasons.



18 Spotlight by Grade

Get "Ready!" **Ms. Ready's** 7th grade English students were captivated and READY to dive into her engaging grammar lessons.



STEM! Middle School students experienced principles of design in building a prosthetic bird beak on the 3D printers in **Mr. Landreth's** class. The students created devices out of household items to lift seeds from a jar without touching the sides.

Middle School



Elul Speaker Series

Rabbi Rael Blumenthal, of **BRS West**, kicked off this year's middle school Elul Speaker Series as he addressed students about excelling in middot, personal growth, and always doing their best!



Rabbi David Pardo, former Director of Torah Outreach for the **Orthodox Union**, spoke to middle school students with inspiring words for Rosh Hashanah. His incredible and moving message conveyed that each and every one of us has our own unique mission in life and to never give up on our journey.



Rabbi Yaakov Gibber, Morah Da'asrah of the **Boca Jewish Center**, inspired the students with powerful words about unlocking their inner greatness and potential. What a pleasure and privilege for us to have Rabbi Gibber visit!



Middle school students listened to an incredible song from **Rabbi Dani Kunstler**, of **Yeshivat Torah Shraga** (Israel), about Yom Kippur and Hashem's love for us. The importance of asking forgiveness from each other before Yom Kippur was discussed. In closing, **Mrs. Nechama Feder** spoke about the background and incredible significance of the tefilah of U'nesaneh Tokef.



Rabbi Moshe Schochet, Head of School of **Hadar High School for Girls**, visited KHDS middle school students and shared an inspirational message in advance of Yom Kippur. He explained that we can prepare for Yom Kippur and everyday life by asking ourselves honestly what Hashem wants. He stressed that every Jewish person has a soul and knows what is right and holy and that Yom Kippur is the day we realize who we truly are. What a powerful message!



Maia Shaffer, Athletic Director
Julie Abrams, After School Sports Coordinator



What an exciting start to the 2022 KHDS athletic season!

The fall season opened with girls volleyball, led by **Coach Nastassia Friday**. Throughout the season, the girls worked on many of the basic skills and steadily improved in all areas. The games got closer as the season progressed and the girls had competitive matches the second half of the season. The players showed excellent sportsmanship and impressed onlookers with their dignity and resilience on the court. A great job by our Lady Lions!

The boys flag football team also kicked off the fall season. It was exciting to see the growth of this young team from game to game under the leadership of **Coach Alan Semel** and **Assistant Coach Stan Baptiste**. The boys really understood the concept of what a "team" was, and the coaches were persistent in teaching them about teamwork on and off the field. Mazal tov to the boys on a great season.

Thank you to all of our parents for their ongoing support. The next season of play features girls varsity basketball, boys varsity soccer, and boys JV flag football.

Come on out and cheer on your Katz Hillel Lions!



Girls' Volleyball



Boys' Flag Football



20 Holiday Happenings

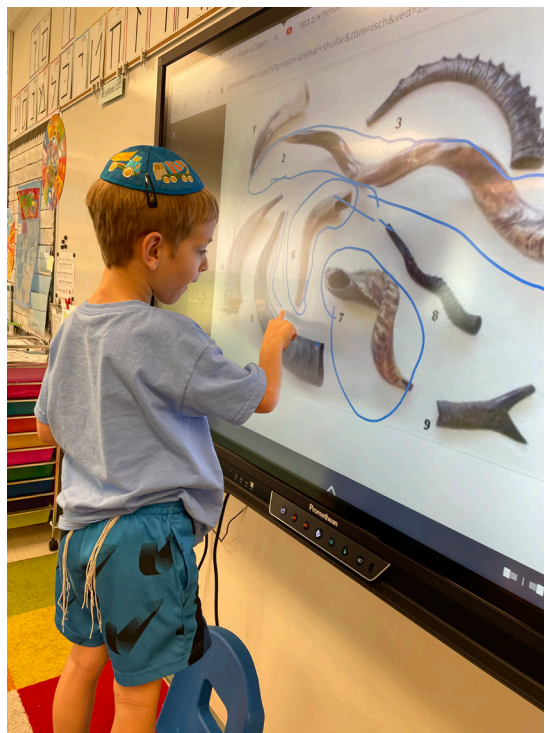
During the month of Elul, on the days leading up to Rosh Hashanah, students in the **Teddy & Linda Struhl Elementary School** gathered as **Morah Hadassah** taught a lesson through her beautiful storytelling, followed by the sounding of the shofar by **Rabbi Drang**.



EC students listened to **Rabbi Eisenberger** blow the shofar and learned about its sounds.



Kindergarteners learned about the different types of shofarot.

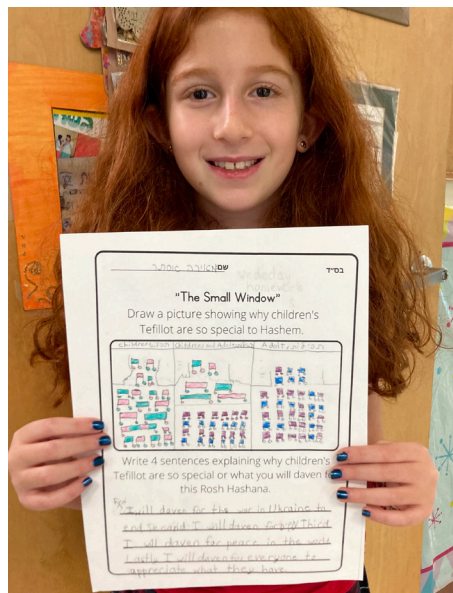


5th graders worked on a quilling project for Rosh Hashanah in art class.

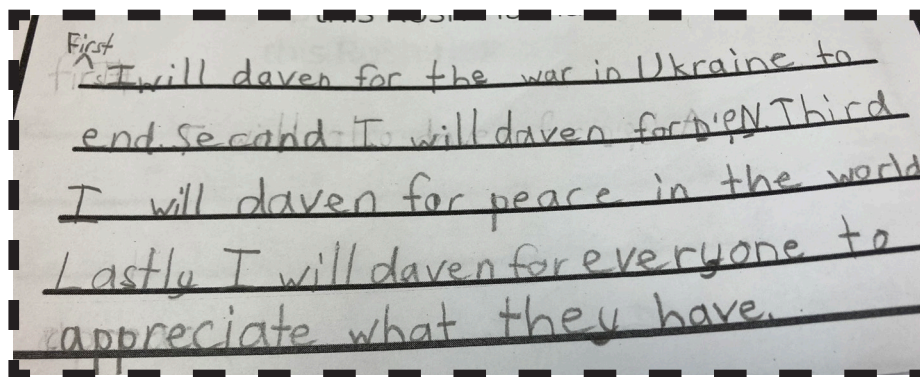


3rd graders painted with yarn to create shofar art for the holiday in **Mrs. Pinkis'** art class.





3rd graders in **Morah Peninah's** class wrote about what they will daven for this Rosh Hashanah.



EC4 students were busy "bees" learning about the honey process in connection with Rosh Hashanah!

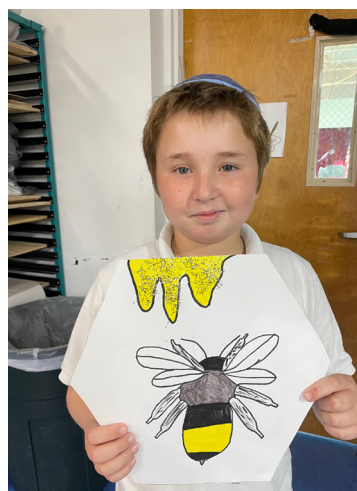


An apple a day! Students in EC3 learned about apples in preparation of Rosh Hashanah!

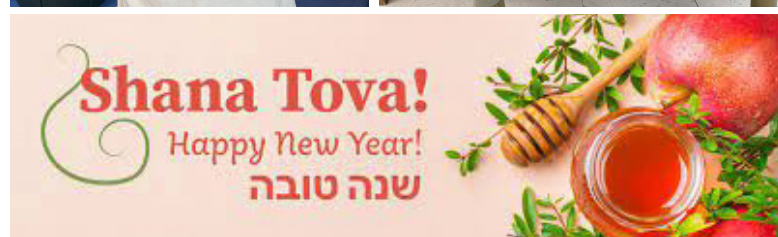


Buzzzzzz...4th graders created beehive art for the upcoming New Year.

The EC4-B "Apple Orchard & Market" opened for business in time for the holiday.



Middle school students created mosaics for Rosh Hashanah in art class.



22 Holiday Happenings

Shana Tova! **Morah Shira's** Kitah Alef students were in the Rosh Hashanah spirit.



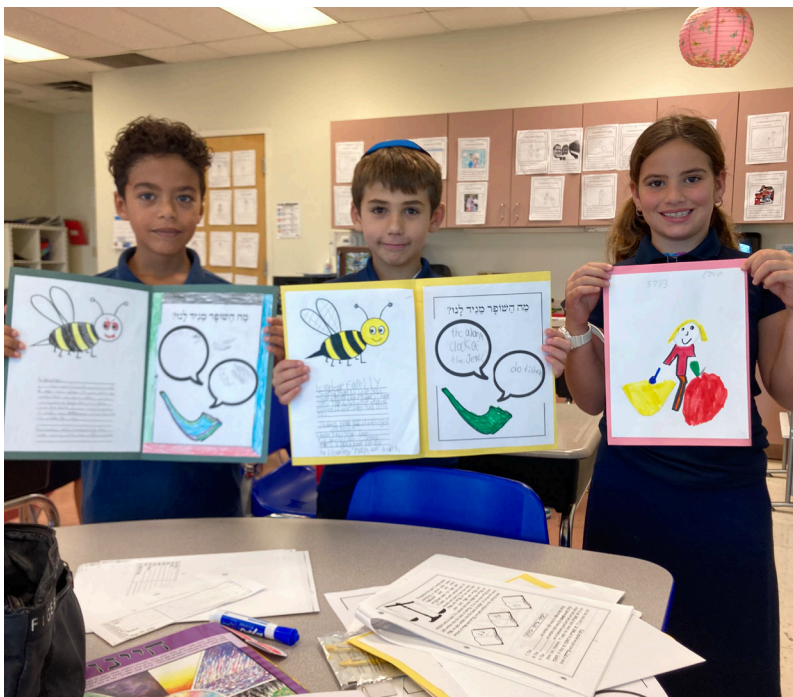
Across the grades! 6th grade girls enjoyed their time with **Morah Chana'le's** 1st graders as they worked together to create beautiful Rosh Hashanah cards.



EC4 students had fun conceptualizing the length of noises by measuring the sounds of the shofar using connector cubes.



3rd graders created festive Rosh Hashanah cards.



Thank you to **Rabbi G** for visiting the **Rosalind Henwood Early Childhood Learning Center** and presenting his famous honey bee workshop! It was "sweet!"



3rd, 4th, and 5th graders baked delicious challah and made honey cakes for Rosh Hashanah!



Ms. Gutman and Miss Christie's 3rd grade classes created pomegranates to show off their rounding skills. Students used one of two strategies to round to the nearest ten or hundred. Then they lined up their place values to add or subtract! A sweet way to practice their skills!



Shana Tova from our buzzing **Beim** bumble bees!



Dip the apple in the.... lemon juice?!?! In **Mrs. Morris'** K-4th grade science classes, students used their knowledge of the scientific method to test which liquid prevents an apple from turning brown. They learned about the process of oxidation, which can be prevented by covering the apple with ascorbic acid (vitamin C), found in lemon juice.



24 Holiday Happenings

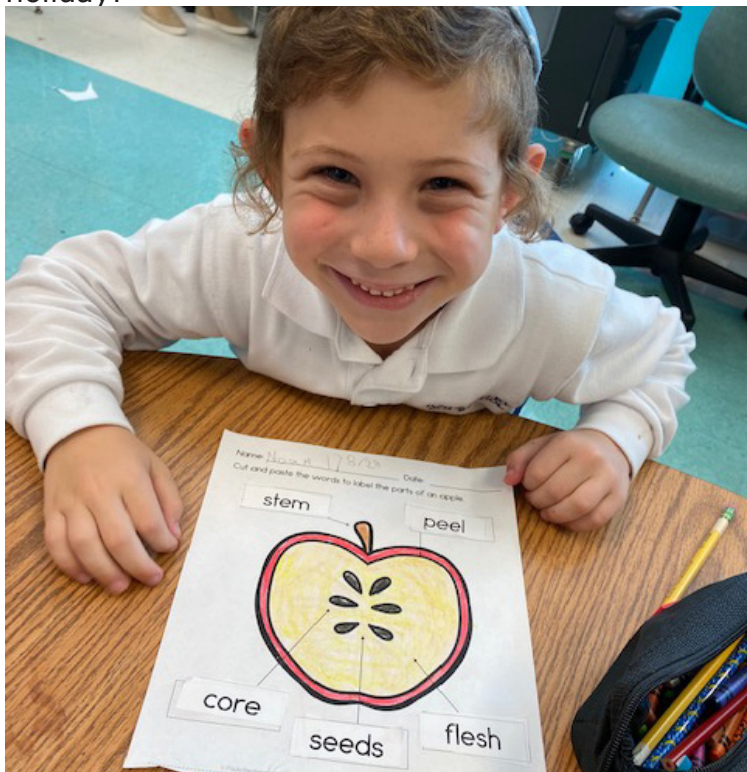
Morah Racheli's 3rd-5th graders created Shana Tova cards in Hebrew for their families.



Beehive art was on display and Rosh Hashanah ready!



1st graders worked on an apple mini unit for the holiday!



EC2 students enjoyed Rosh Hashanah activities.



In advance of Yom Kippur, KHDS parent, **Judge Michael Davis** spoke to the 2C and 4A classes about making good choices and, when needed, Teshuva through a legal and Torah lens. Judge Davis is currently a judge on the 17th Circuit Court in Broward County.



Early childhood students created Kapparot hats for Yom Kippur.



Students decorated with the B'not Sherut for Sukkot!



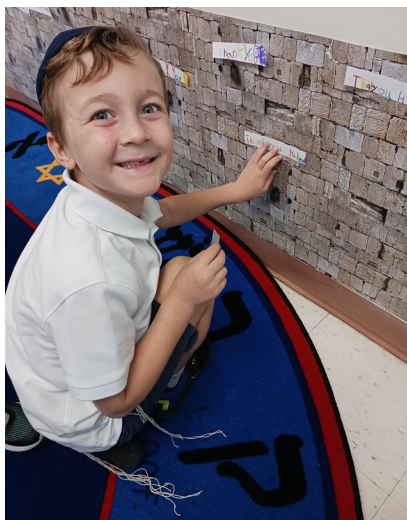
EC4-C had so much fun engineering their sukkah to get ready for the holiday using magnetic tiles, popsicle sticks, napkin holders, and a spacial awareness puzzle!



Young scribes practiced writing using quills for Simchat Torah. They also created one-of-a kind flags to dance with!



Kitah Alef davened at "The Kotel."



EC3 prepared for Sukkot.



26 Holiday Happenings

EC2-A learned about the lulav and esrog and the Torah for the holidays of Sukkot and Simchat Torah in **Morah Cara's** class.



Food and chesed - what could be better? Our middle schoolers participated in some pre-Sukkot fun by building edible sukkahs and Sifrei Torah and making Sukkah decorations for our neighbors at **Sinai Residences**.

Morah Lanner's 8th grade Chumash class delivered the decorations created by the middle school students to **Sinai Residences**. They also had the opportunity to decorate the community Sukkah with some of the residents.



3rd and 4th graders created beautiful projects for Sukkot.

EC4-C had to find the missing Sukkot or Simchat Torah image using algebraic skills!





Financial Resource Development

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

We're baaaack!!! It is wonderful to feel the buzz of all the campus happenings here at KHDS. The 2022-23 school year kicked off with a very **special art auction fundraiser**. With the full support and blessings of **Martin Judovits'** family, **KHDS** and **BRS** held a 10-day auction for the 135 lots of his original paintings, that began on Martin's first yahrzeit (11 Elul). Thank you to everyone who made a bid to support this effort and congratulations to the winners. We also thank **Susan Rosen-McSweeney** for her assistance with this special auction.

KHDS parents...each year, our **Every Parent Campaign** strives for 100% participation of all of our families with a gift of tzedakah in ANY amount before the end of the school year. We thank all of our participating families for recognizing that together, we can impact our children's future!

The **Mega Raffle** fundraiser, a joint campaign to support Torah, will be returning this winter. With many chances to win, including the \$100,000 grand prize, it's a great way to support our campaign.

Another way to make a meaningful gift and leave a legacy is through our **Capital Campaign: Phase III**. There are a variety of naming opportunities as we plan for the expansion of our campus. Contact the Development Office for more information.

Did you know that our Annual Campaign Scholarship Fund is not funded at all by tuition fees? It is in fact funded completely by the State of Florida and Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County scholarship funding, several revenue-generating programs, and gifts of tzedakah from generous donors like you!

We wish everyone a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year 5783!



For just \$1 a day, set
up a monthly gift of \$30 and
an annual gift of \$360!

Set up your recurring gift of tzedakah online
through our secure website at <https://www.hilleldayschool.org/support-hds/donate/>



Martin Judovits, a"h, and KHDS 8th graders during the 2016 Holocaust documentary program.

Capital Campaign Phase III: Campus Expansion

Plans for construction are in the works as we look forward to the expansion of the Milton B. Katz Campus with a new classroom building featuring a beautiful new Beit Midrash.

NAMING OPPORTUNITIES:

- \$250,000 Atrium
- \$75,000 Classrooms
- \$50,000 Offices
- \$36,000 Main Entrance & Beit Midrash Entrance Mezuzahs
- \$25,000 Other Outer Door Mezuzahs



RESERVED:

- * Beit Midrash/Jeffrey & Jodi Harris
- * Classroom/Daniel & Liora Adler
- * Classroom/Danny & Emely Aghion
- * Classroom/Anonymous
- * Classroom/Anonymous
- * Classroom/Gendelman Insurance Services
- * Classroom/Philip & Jennifer Landau
- * Classroom/Ted & Linda Struhl
- * Classroom/Michael & Amy Tarlowe

**RESERVE NOW BEFORE
THEY ARE SOLD OUT!**



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.

28 Community, Chesed & Caring

**"It takes a special person to give a gift...
it takes a hero to donate a kidney."**

Over the summer, our esteemed Executive Director, **Rabbi Deon Nathan**, saved a life by donating one of his kidneys on July 15th.

Rabbi Nathan's acts of selflessness, generosity, and compassion are a true inspiration for us all and a source of pride for our school and community.

Renewal is the amazing organization that makes matches between donors and patients.



*Rabbi Nathan with his
recipient and her family.*



Jill Kaminetzky and **Devora Gutman** kicked off teacher work week with the announcement of Flamingo Fridays. Every Friday winners will be chosen with numbers corresponding to the pink flamingo each faculty and staff member received.



JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES: COMMUNITY SUPPORT

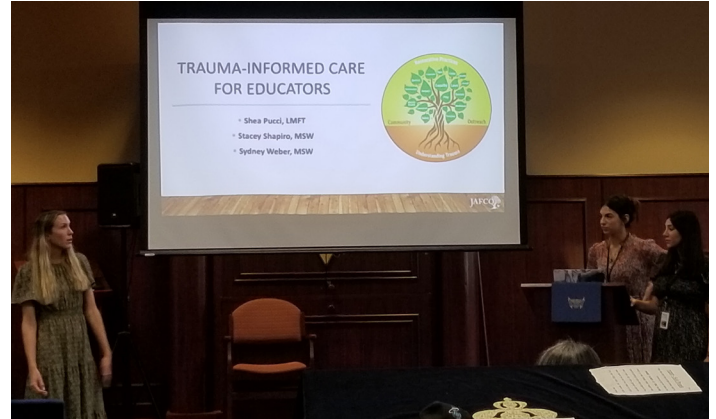
JFS has worked closely with KHDS to bring a wide array of support services to its students/families.

If you or someone you know is in need of assistance, please reach out to the Community Outreach Coordinator, **Melissa Alter**, at 561-852-3298. For additional information on the services JFS provides please visit www.ralesjfs.org.

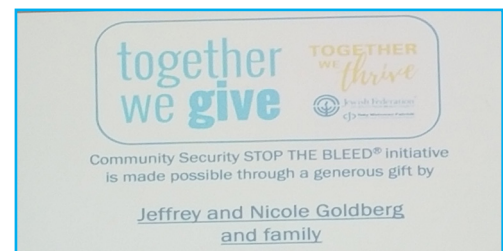


Ruth & Norman Rales
Jewish Family Services
Help. Hope. Humanity.

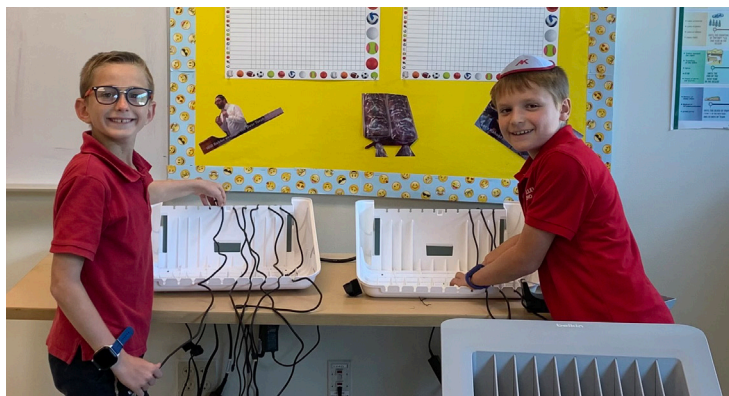
Thank you to **Shea Pucci, Stacey Shapiro, and Sydney Weber** of **JAFCO**, for their presentation, Trauma-Informed Care for Educators, to KHDS faculty prior to the start of school.



Thank you to **Alan Poland**, Community Security Director, of **SCN (Secure Community Network)** and **David Summers**, Trauma Nurse Outreach Coordinator of **Health Care District of Palm Beach County**, for presenting the "Stop the Bleed" program to KHDS faculty and staff prior to the start of school. Life-saving techniques and hands-on training were provided through this important program. We also thank the **Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County** for securing a grant to cover the training and "Stop the Bleed" kits for every classroom on our campus.



Sam Schochet and **Shlomo Wexler** spent their break time helping their 5th grade Rebbe (**Rabbi Drang**) set up over 20 Chromebooks!



Check out the beautiful new art piece hanging in the Beit Midrash. The photo does not do this 3D pin art piece justice. If you would like to learn more about it, please contact **Morah Hadassah** at hadassahs@hilleldayschool.org. Special thanks to the **Wikler family** for their generous donation of the art.



Morah Rachel Keller spoke to 8th graders about her experiences on the **March of the Living**. The students were so inspired, motivated, and moved by her powerful and emotional presentation. It was extra special as it was her father's yahrzeit and she had the chance to share his story with our students. What an incredible way to continue learning about the Holocaust during our *Names, Not Numbers* journey!



Thanks to everyone who donated to the **KHDS PTA Hurricane Ian Disaster Relief Collection** on September 30th. And thank you to those who volunteered to help with unloading, organizing, and packing. Our thoughts and prayers are with those who have lost so much during this devastating storm.



Kol Hakavod to 4th graders **Noam Aghion** and **Jake Bienenfeld** for volunteering their time to deliver Rosh Hashanah meals to the elderly, through the **Jacobson Family Food Pantry of Ruth Rales Jewish Family Services**. The boys were excited and energized to perform this act of chesed.

May they continue to do miztvot and chesed.





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

As we embark on another year, my last with a student at KHDS after 14 years, I am excited about what is in store and proud of what we have accomplished to date.

With a growing student body and expansive community, it is such a pleasure to meet new families, engage dedicated volunteers, and implement fresh ideas, while continuing to fulfill our commitment to help make KHDS the best that it can be.

As always, PTA strives to ensure a positive and enjoyable school experience for our children, and it is so fun to reflect on what that has meant throughout the years. As we foster connections among the KHDS community, fundraise, and enrich the KHDS environment for all, we are so grateful for those who support our events and ongoing programs, as our success is due to the time and effort continually being contributed. Please join us!



PTA Calendar

At the start of the school year, every family received the beautiful 2022-2023 PTA calendar, which includes important dates and information. We are tremendously grateful to **Meira Ohayon, Pia Solomon, and Marisa Weg-Chametsky** for the many long hours they devoted to this project throughout the summer. Special thanks to our sponsor, **The Grove Kosher Market**, and to all of our advertisers for making this project a successful fundraiser!



With Praise, Thanks & Admiration

❖ Thank you to **Cara Harris** for coordinating a coffee cart and sweet treats for faculty and staff from **LaVela Specialty Coffee Co.** It provided a java jolt to kick off the school year!



❖ Thank you to **Holly Seidenfeld** and family for organizing special Rosh Hashanah treats for each and every KHDS student. Thanks to our parent volunteers: **Helen Cohen, Tamar Feld, Emily Kaufman, Sigalit Nissanov, Avital Rosenberg** and student volunteers **Heshy and Hannah Seidenfeld** for their time and effort in assembling and distributing the treats before Chag.

❖ Thank you to **Young Mi Skehen**, for cleaning out and organizing our Lost & Found!

❖ Kudos to **Deena Frist** and **Naomi Katz** for coordinating our monthly Teacher Appreciation Breakfasts to honor our faculty staff!

❖ Thank you to **Marisa Weg-Chametsky** for her tireless efforts in setting up our KHDS PTA Online Uniform Shoppe. Check it out at www.khdsptashoppe.com.

❖ The Swap Shop has moved back to campus! Special thanks to our Swap Shop chair, **Tamar Feld**.

❖ Thank you to **Cara Harris** and her amazing crew of volunteers: **Joanne Adirim, Stephanie Beneda, Sabina Benyair, Naomi Dahan, Jaime Feld, Deena Ganz, Ariella Hopkins, Jacquelyn Jungreis, Rachel Lasry, Jackie Neuman, Penina Nudell, and Molly Schwimmer**, for beautifully wrapping and distributing new sweatshirts to our amazing faculty and staff.



Moms' Night Out

EC2 moms had a fun night out bonding over acai at **Sobol!** They talked, laughed, and shared the joys (and challenges) of parenting adorable two year olds. Thank you to EC-2 class moms **Danna Averbook**, **Hudi Krasna**, and **Mor Shapiro** for organizing this event!



2nd grade moms enjoyed a Wednesday night out at **Glyk Gelato** as they schmoozed and got to know one another. It was a great first event to start off the school year!



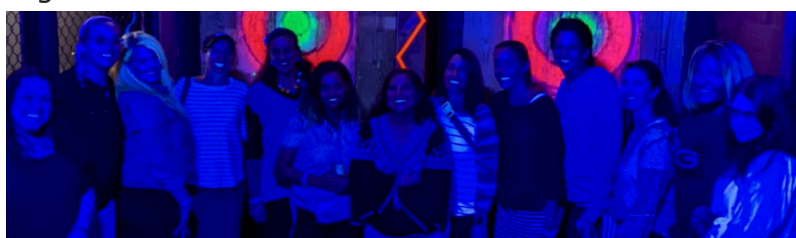
The 4th grade moms had a great time getting to know one another and creating floral arrangements. Thank you to **Aliza Austein** for hosting this fun night out!



The 5th grade moms got together for a fun night of sushi, wine, and laughter. New friendships were formed, and everyone truly enjoyed the evening.



The 8th grade moms enjoyed an evening of pizza, snacks, and axe throwing! Everyone connected as they cheered one another on and talked and laughed together for hours.



Annual New Moms Brunch

In August, PTA hosted a beautiful brunch for all our new moms at the home of **Daniel and Liora Adler**. Everyone enjoyed the chance to schmooze and connect with others who had recently joined KHDS. It was also a great opportunity to meet members of the PTA board and learn how to get involved in the many events and programs the PTA organizes throughout the year. Thank you to all the moms who were able to come, and a special thank you to our hostess, **Liora Adler**, for graciously opening her home, and to her crew of volunteers: **Abby Adler**, **Rebecca Adler**, **Simone Jacobs**, and **Ariella Mayer**.



Pre-Chag Pop-Up Shop

Our Pre-Chag Pop-Up was an incredible success! Thank you to all our vendors, volunteers, and shoppers for coming out to support us! Much appreciation goes to **Deena Frist** and **Leorah Marcus** for planning such a great event! A very special thank you to **Naomi Katz and family** for opening their home for the evening!



#LIONPRIDE

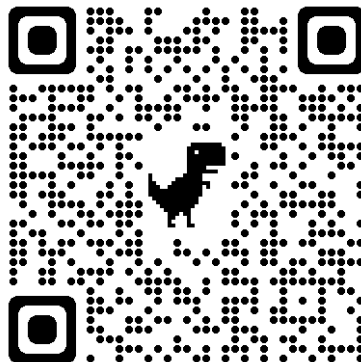


VISIT US ONLINE!

Visit our website for the most up to date calendar of events. View the library of previous *Hillel Heralds* and *Annual Reports* on the 'Publications' page, and see photos from past school years on the 'Photo Galleries' page.



Scan this to like us on Facebook!



LIKE US ON
FACEBOOK!

The next issue of the *Hillel Herald* will feature Thanksgiving, Chanukah, the Chumash & Siddur programs, 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.

The *Hillel Herald* is designed and produced by:
Suzanne Rice, Director of Development



PARTNER AGENCY OF:
Jewish Federation
OF SOUTH PALM BEACH COUNTY

