

THE Hillel Herald

KHDS STANDS WITH ISRAEL



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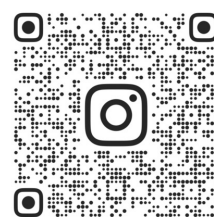


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2 From the Administration



Rabbi Yaakov Sadigh
Head of School

One particular episode in Megilat Esther has long been a source of curiosity and contemplation for me. Esther's seemingly contradictory behavior—hesitating to approach the King since she had not been summoned in the last 30 days, yet later

inviting him to a banquet only to delay her request—is very surprising. How did she have the courage to push off her banquet to another day? Wasn't this disrespectful to the King?

A commentary on the Vilna Gaon's edition of Megilat Esther sheds light on Esther's actions and reveals a deeper understanding of her approach. Mordechai's counsel to Esther played a crucial role in her decision-making process. Mordechai urged Esther to recognize the significance of her position as queen and to act proactively in the face of the impending threat to the Jewish people: "And who knows whether it was just for a time as this that you attained the royal position?" (4,14) Esther responded by calling for prayer and fasting among the Jewish community, seeking divine guidance for her impending audience with the King. At the banquet, Esther hoped for divine intervention to guide her words and sway the King's heart in favor of her people. However, when no such divine sign manifested, Esther wisely chose to delay her request, recognizing that the timing was not yet right. Instead, she seized the opportunity to further develop the situation by allowing events to unfold naturally. In the interim, unforeseen circumstances arose that played into Esther's favor. Achashverosh's realization of Mordechai's past deed of saving his life and his subsequent order to honor him through Haman, set the stage for Esther's



Lev Stark
Executive Director

As the executive director of our school, I'm thrilled to share some updates from our construction site—or, as I like to call it, the future home of our students' dreams and occasional paper airplane flights. Picture this: a once beloved baseball field, now a bustling workshop where the walls of our new building

are taking shape. These aren't just any walls; they're the future guardians of knowledge, discussion, and perhaps a few doodles. But here's the twist: in a move that's part architectural genius and part magic trick, these walls will soon shimmy their way over to what used to be our basketball court. That's right, our basketball court is getting a serious upgrade, swapping three-pointers for pillars of academia. When we are all done, new basketball courts will be on the old baseball field.

Our new space is no ordinary building. It's a veritable Swiss Army Knife of educational facilities, boasting 10 new classrooms where future debates, discoveries, and maybe the odd nap will unfold. More offices mean more spaces for our staff to plan, ponder, and occasionally indulge in a well-deserved coffee break. And let's not forget the pièce de résistance: an expanded Beit Midrash that promises to be as vibrant and soulful as a lively family dinner but with more books and fewer arguments over the last piece of challah.

But wait, there's more. This building isn't just a place; it's a bridge (literally). A bridge that connects the **Teddy & Linda Struhl Elementary School** to our middle school, symbolizing our journey from 'learning to tie shoelaces' to 'mastering algebra' (and still, for some, learning to tie shoelaces). It's a testament

eventual revelation of Haman's nefarious plot. Esther's patience and strategic delay ultimately enabled her to deliver her message at a time when it would have the greatest impact.

This narrative from Megilat Esther teaches us a valuable lesson in the power of patience and allowing events to develop organically. Esther's story underscores the importance of recognizing that progress and success may not always follow a linear path. Just as Esther's patient approach led to the salvation of her people, so too can patience and belief in our students lead to remarkable achievements in education.

Adam Grant's insightful quote from "Hidden Potential" further emphasizes the fallacy of solely focusing on initial abilities and the importance of recognizing the hidden potential within each individual. Like the "Mozarts," who ascend slowly and bloom late, students may not always stand out immediately, but with patience, support, and encouragement, they can realize their full potential over time. In education, assessments and benchmarks are valuable tools for tracking progress, but they should not be the sole determinants of a child's worth or potential. Instead, educators should prioritize nurturing each child's unique journey and fostering growth at their own pace. By valuing progress over immediate outcomes, educators can inspire intrinsic motivation, holistic development, and a lifelong love of learning in their students. Just as Esther's patience and strategic delay led to the salvation of her people, so too can patience and belief in our students lead to remarkable achievements in education. By embracing slow yet steady progress, educators can empower children to reach their full potential and become lifelong learners, one day at a time.



to our belief in unity, in bringing together young minds under a single roof to learn, grow, and occasionally plot harmless pranks.

In the midst of all this building and bridging, we've also turned into Fort Knox, thanks to **Teach Florida's** efforts and the state's generous security grants. We're upping our security game, installing hardening and visual barriers that say, "Welcome, students!" and "Not today, troublemakers!" all at once. Our security team is getting beefier (figuratively speaking), ensuring that our campus remains as safe as a padded playground.

So, as we prepare to move walls and create new halls, let's embrace this journey with the enthusiasm of a pep rally and the joy of a snow day (that's for all of you who recently relocated). We're not just constructing buildings; we're crafting the backdrop for countless memories, learning experiences, and, yes, even those moments when the Wi-Fi decides to take a brief vacation. Here's to our future, filled with laughter, learning, and maybe a few more magic tricks up our sleeve. Stay tuned for more updates, and remember, in the world of construction and education, the only constant is change (and the occasional misplaced hard hat).



Hadassah Smolarcik
Judaic Studies Principal, Grades 1-8

The heart is heavy, the mind is numb, and a sense of worry and uncertainty fills the air. But wait... Have we not been here before?

Our existence is a continuous miracle; while we have survived the many empires that tried to dominate and destroy us, they have disappeared, and we are still here! Each morning, watching the students enter the campus gives me hope for the future. Hearing the sounds of Tefillot and Torah permeating the hallways and the singing of "Acheinu" and Tehillim at our weekly Oneg infuses feelings of optimism, positivity, and confidence that Hashem is the Master Planner.

We are reading the Parshiot of Chumash Shmot, which primarily teach us of the redemption from Egypt and our evolving into the nation of "Am Yisrael." Pharaoh, king of the mightiest empire of the time, regrets freeing the Jews and chases them to the Red Sea. Our Rabbis commented that it was compared to a dove fleeing a hawk, who then flew to hide in the crack of a rock only to meet up with a snake! To this Hashem said, as Shlomo Hamelech quotes in Shir HaShirim, "Let me hear your voice, for your voice is sweet and your visage is beautiful."

And that is exactly what the Jewish people did at that moment: they cried out to Hashem with the craft and talents of their forefathers, Avraham, Yitzchak, and Yaakov! We know the rest of the amazing story and the miracles that occurred!

The many miracles and the receiving of the Torah in Chumash Shmot are meant to raise our Emunah (belief and trust) in Hashem during these difficult times. We trust in Hashem that, just as He brought us salvation in the past, He will continue to watch over us and help us in the present.

What do we transmit to our children? First, we must teach them and model for them that we know everything is for the best. Every opportunity that comes our way is part of Hashem's benevolence, and Hashem wants us to grow with every joy, success, pain, and disappointment that transpires. Hashem does not want us to just go through life on the same level; but wants us to flourish and rise to our fullest potential. For this, Hashem gave us the Torah, the blueprint, to elevate us and for us to reach our spiritual potential and height. We have to teach our children to find meaning and purpose in their lives and to learn to give to others.

At KHDS, we see examples on a daily basis of children wanting to give and help others. Whether it is in our KHDS family, community, or far away from our brothers and sisters in Eretz Yisrael, we strive to strengthen each other, smile, and help each other, and we hope that we will merit Hashem to smile on us.

First Yahrzeit Commemoration of Esti Moskowitz, a"H'



On January 30th (20 Shevat) the KHDS community commemorated the first Yahrzeit of our beloved and precious Talmidah, **Esti Moskowitz, A"H, Esther Tehila bas Gavriel Pinchas**.

In the morning, the middle school students heard from our administrators as well as **Mrs. Shari Haik**, a very close friend of the **Moskowitz family**. They also watched tribute videos about Esti and took upon themselves a special Mitzvah to perform in her memory. In the afternoon, the 5th grade students assembled in the Beit Midrash to hear special stories about Esti from **Morah Hadassah**. Students shared fond memories and culminated the program by making Berachot on cookies, as Esti was passionate about making Berachot.

We will forever remember Esti for her incredible smile, love of Torah and Mitzvot, kindness to others, and zest for life. Esti elevated all of us to be better people and inspired us to strive toward becoming closer to Hashem. "Let our inner Esti shine" was the mantra for the day and going forward. We honored Esti's memory by dedicating all our Tefillot and learning in the Zechut for an Aliyat Neshama for Esther Tehila.

On Sunday, February 4th, the community gathered at **Boca Raton Synagogue** for the dedication of a Sefer Torah in Esti's memory.



The **Esti Moskowitz Oneg** is a Friday favorite for elementary school students as well as the **E.S.T.I.** program where students record their Shabbat and Sunday davening for the month.



Students happily received their **E.S.T.I.** treats for Chodesh Cheshvan!



Students participated in the Kinnus Tefillah, global day of Tefillah, coordinated by **Torah Umesorah** on January 4th. **HaRav Elya Budny** shlita virtually addressed the students, followed by Tehillim said in unison by thousands and thousands of students.

4 From the Administration



Shireen Butman
General Studies Principal, Grades 1-5

Anyone who knows me knows that I am a huge proponent of STEM education, but even more so of girls in STEM.

With the explosion of artificial intelligence in all areas of our lives and professions, it is imperative that we expose our students at a young age to opportunities, technologies, and creative resources that will allow them to grow and enhance their analytical, problem-solving, design, and programming skills.

Over my years of teaching, it became apparent that more male students gravitated towards STEM subjects, encouraged by teachers who felt that they possessed innate critical thinking abilities and showed interest in STEM topics. I often felt that many more female students would be more inclined to and less intimidated by STEM subjects if we stood behind them and showed them that they could absolutely tackle the higher order and “out of the box” thinking required in the STEM fields. Directing and promoting females into STEM has become a passion of mine! We have to flip the lens for our girls from STEM is “not for you” to “you can learn anything with perseverance and dedication.”

On February 7th, 2024, our middle school Vex Robotics team competed in the **CIJE Vex Robotics Competition** for local South Florida Jewish schools. This year, for the first time ever, we had an all-girls team participate along with the boys! This was no coincidence, but rather a concerted effort to encourage, promote, and expose our KHDS female students to STEM opportunities and build their confidence so that they too can tackle and succeed in the STEM arena! I was so proud of all the robotics team members, but seeing the girls on this team thrive and shine validates all our efforts to encourage more KHDS girls to participate in clubs such as robotics. There is more work ahead, but this small moment of success is one that I will cherish for a long time!

Parents who want to partner with the school can also seek out-of-school STEM opportunities for their children. **Girls Who Code** is an international nonprofit organization that works towards bridging the gender gap in tech and offers programs during the year and in the summer that parents can explore for their children in 3rd grade and above.

Looking forward to encouraging future generations of coders and innovators at KHDS!



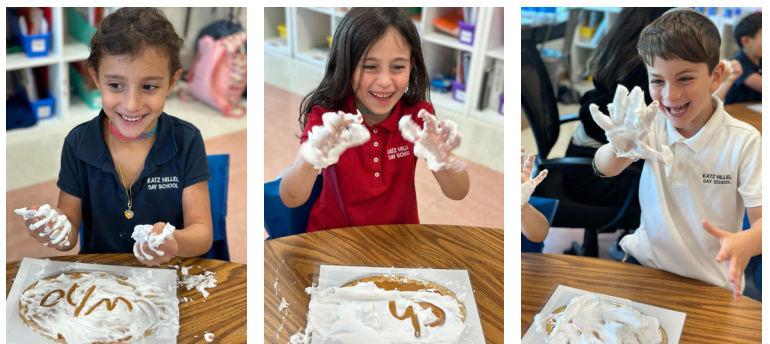
On January 9th, the KHDS science department and **Mrs. Butman** attended **CIJE's** professional development conference at **Motorola Solutions** in Plantation. The goal of this hands-on PD was to allow teachers to gain a better understanding of how to integrate CIJE's units of study in engineering and K-12 science into our STEM lessons.



Students spend the year designing, building, and programming their robots to complete a series of complex challenges which culminated at the **CIJE (Center for Initiatives in Jewish Education) Middle School Vex Robotics Competition** in Hollywood, FL. We are so proud of our KHDS teams for their hard work and dedication! Thank you to the team advisor, **Mr. Spencer Landreth**, for guiding and supporting the team!



Mrs. Schulman's 1st graders used **Clever** to conveniently sign into their **Chromebooks** with a QR code. Students then logged into their **Go Math** curriculum and took a math growth assessment, which provided insightful data on their progress. Afterward, students continued on to **Waggle**, which provided personalized and adaptive practice in math through games and engaging lessons. The class is excited to continue to use this digital resource throughout the year!



Who knew this multi-sensory spelling activity would be so fun?



Rina Lanner
General Studies Principal, Middle School

”שכל המלמד את בן חברו תורה,
מעלה עליו הכתוב כאילו ילדו”

We learn from Chazal that whoever teaches Torah to the son of his fellow man is considered as if he gave birth to him.

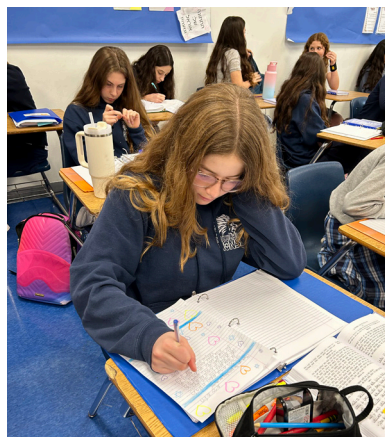
The Torah offers profound insights into the dynamics of education and the relationship between teachers and students. Central to this perspective is the concept that students are akin to children, deserving of nurturing, guidance, and unconditional love.

Just as children rely on their parents for care, protection, and moral instruction, students similarly depend on their teachers for knowledge, mentorship, and character development. The Torah emphasizes the sacred duty of educators to approach their role with the same tenderness and compassion as a parent caring for their child.

The Torah emphasizes the idea that every student is unique, with distinct strengths, weaknesses, and potential. Just as parents tailor their approach to the individual needs of each child, teachers are called upon to recognize and nurture the unique talents and abilities of their students. This requires patience, empathy, and a willingness to invest time and energy in understanding and supporting each student’s journey of learning and growth.

The role of the teacher is not merely to impart information but to cultivate character, instill values, and nurture the spiritual and intellectual development of their students. Just as parents take pride in the achievements of their children, teachers derive deep satisfaction from the success and growth of their students.

Teachers have the power to shape not only minds but also hearts, leaving an indelible mark on the lives of those they teach. We are blessed at KHDS to have teachers who do just that every single day! Thank you for entrusting your precious children with us.



Middle school students continued to support Israel by writing heartfelt letters to IDF soldiers.



Morah Rachel's 8th grade class created beautiful posters about Israel.



Middle School students had the opportunity to hear from **Rabbi Josh Spodek** and his son, **Yitzchak**, KHDS alumni (Class of '14), and former lone soldier, who returned from a personal mission trip to Israel. They shared the message of achdut and mi k'amcha yisroel.



Kindness was November’s “Middah of the Month” as students played “Kindness BINGO” during Advisory. Think kindness. Speak kindness. Do kindness!

6 From the Administration



Gwenn Baer
Early Childhood Director, EC2-K

Early childhood centers play a crucial role in a child's development. At KHDS, we provide a nurturing and stimulating environment that fosters the holistic development of our youngest learners. We cultivate a love for learning Torah, instill a strong foundation for future academic success, and promote social, emotional, and physical well-being. Through collaboration with

families and a commitment to excellence, we aim to empower each child to reach their full potential and become confident, curious, and compassionate individuals.

KHDS strives to create activities and special moments to enhance the learning experience. Programming is a significant piece of EC. Hands-on learning opportunities help solidify the learning process. Interactive and group activities foster social skills such as communication, cooperation, and teamwork. Children learn how to share, take turns, and collaborate with their peers, which are essential skills for later in life. Our activities also involve physical movement and coordination. Through a wide variety of activities, such as playing games, dancing, or engaging in art projects, children develop and refine their gross and fine motor skills. Storytelling, singing, and other language-rich activities contribute to language development. Children are exposed to new vocabulary, sentence structures, and communication skills in a natural and enjoyable context. Success and achievement in enjoyable activities contribute to a child's confidence and self-esteem. This positive reinforcement helps children approach new challenges with a sense of self-assurance.

Some of our exciting winter programming included *Shema Under the Stars*, led by **Rebecca Kinzbrunner** and **Jodie Salit**. During this motzei shabbat event, children came in their pajamas, enjoyed a musical havdalah, decorated pillowcases, and enjoyed cookies, milk, and pizza.

During *Bear Week*, the children enjoyed a bear factory and created their own KHDS bear, had a visit from **Smokey the Bear** to learn about fire safety, enjoyed a winter wonderland with "snow," had a yummy pancake breakfast, and watched an interactive play.

A Taste of Shabbat was held in memory of our esteemed past Principal of Early Childhood-Grade 3, **Chayim Dimont, Z"L**. The children dressed up in Shabbat clothing for a beautiful Shabbat Oneg filled with songs and ruach. The oneg was followed by a traditional Shabbat meal, prepared lovingly by our EC team.

By incorporating amazing and fun activities into our EC education, we create an environment that nurtures curiosity, creativity, and a love for K'lal Yisroel. Enjoyable programming sets the stage for a child's lifelong educational journey, and we are privileged that you have entrusted us with your children.



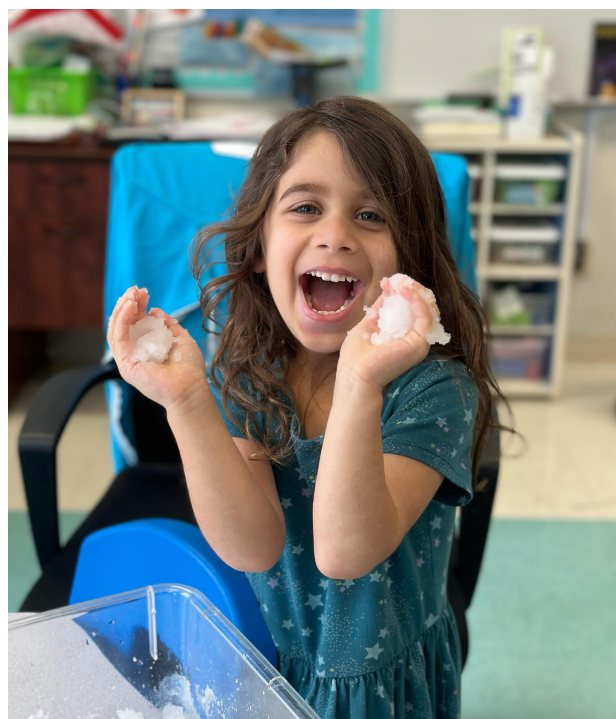
Yonatan Cohen, who has been serving in the **IDF**, surprised his nieces (**Annaelle, Noa, and Arya Schlager**). Thank you, Yonatan, for your service!



EC3 had a 'ball' playing with rubber band balls in **Coach Sam's** PE class. They tried balancing them on their heads and other body parts and also enjoyed throwing them up in the air!



During circle time, students created a safe and nurturing environment where they could practice their caregiving skills and develop their social and emotional intelligence.



In honor of the first day of winter, **Morah Jodie's** class made snow and got that cool winter sensation (without the temperature drop).

CONSTRUCTION IS UNDERWAY

The expansion of the **Milton B. Katz Campus** is underway! The start of construction for our new building began on Monday, December 18th. The new structure will connect the existing **Teddy & Linda Struhl Elementary School** and the **Middle School** buildings and will include additional classrooms for middle school and early childhood, offices, a 4D immersion room, and a beautiful new Beit Midrash.

This effort is Phase III of the school's Capital Campaign to ensure that no child is turned away from a Jewish education while keeping low student-teacher ratios and the stellar education and one-of-a-kind KHDS experience that our school provides.

There are a variety of exclusive naming opportunities available that offer a wonderful way to leave a lasting legacy while supporting Jewish education. Scan the QR code to make an earmarked donation to our Capital Campaign.



We gratefully recognize the generosity of our Capital Campaign Phase III supporters for securing an exclusive location to dedicate on the Milton B. Katz Campus.

Daniel & Liora Adler

Anonymous

Joe & Danna Averbook

Eric & Jennifer Berkowitz

Sandy & Barbara Cohen

Michael & Caroline Goldstein

Kevin & Anna Jacobs

Daniel & Caroline Katz

Aaron & Jacqueline Labovitz

Phil & Jennifer Landau

Andrew & Melissa Lovy

Rosenthal Brothers Insurance

The Shapiro Family

Teddy & Linda Struhl

Michael & Amy Tarlowe

RESERVE YOURS TODAY!!!

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PHASE III NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

\$2 Million ~ Classroom Building

\$250,000 ~ Atrium

\$75,000 ~ Classrooms

\$50,000 ~ Offices

**\$36,000 ~ Main Entrance Mezuzahs
& Beit Midrash Entrance Mezuzah**

\$25,000 ~ Classroom Mezuzahs & Outer Door Mezuzahs

MANY MORE DEDICATION OPTIONS ON OUR WEBSITE!

Naming opportunities may be paid over 5 years.

A TASTE OF SHABBAT



Early Childhood students joined together for *A Taste of Shabbat*, on February 9th. The children enjoyed tastes of Shabbat with chulent, salads, challah, dessert, and more! This special program was held in loving memory of our former Principal of Early Childhood - Grade 3, **Chayim Dimont, Z"l**.

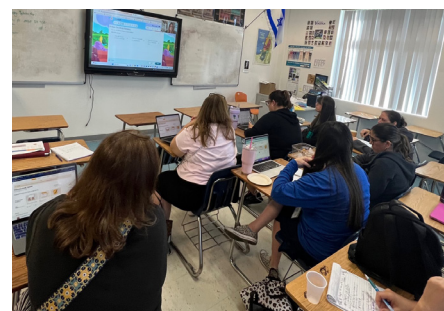
8 HilleLites

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

Faculty and staff participated in a Professional Development Day on November 6th. After coffee and pastries, **Rabbi Yaakov Sadigh** welcomed everyone and gave opening remarks, followed by a security meeting led by **Lev Stark**. A special guest speaker, **Carlos Sanchez**, gave an informative security presentation followed by a Q&A session.

Mini PD sessions were then held, including Canva & Cricut Training for early childhood faculty, Math Waggle Virtual PD for grades 1-3 general studies faculty, Wonders Virtual PD on writing with **Amy Driesback** for grades 4-5 general studies faculty, and "How to Succeed In and Out of the Classroom" workshop with **Binie Klein** for grades 1-5 Judaic Studies staff and all middle school staff.

Following the workshops, everyone departed for the **FAU Ropes Challenge Course**, where they enjoyed lunch and spent the remainder of the day learning and growing together while working with trained facilitators who provided a stimulating, collaborative, and growth-oriented team-building experience. Thank you to the KHDS administration for planning this special day.



CHANUKAH SHUK & FIREWORKS EXTRAVAGANZA LIGHT UP THE NIGHT

KHDS and PTA collaborated on an amazing Chanukah Shuk and Fireworks Extravaganza that took place on December 14th. KHDS faculty, led by **Morah Rebecca Kinzbrunner** and **Morah Shira Sharp**, created fun and educational arts and crafts stations in the **Loewenstern Cafetorium**. Thank you to **Morah Ivana Aronovski**, **Morah Frumie Cohen**, and the Bnot Sherut, **Emuna and Moriya**, for their help setting up and running the stations, which included bracelet making with middle school students **Eliana Fraiman** and **Gabriella Rosenberg**, Make a Bracha and Get Gelt, letter writing to our brothers and sisters in Israel, face painting, tzedakah box making, and so much more. Thank you to **King David Catering** for providing the delicious dinner.

The gymnasium was transformed into a scene from **Machane Yehuda**, the shuk in Israel. The smell of spices direct from the shuk created an enticing aroma, and under the shuk tents, Shabbat items were available for sale from vendors including **The Grove Kosher Market**, toys from a store in Israel, **Koren Book Publishing**, candy platters from **My Sisters Treat**, and **Teach FL** also had an informational booth. The sounds of a drum circle could be heard, and students could run the IDF training circuit station, complete with commemorative dog tags. There was a KHDS Kotel to write notes that were brought to the actual Kotel by the women who traveled on the KHDS solidarity mission to Israel. And if that wasn't enough, **Rabbi Sadigh** led Hatikva and Tehillim, and **Mrs. Michele Dimont** and KHDS alumni **Ezra Dimont** (Class of '21) had the honor once again of lighting the candles on the menorah. The rain and wind held off long enough for the grand finale—an unbelievable fireworks spectacular.

None of this would have been possible without the help of so many volunteers. The PTA event committee was coordinated by **Anna Jacobs**, **Naomi Katz**, **Alissa Kroll**, **Tamar Feld**, and **Chava Weissstuch**. Volunteers included **Danna Averbook**, **Jennifer Berkowitz**, **Jaime Feld**, **Rachel Fraiman**, **Felicia Frohlich**, **Mr. Michael Gale**, **Deena Ganz**, **Jen Lyons**, **Sigi Nissanov**, **Na'ama Rosenberg**, **Young Mi Skehen**, **Ashi Weissstuch**, and **Rachel Wolk**. Amazing raffle gift baskets were created by **Nicole Feldman**, **Danielle Frija**, and **Tamar Feld**. Thank you to **Katz Yeshiva High School** students **Nikki Feld**, **Joshua Haik**, **Hannah Katz**, **Katie Katz**, **Zevi Kay**, **Avia Kesler**, **Netanel Kieffer**, **Batya Nachim**, **Akiva Spodek**, and **Elisha Weissstuch** for volunteering. And last but not least, thank you to **Lev Stark** for coordinating the fireworks show, to **Gwenn Baer** and **Rina Lanner** for their help with planning, to **Simone Jacobs** and her amazing staff for setting up and cleaning up, to **Melissa Litton** and **Suzanne Rice** for capturing the memories, and a big thank you to all the middle school Mitzvah Squad members who are always so helpful at school events.



MILESTONE MOMENTS: SIDDUR & CHUMASH PARTIES



The milestone annual Siddur parties took place December 5-7 for 1A, 1B, and 1C respectively as 1st graders were presented with their first Siddurim! Thank you to the **Schiffman family** for their continued generosity in sponsoring the siddurim in memory of **Susan Rubin, Z"l**.

Special thanks to the **Wolk family** for sponsoring the sweet treats! And of course, special thanks to Kitah Alef teachers, **Morah Shira Sharp, Morah Rebecca Kinzbrunner, Morah Hana Marin, Morah Shuli Mayer, Morah Orna Amos, and Morah Miriam Klein**. Thank you to the parent volunteers, **Yael Geller, Alissa Kroll, Ganit Levy, and Danielle Lazoff** for helping coordinate the balloons and food deliveries. And mazal tov to the 1st grade!



On November 9th, 2nd graders were presented with their first Chumashim at this milestone program. We thank **Drs. Jeffrey and Naomi Gross** for their continued generosity in sponsoring the Chumashim in loving memory of **Tobie & William Wiener, Z"l**, who inspired generations of children to lead lives of Torah and Derech Eretz.

Thank you to our 2nd grade Judaics teachers: **Morah Bracha Doch, Morah Tova Gil, Morah Yona Lobel, Morah Batya Loecher, and Morah Adi Rafaeli**, as well as the 2nd grade secular faculty: **Ms. Hillary Edelson, Mrs. Sharon Lisker, Mrs. Rebecca Pearlson, and Mrs. Aly Schwarzer**.

We also thank class moms **Julie Ehrlich, Jaime Feld, Ettie Hanina, Anna Jacobs, and Amy Tarlowe** for volunteering and setting up for this beautiful event and are grateful to the **Ehrlich family** for giving the children beautiful Tehillims in memory of Julie's beloved grandmother, **Miriam Bat Yakot, z"l**.

Special thanks to KHDS faculty members **Rabbi Gershon Eisenberger, Simone Haddad, Simone Jacobs, Yael Loren, Susan Needlman, Lisa Pinkis, and the B'not Sherut** for their assistance and participation in making this a beautiful program.



View more pictures on our online photo galleries.

Photo Credits: Kim Cohen/Coco Productions

10 HilleLites

ANNUAL YOM IYUN PROGRAM

1st–3rd graders and their parents and grandparents came together on Sunday, November 19th, for the annual Yom Iyun program. This day of learning explored the importance of gratitude to Hashem through stories, learning, projects, and chesed.

The children and their families worked on “Thank You, Hashem” keychains, learned in a Torah packet all about the bracha from Shemona Esrei “Modim,” and decorated “gratitude pushkas” where family members could fill up the box throughout the week and read what each person was thankful for on Shabbat.

Rabbi Efreim Goldberg, Marah D’Asra of **Boca Raton Synagogue**, spoke about our local **Tomchei Shabbos** program. Families then filled Thanksgiving baskets and added gift cards to the **Grove**. Thank you to **Danielle Frija** for all her help in coordinating everything for **Tomchei Shabbos**, to the **Friedman family** for transporting our baskets, and to all of the families who contributed either as a Chai Contributor or Gift Basket Sponsor!

Kudos to **Morah Shira Sharp**, **Morah Rebecca Kinzbrunner**, **Morah Peninah Salid**, **Rabbi Gershon Eisenberger**, and **Simone Jacobs** for putting such effort into this successful program.



NAMES, NOT NUMBERS® PROGRAM TO PREMIERE ON MARCH 26TH

During the past months, 8th graders have been busy participating in the **Names, Not Numbers®** program and interviewing our precious, holy, and inspiring survivors for the upcoming documentary that will premiere on March 26th at **Temple Beth Shalom in Century Village, Boca Raton**.

“Our students were beyond connected, moved, motivated, and engaged by this priceless opportunity,” noted program coordinator, **Rabbi Ari Mirzoeff**. “Each survivor shared their own personal life experience, story, and perspective and in turn, each student came out feeling more connected to their Jewish spirit, to Israel, and to being a proud Jew,” he added.

This year, the program holds heightened significance in light of recent global events, both within our homeland and in America. The 8th graders have been actively engaging in an immersive learning experience alongside our holy survivors, delving into the historical journey leading to the establishment of the State of Israel, whose existence is currently being threatened.

We are beyond proud of our students for their preparation and dedication to the program that began back in September.

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



Barbara Welner, mother of **Michael Welner** and grandmother of KHDS students **Safier** (6th grade) and **Arielle** (3rd grade).



Shaindel Schreiber, grandmother of **Dr. Penina Dorfman** and great-grandmother of KHDS students **Noam** (7th grade) and **Nathan** (4th grade).



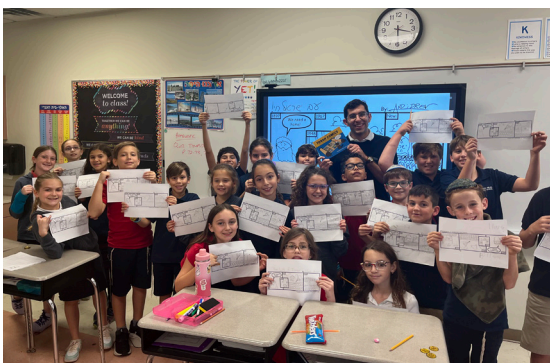
Sarah Katz, mother of **Eli Katz** and grandmother of KHDS student **Jacob** (7th grade).

TZAHAL WEEK

Thank you to the B'not Sherut for planning a week of Tzahal-related programs and activities for students from December 26th through January 3rd including Yom Tefillah for Chayalei Tzahal, comic illustration, a special Tzahal spirit day, Tekes (ceremony), learning Tzahal slang, and the grand finale Mitzvah Army.



Andrew Galitzer (Class of '16) from torahcomics.com returned to KHDS and told his story to students while teaching them drawing techniques to make their own comics in honor of Tzahal week!



1C welcomed their very own Morah, **Shuli Mayer**, who spoke to the class about being a chayelet. She spoke about her unit and her time in the Israeli army. The students loved learning all about it and asked lots of interesting questions!



Students marched into the **Esti Moskowicz Oneg** with berets ready for a special tekkes. Each grade was assigned a specific Tzahal unit and performed a song representing their unit.



Rallying the troops on Tzahal Spirit Day!



1st grade took an exciting field trip to **Bedner's Farm** on February 1st to explore the origins of food and learn about the appropriate blessing, "ha'adama," for fruits and vegetables grown in the ground. The students had a great time discovering various vegetables, understanding their growth process, and especially enjoyed picking fresh strawberries from the fields.



FIELD TRIPS

2nd grade took a field trip to the **Cox Science Museum** on January 16th.



4th graders took a field trip to **Everglades Holiday Park** on December 19th.



MORDECHAI SHAPIRO SURPRISES STUDENTS

KHDS students had a surprise visit from Jewish music sensation **Mordechai Shapiro** on January 3rd. The famous musician greeted students during drop-off on the carpool line and then performed three spectacular concerts for EC, elementary school, and middle school. Simply awesome!



SHEMA UNDER THE STARS TWINKLES

The 2nd Annual Shema Under the Stars took place motzei Shabbat on January 6th as students gathered for this amazing event. Wearing their PJs, children participated in a special craft, a musical havdalah featuring the amazing band **ODEKA** and our own KHDS dad **Mr. Ahron Fraiman**, and enjoyed pizza, milk, and cookies! A very special thank you to the **Krasna family** for sponsoring pizza for this event!



COLOR WAR

Color War broke out on the afternoon of January 9th as middle school students competed in a whopping 44 team-building activities over the next two days. Teachers even got to try their skill (and luck) during the special "Teacher Games." This year's theme was Tu B'Shevat and teams were: Gefen (grapes), Zayit (olives), Chita (wheat), and Rimon (pomegranate). Events were largely focused on Israel with Israel-themed activities.

Congratulations to the **PURPLE** team as well as to the recipients of the **Dannie Grajower, Z"L, Spirit Award: Matan Aghion, Idi Casper, Buzz Goldberg, Noa Goldman, Talia Oppenheimer, Noah Rosenblat, Eitan Schultz, and Arielle Tripp**. These students exemplified the spirit of Color War through middot, sportsmanship, cheering each other on, and stepping up for their team.



Special thanks to **Morah Rina Lanner** and **Mrs. Nechamah Zangre** for planning every detail of this anticipated program.



NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY



Alexia Abitbol*
Efrat Belizon*
Leora Bichachi*
Jason Goldberg
Topaz Harbor*
Sarita Hirsch*
Benjy Landau
Aiden Lerman*
Noa Loren*

Abigail Matias*
Tamar Mayer
Gavriel (Gabi) Ohayon*
Talia Oppenheimer
Matan Scher
Elizabeth Slesinger*
Evan James Sperling*
Shana Weber*

* new inductees



Kol Hakavod to the 2024 **National Junior Honor Society (NJHS)** inductees. We are so proud of our students for reaching academic excellence!

(not pictured: Jason Goldberg)

MINI MU COMPETITION

Three of our KHDS students participated in the **Miami-Dade Mini Mu Nationwide Math Competition for Elementary Grades** on January 19th. Mazal Tov to 4th graders **Lia Fridman-Rubin** (3rd place), **Charlie David** (9th place winner), and **Liliana Strobel** who also participated in this full day of competition that was held at **JLA (Jewish Leadership Academy)**. Mini Mu is a math competition that incorporates math in a competitive environment for elementary and middle school students and students are tested on their ability to solve math equations and other answer math-related questions.



14 HilleLites

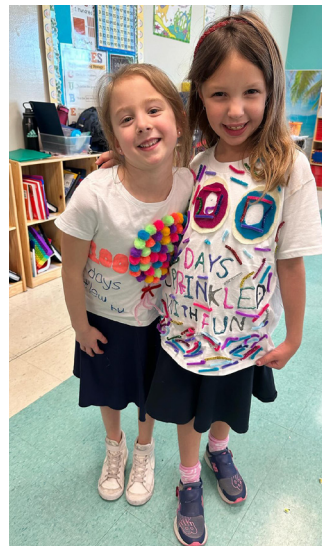
HALLEL TZIBURRI

Parents and students in grades 1-5 joined together for a special Hallel Tzibburi in honor of Rosh Chodesh Shevat on January 11th.



100TH DAY OF SCHOOL

Students (and teachers) celebrated the 100th day of school on February 7th!

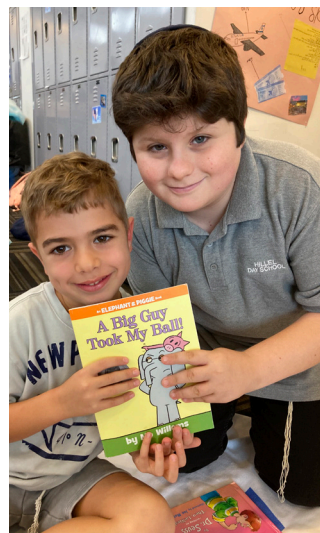


BEAR WEEK

January 15-17 was Bear Week for the **Rosalind Henwood Early Childhood Learning Center**. Children made their own teddy bears, enjoyed a winter wonderland, met **Smokey the Bear**, had a cuddly teddy bear breakfast in their PJs, and saw a special play performed by our own EC Morahs! It was "beary" fun!



ACROSS THE GRADES



A variety of inter-grade programming took place including physical education, buddy reading, and art, as middle school students paired up with early childhood.



3rd grade students participated in a chesed activity for **Tomchei Shabbos**! The students wrote and decorated cards that accompanied oil menorahs that were sent to members of the community. Thank you KHDS parents **Stephanie Gross** and **Mimi Amsalem** for coordinating this and working with our students!



During Advisory, students worked on "respect" posters for the "Middah of the Month" and wrote letters to displaced children in Israel.



The PTA Women's mission to Israel participants packed meals for chayalim, visited a shiva house, barbequed and made fresh laffa, toured an Amit school for children from broken homes, delivered handwritten letters from KHDS students to chayalim near the Gaza border, picked lemons, visited Beerli, and heard heartfelt stories from soldiers being deployed into Gaza.



Mr. Lonny Wilk, Deputy Regional Director of **ADL Florida**, addressed our middle school students about the prevalence of antisemitism and presented strategies for how to handle it, both in real life and online.



Middle school students virtually watched the epic rally in Washington, D.C., on November 14th. Am Yisrael Chai!



Kitah Alef wrote letters to Chayalim and received beautiful responses.

Rabbi Scheller from the **Chafetz Chaim Heritage Foundation** spoke to students about how we all can be better people.



16 Community, Chesed & Caring



KHDS parent, **Ronen Zour**, received the first-ever Yasher Koach Award at the November 17th **Esti Moskowitz Oneg**. He was honored for his volunteer work in Israel by bringing necessary supplies to the soldiers. He also gave a Yasher Koach "shout-out" to all of the students who wrote letters and cards to the Israeli soldiers.



Dr. Ashi and Mrs. Chava Weisstuch received the Yasher Koach Award for their volunteer efforts in Israel. Mrs. Weisstuch accepted the award and shared with the students their experiences of working on a farm and meeting with families who had to leave their homes.



Elizabeth Berkowitz (1st grade) made a special art display to help remind her peers to always have Eretz Yisrael in their prayers.



KHDS parent, **Dr. Danny Aghion**, was a recipient of the Yasher Koach Award and was honored for his volunteer work as he remained in Israel immediately following the Sukkot break to work with **United Hatzalah** and provide medical needs to the injured.



KHDS parent, alumnus '04, (and our own **Morah Shany's** husband) **Sean Rudnick** also received the Yasher Koach Award for his work in spearheading **Project Tikvah**, an organization that is instrumental in bringing many supplies to the Israeli soldiers. He now has warehouses of supplies to provide essential items. Mr. Rudnick also addressed middle school students about these amazing volunteer efforts.



Classmates wrote letters to **Ella Cohen's** (1st grade) three cousins who are Chayalim.



Joseph Garden (1st grade), along with some help from **Morah Shira**, held a Bracha stand to encourage mitzvot in merit of our Chayalim.



First graders **Levi Lazoff**, **Oliver Czarka**, and **Liev Kroll** ran a lemonade stand to raise money to help buy a bulletproof vest for Chayal.



Elie Rosman (7th grade), **Matan Aghion** (7th grade), **Jack Friedman** (7th grade), **Max Friedman** (3rd grade), **Gabe Harris** (7th grade), **Johanna Harris** (5th grade), and **Jacob Katz** (7th grade) set up a "Coffee for a Cause" fundraiser at **Boca Raton Synagogue** and raised \$613 for the **BRS Israel Fund**.

Middle School Student Council announced the winners of its raffle fundraiser for **Yashar LaChayal**! Middle school students raised over \$600 to support members of the **IDF** and their families and ten lucky students qualified to win prizes including stuffed animals, snacks, sports equipment, and **Sobol** and **Amazon** gift cards thanks to their donations.



6th grade winners

David Averbook
Jonah Jacobs
Samuel Shimunov

7th grade winners

Matan Aghion
Noa Deichman
Abigail Matias
Gabi Ohayon
Elizabeth Slesinger
Shalev Stein

8th grade winner

Talia Oppenheimer



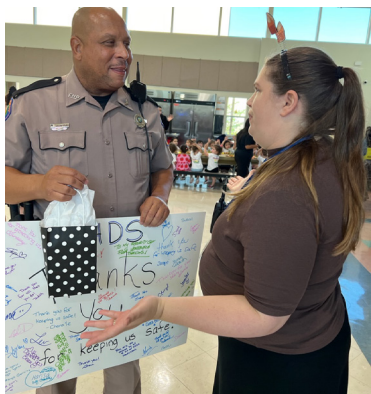
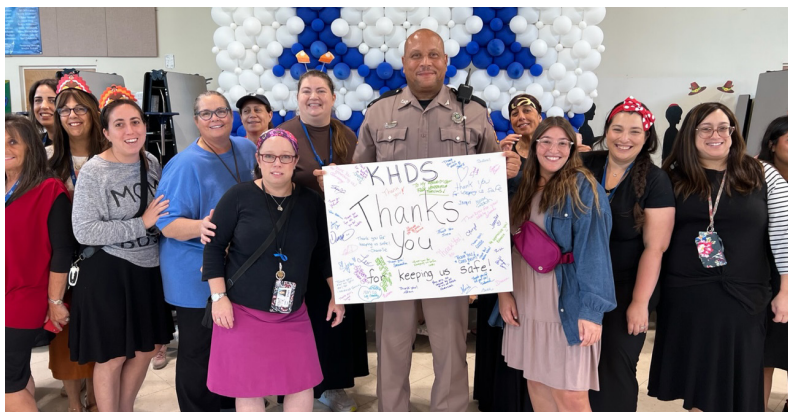
3rd graders, **Zev** and **Ezra Gross**, set up an iced coffee fundraiser to support Israel. These mini-baristas woke up early hoping that after minyan many of the men, along with other members of the community would come to support this wonderful cause.



Rebbetzin Yocheved Goldberg of **Boca Raton Synagogue** and **Rebbetzin Aliza Blumenthal** of **BRS West**, personally delivered KHDS thank-you cards made by EC2-5th grade students to **IDF** soldiers on army bases throughout Israel during their visit.



18 Community, Chesed & Caring



At the Early Childhood Thanksgiving feast, the children and staff thanked **Officer Hampton** from **FHP** for protecting us.



Kol Hakavod to **Natan Greenbaum** (5th grade), who, with the help of his brother **Elan** (Class of '22), collected close to \$2,000 in gifts and over \$5,000 in cash for the **JAFKO** kids for Chanukah gifts campaign. Natan, who didn't even ask for a gift for himself, is a role model as he continues to do chesed and acts of charity.

Our B'not Sherut, **Moriya and Emunah**, baked brownies with the 6th grade girls in memory of **Maya Dee, a"h**, who was well known for her brownie recipe. The brownies were donated to **Tomchei Shabbos**.



Thank you to KHDS parent **Alan Salit** and daughter **Yonit**, who is a lone soldier, for delivering the cards KHDS students made to Chayalim!



Thank you to KHDS parent, **Alla Kesler**, who distributed letters written by students to the **IDF** soldiers over the winter break.



Thank you to **Esti Kantor** (6th grade) and her father, **Michael**, for delivering lunch to an Air Force Base along with the special cards from KHDS students!



EC3-C students "Go Forth," just as Hashem told Avraham.



Yes, yes, yes, they do! EC3 students have school spirit; what about you?



Students took a learning deep dive and created 'fin-tastic' marine habitats.



EC2-B decorated candlesticks in conjunction with Parshat Chayei Sarah.



Middle school students visited early childhood to work on a collaborative project for Israel.



The wedding guests (and bride and groom) have arrived at the EC3 mock wedding!



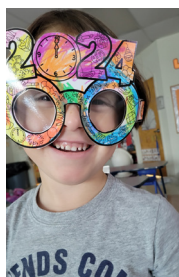
Tzerach played on her kinnor and so did our EC students!



Shabbat Shalom!



While the weather was colder outside, EC4-C students stayed warm inside and practiced winter-themed literacy activities.



EC4-C was ready to ring in the New Year! They created party glasses, placed months in order using phonics skills, and worked on writing and counting skills with fireworks!

20 Spotlight by Grade



In **Coach Sam's** PE class, students had the chance to try out our new stilts and work on their gross motor skills, including balancing, coordinating feet and arm movements, and holding the handles tightly. It was challenging for them, but they enjoyed trying something new.

Kindergarten



Students gathered around the campfire to roast "marshmallow letters" and blend new words!



Students learned about snowflakes and observed that each snowflake or snow crystal is completely different. Then they had the chance to make their beautiful snowflakes by folding paper, cutting it, and then unfolding the paper!



In **Morah Tami and Morah Jodie's** Judaics classes, students celebrated a milestone in their educational journey- finishing learning all of the letters in the Aleph Bet! To mark this occasion, on January 11th, they held a Siyum Otot (Letter Party). Mazal tov to all the students!



Students had the opportunity to hear from special guest **Daniel Geller** about living in Israel and making Aliyah from Florida.

1st GRADE



Ayala Kidron visited Kitah Alef and shared with her former classmates what it is like to be a student in Israel. The children had an opportunity to ask questions and learn more about Israel.



In **Morah Hana's** Ivrit group, students wrote and illustrated a beautiful Hebrew book.



Morah Rebecca and Morah Shira planned a Nikkud party to celebrate the 1st graders learning their Nikkudot. Each class visited different classrooms for a variety of sensory activities.



Ms. Edelson's class went on a possessive noun scavenger hunt!



Students created beautiful Shabbat Havdalah projects.



2nd grade scientists worked on a classroom experiment to learn about the circulatory system.

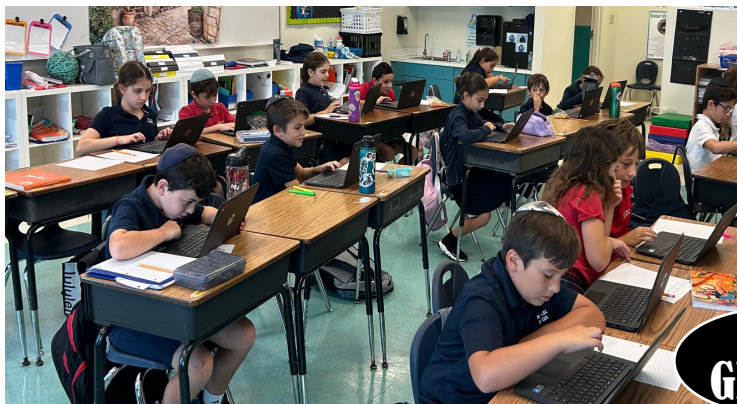
2ND GRADE



2nd graders made challah in honor of Parshat Chayei Sarah.



Students helped re-organize one of their favorite places in the classroom - the library!



Mrs. Schwarzer and Mrs. Pearlson's class read about the voting process and how Americans elect the President of the United States. They digitally cast their votes on Google Forms and then posted three supporting reasons for their vote on the Google Classroom stream. Finally, the class got to discuss their arguments with each other. Fusing technology, social studies, and reading made for an exciting morning!

Using code.org, 3rd graders learned coding basics in **Mr. Landreth's** STEM class. Students created characters and programmed them to "speak" to each other on screen. By choosing and placing the code blocks in the correct order, they better understand how computers think and are used in modern media.



3RD GRADE



Rabbi Wexler met with 3rd grade Judaics and showed the students the Torah, up close and personal. Each student was given a "personal tour" of the Torah and enjoyed learning about what it takes to write a Sefer Torah. Thank you, Rabbi Wexler!

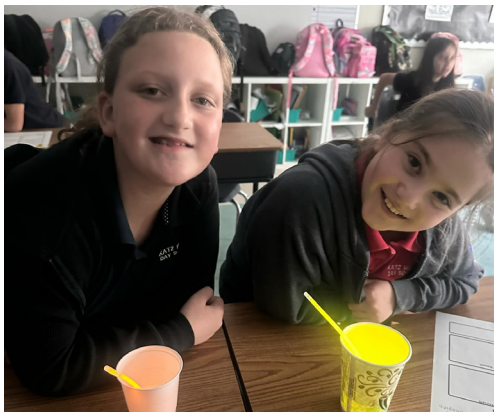


Learning fun included a holiday-themed game.

22 Spotlight by Grade



Students created their family trees in Ivrit class.



Does a glow stick glow brighter in hot or cold water? Ask a 4th grader to find out!



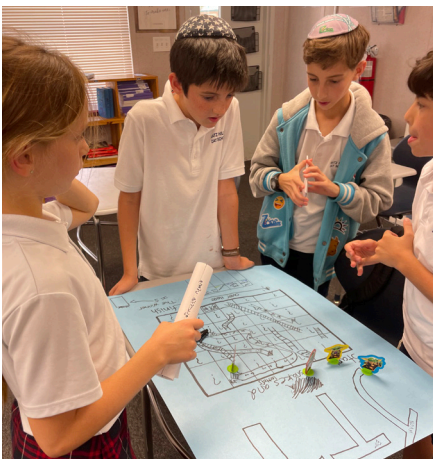
KHDS parent and author, **Mrs. Mandy Loeb**, visited the 4th grade to share great writing tips and ideas.



Students have been learning the story of Yosef and his brothers in Chumash class with **Rabbi Eisenberger**. They created a newspaper with articles, advertisements, crossword puzzles, and more. They worked hard and learned to use many different apps to create this project.

4TH GRADE

Mrs. Morris' class learned about Election Day and even held their own elections! Students used a ballot and voted for their favorite snack - popcorn or chips.



After studying the history, trials, tribulations, and resilience of the Jamestown settlers, **Mrs. Asher's** 5th grade students completed a collaborative culminating project.



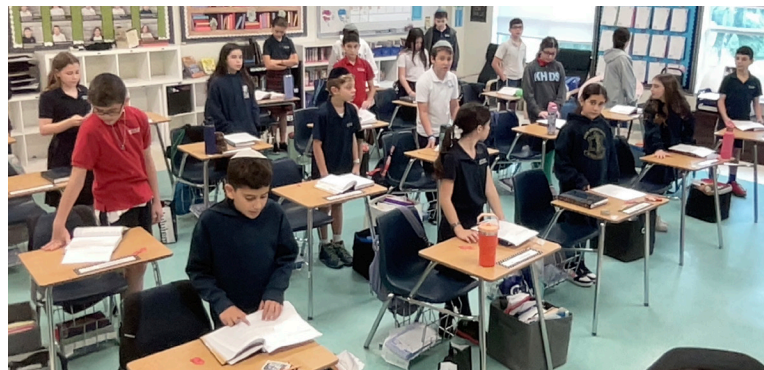
Forty-three students in 5th grade participated in **Rabbi Drang's RDHC** extracurricular program, demonstrating above-and-beyond efforts to excel in their Chumash skills. Of those, twenty-three students completed all three chapters and received RDHC t-shirts. Thank you to **Cara Harris** and **Leorah Marcus** for helping to set up the special lunch and thank you to those families who sponsored the t-shirts.



5TH GRADE



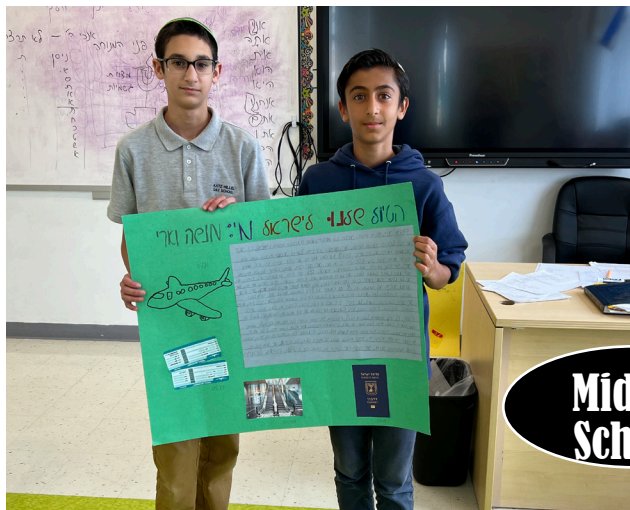
Students were hard at work in **Mrs. Goldenholz's** class with vocabulary study. They recorded synonyms and antonyms, used new terms in a variety of sentences, and used their resource writer's notebook to build and write argument essays.



Students recited heartfelt Tehilim and cried out to Hashem to save the Jews in Israel in **Rabbi Goldberg's** class.



Students posed halfway through their mile run during the "Running Club" elective with **Ms. Ready**.



7th graders in **Morah Ben-Harari's** Hebrew class participated in a Sicha (Hebrew conversion) on the subject of travel. The students also presented visual projects based on their subject.

Middle School



Mrs. Einhorn's 7th grade life science classes observed how small substances can either move easily through the cell membrane (passive transport) or need a push to get through (active transport). During their lab, they observed if salt water or fresh water could diffuse more easily into the cells of a carrot.



Former KHDS parent and Past PTA President, **Sharona Kay**, spoke to 8th grade students about the Holocaust and the importance of the documentary they are working on through the *Names, Not Numbers®* program.

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.



Jonathan Newman, a child of Holocaust survivors, shared his knowledge of Kristallnacht with middle school students in honor of the anniversary of this event in November.



6th and 7th grade girls had a "canvas-tastic" time during their paint night program in October.

24 Spotlight by Grade



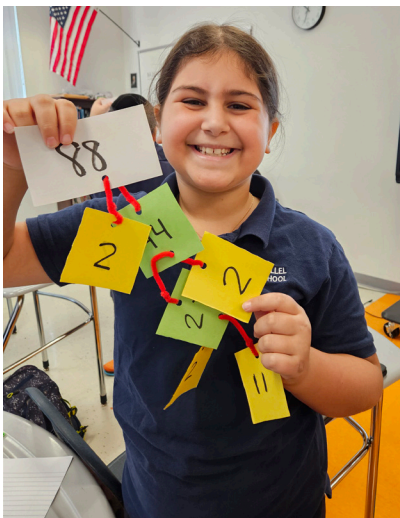
Middle school students dressed up in solidarity with Israel.



Before the Thanksgiving break, 8th graders made bracelets with the names of the hostages and then received the news that many were released. Let's continue to daven so they all come home!



KHDS middle school students, along with thousands of Jewish students across the country, participated in a massive initiative and emailed letters to the President as part of **Students for Jewish Advocacy**.



Mrs. Zangre's 6th grade math class engaged in a hands-on activity building factor trees to solidify their understanding of prime factorization.



Students dissected mussels in science class.



Great Chumash chavrusa learning!



In **Morah Ben-Harari's** Chumash class, 7th grade girls learned in Parashat Kedoshim about the Mitzvot of how to treat downtrodden people, and what our Torah obligations are towards them.



8th grade girls traveled to **Morah Nechama Feder's** home to bake challah and make centerpieces in advance of the February Shabbaton.



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

The winter athletic season will have concluded when this issue hits. There has certainly been much excitement and each sport is highlighted

below as of press time. The boys JV and Varsity basketball teams, and girls' Varsity soccer team are headed to the playoffs! In addition, the 4th-5th grade girls' basketball and the 4th-5th grade boys' basketball teams may also make the playoffs. It has been a pleasure watching the boys and girls improve their skills and follow the lead of their coaches. We hope you had a chance to be a spectator at any of these games filled with the true spirit of competition.

Coach Charlie Velazquez would like to thank Coaches Julie and Maia, as well as all of the parents for their support and encouragement of the varsity girls' basketball team. They had an undefeated season leading up to the playoffs and even though the outcome was not in our favor, our girls proved to be tough competitors, playing ferocious defense and hustling after every loose ball. We all should be extremely proud of their effort and what they have accomplished this season.

The boys' varsity soccer team had an undefeated season leading up to the playoffs under the leadership of **Coach Kos Donev**. They had a bye for the first round, then played a very skilled team where they were defeated. Way to go on an amazing season!

As of press time, the girls' varsity soccer team was having a great start to the season with a 2-0 (and one tie) record. **Coach Kos Donev** was teaching the athletes to always try their best, have a positive attitude regardless of the outcome of the game, and most importantly come off the field after each game knowing they gave their best performance.

The boys' JV basketball team, coached by **Charlie Velazquez**, was off to a great start. With tough defensive and offensive skills that have been improving with each game and practice, the team was 1-1 in our division (as of press time) and is looking ahead to the playoffs.

The boys varsity basketball team was also off to a great start with a 3-1 record (as of press time). **Coach Charlie Velazquez** is spending much of his time teaching the boys both on-the-court and off-the-court skills. We look forward to seeing how the team will do for the remainder of the season.

The 4th-5th grade girls' basketball team, led by **Coach Gary Tucker**, certainly put their time into practicing. The **Lady Lions** played hard in their opening game against Lehrman

and fought back from an early deficit although they did not ultimately win. Keep up the hard work! The skills of the 4th-5th grade boys' basketball team are getting better each day. "They are learning and understanding what it means to compete," noted **Coach Alan Krull**, who wants to emphasize how much the boys have grown as competitors. "We still have a long way to go, but we are enjoying this process together!" he added.

The boys JV flag football team, under the leadership of coaches **Cameron Jackson** and **Stan Baptiste**, made it to the playoffs and tried their very best! Although they did not end up victorious, the boys showed terrific improvement over the last few weeks. **Coach Stan, Coach Cameron, and Coach Isaac Reich** (who stepped up at the end of the season) taught the students so much about the game of football and also left them with valuable life lessons.



GO, LIONS!





Thankful Morahs! **Morah Yael** and **Morah Marisa** gave thanks for our amazing EC2 class!



Kindergarten students showed how thankful they were for so many things!

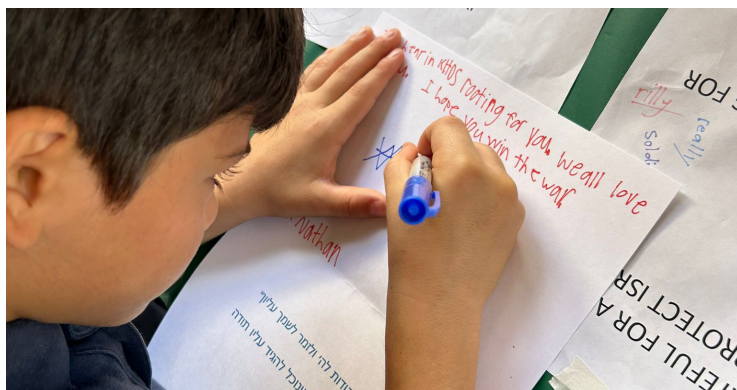


Parents and grandparents were invited to join Middle School davening the day before Thanksgiving. Thank you to **KHDS PTA** for providing coffee and refreshments afterward!



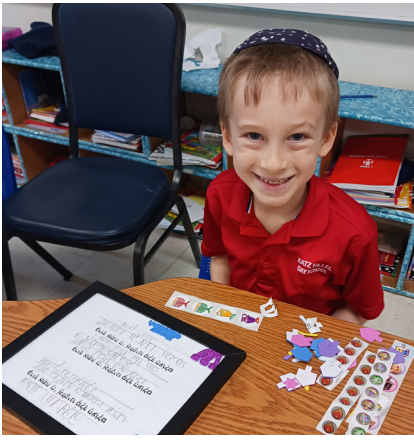
Early Childhood students got to experience a corn maze, hayride, holiday-themed crafts, and enjoyed the annual Thanksgiving Feast complete with yummy holiday delicacies including deli turkey, pumpkin muffins, butternut squash kugel, corn, and more!

Thanksgiving

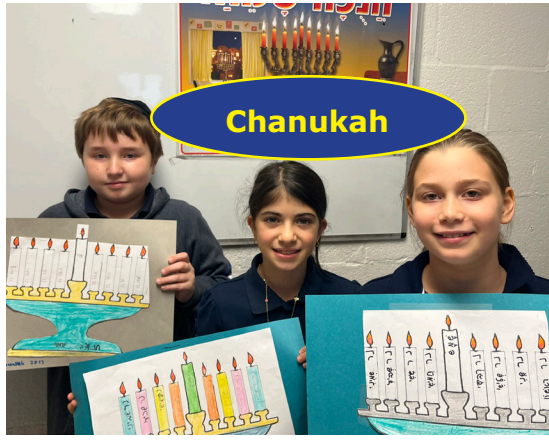


Grades 1-5 participated in the "Gobble Gobble Games" with Thanksgiving-themed activities including making thank you cards for our IDF soldiers, competing in pumpkin races, arts and crafts, eating a yummy Thanksgiving snack, and much more.

28 Holiday Happenings



1st graders prepared for the light and miracles of Chanukah!



5th graders labeled their candles in Hebrew for each night of Chanukah.



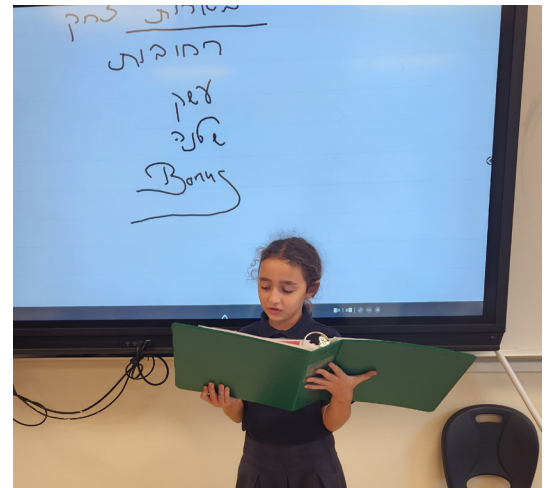
3rd-5th grade Ivrit students decorated the Hebrew letter on an edible sevivon made of marshmallow and chocolate!



Students worked on Chanukah projects leading up to the holiday.



2nd grade students shined bright during a Chanukah Hebrew vocabulary project in Ivrit class.



3rd graders gave speeches on the meaning of a miracle.

Early childhood and middle school students participated in the "Great Gelt Hunt" and played BINGO as the Chanukah fun and games continued.



Bringing our Chanukah learning to life with Rabbi G's olive oil workshop!



Kindergarten students participated in an experiment based on the book, *A Chanukiyah for Dina*, which tells the story of a little girl named Dina who wants a Chanukiyah of her own, so she and her grandfather make one out of potatoes. The class used raw potatoes, poked holes, poured in olive oil, placed wicks inside, and then lit it to see if it worked - it did!



Elana Ostroff of the PJ Library visited EC for a special Chanukah story time!



Thank you to the B'not Sherut for their festive Chanukah decorations and props!



Chanukah

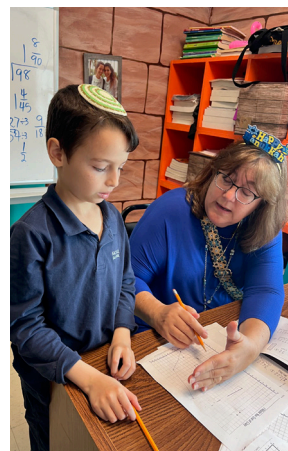
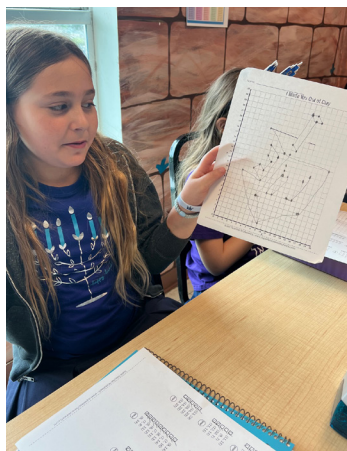
2nd graders made edible dreidels.



2nd grade chefs showed off their Chanukah projects.



EC faculty were ready to celebrate the festival of lights!



3rd graders learned how to use a coordinate plane to create a mystery puzzle. "I made it out of clay" may have given a hint, but the students patiently uncovered the picture one point at a time.

30 Holiday Happenings



The lighting of the giant Chanukiah took place each morning on the front lawn as students gathered to celebrate Chanukah!



Middle School Student Council hosted a series of games as part of an advisory group competition and to celebrate Chanukah.



Bursting with fun - the "Bubble Show" was 'beary' awesome!



Students enjoyed solving a Chanukah puzzle during their Hebrew lesson.



Illuminating smiles were shining bright for Chanukah!



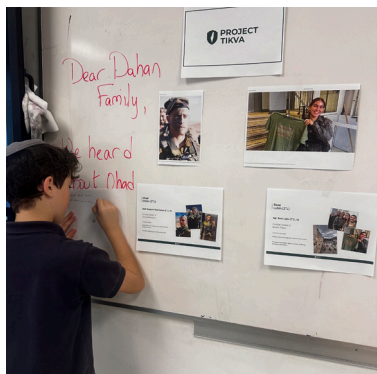
EC4 was challenged with decoding a Chanukah message highlighting their literacy and number recognition skills!



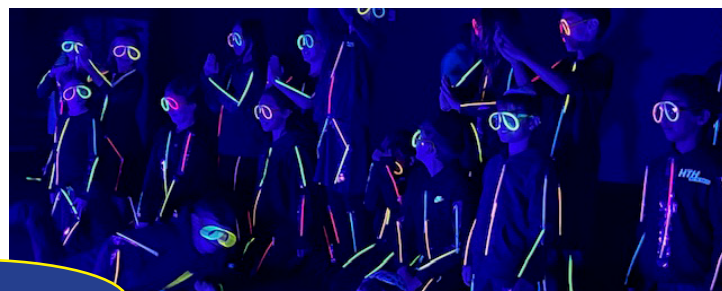
Middle School students dressed up for the holiday!



Kindergarten students enjoyed sweet sufganiyot.



Middle School participated in Chanukah “Funukah Stations,” including writing condolence letters to the families of **Rose Lubin, Z”L**, **Ohad Dahan, Z”L**, and former KHDS student **Ari Zenilman, Z”L**. Food fun stations had students decorating cookies and making marshmallow dreidels, while a Chanukah Kahoot game tested holiday knowledge.



Chanukah



EC students shined bright during their Chanukah programs.

4th graders experienced an awesome light show.



The Annual Faculty and Staff Chanukah party took place on the evening of December 13th at KHDS. BINGO, prizes, and delicious food were all part of the celebration. Special thanks to **Jill Kaminetzky** and **Simone Jacobs** for helping to organize it and to **Nurse Robin Noble** for being our BINGO MC.

32 Holiday Happenings



MLK, Jr. Day

Kindergarten students learned about **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** in observance of the holiday.



EC4-C students brought in their tzedakah to donate and plant trees in Israel through **JNF** in honor of Tu B'Shevat.

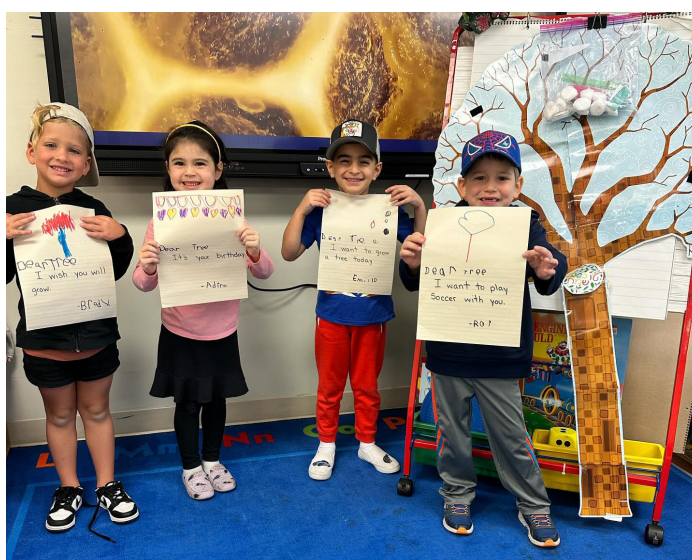
Tu B'Shevat



Thank you to the B'not Sherut for a very beautiful Tu B'Shevat Seder!



EC4 used loose parts to create unique trees in connection with Tu B'Shevat!



Students showed appreciation for trees in honor of Tu B'Shevat and even took learning outside to read about trees and then sketch them.





Financial Resource Development



SCAN TO DONATE

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

Our campaign is more than halfway through the year! If you have not already made a gift of tzedakah, we invite you to visit our website and browse a variety of giving opportunities.

KHDS families are asked to make a donation of any amount before the end of the school year as part of our **Every Parent Campaign (EPC)**. The goal is 100% participation; we hope that we can count you in!



Make a future legacy planned gift and join our **Atid Legacy Society**! Thank you to those who have already made this a priority by designating the school as a beneficiary. Thanks to the donation of pro bono services by **Dvora Weinreb (Scher), Esq.** KHDS parent, we are offering **FREE** confidential consultations and services, which include a last will and testament, a codicil, and/or trust amendment, and other useful guidance about planning your legacy.



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!

ת"ש

Sal & Leslie Abady
Daniel & Liora Adler
Danny & Emely Aghion
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Ari & Cara Beim
Rabbi Gur & Ira Berman
William & Batzion Berman
Marc & Sara Bienenfeld
Harry & Shelly Bloom
Rabbi Josh & Simone Braide
Rotem & Jordana Carmel
Mark & Helen, z"l, Cohan
Aaron & Sarah Cohen
Anna S. Cohen
Eli & Orlie Cohen
Eyal & Elise Cohen
Jerry & Jeanne Cohen
Meyer & Laura Cohen
Todd & Naomi Cohn
Rabbi Adam & Shira Englander
David & Jennifer Epstein
Benjamin & Cara Freedman
Rabbi Simcha, z"l, & Anna Freedman
Rabbi Efram & Yocheved 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 Luber
Mark & Jessica Mattiash
Zoltan & Jolana Mattiash
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
Todd & Michelle Slesinger
Rabbi Mordechai & Hadassah Smolarcik
Gil & Lysee Stein
Ido & Gila Stern
Joshua & Stephanie Stern
Ted & Linda Struhl
Teddy & Phyllis Struhl
Hommy & Syd Tannenbaum
Michael & Amy Tarlowe
Neal & Bonnie Weinreb
Ashi & Chava Weisstuch
Jonathan & Suri Winograd
Uri & Rachel Yudewitz
Hedy & Dori Zaghi
Michael & Risa Zimmerman

*Founding Members

Legacy Gift Confirmation Received

Legacy Intent Received

MAZAL TOV, HONOREES!!!

Look for a recap of our March 18th Annual Journal Dinner in the next issue of the *Hillel Herald*!



KHDS ANNUAL JOURNAL DINNER

"Honoring Our Heroes"

MARCH 18, 2024 ~ 8 ADAR II, 5784

B'NAI TORAH CONGREGATION
6261 SW 18th Street, Boca Raton

COCKTAIL RECEPTION 6:30PM
DINNER & PROGRAM 7:45PM
Featuring an Inspiring Message from an Active IDF Officer

Esteemed Honorees
GIL & LYSEE STEIN

Faculty Dedication Award Recipients
MORAH HADASSAH SMOLARCIC
26 years of service

RABBI GERSHON EISENBERGER
13 years of service

Special Recognition
FORMER KHDS STUDENTS WHO HAVE SERVED
OR ARE CURRENTLY SERVING IN THE IDF

Dinner Chairs
JASON & NECHAMAH ZANGRE

Dinner Committee
CAROLINE GOLDSTEIN ~ ANNA JACOBS
JACKIE LABOVITZ ~ AMY TARLOWE

FORE!

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, June 2, 2024



9th Annual Family Golf Outing

KOPPIE COHN DAY OF LEARNING PROGRAM

RESERVE A DAY OF LEARNING!



The Koppie Cohn Day of Learning Program is endowed in memory of **Menashe Koppel Cohn, A'H**, by his parents, **Naomi & Todd Cohn**, and his siblings, **Eli Meir, Leora and Tamar**.

Visit our website for more information or email suzanner@hilleldayschool.org.



Message from the PTA President Naomi Katz

It has been a great first half of my inaugural year as PTA President. We have had record attendance at all our events to date. I am so proud of the work all the PTA board members and parent volunteers put in to ensure all

our programming is a success. With PTA's new purchase of carpet tile flooring for the gym, we only hope to grow in our successes and allow the school greater use of the gym for our ever expanding student body.

Our Chanukah Shuk and Fireworks Extravaganza took place on December 14th (see the wrap-up on page 8). PTA also coordinated its first ever women's mission to Israel. Other highlights included our Challah Bake, backyard tailgate for new dads to the school, moms' nights out and much more!

As always, we encourage everyone's involvement in all things PTA. Please reach out at anytime with thoughts, ideas, or questions. To get involved in PTA, email us at khdspata@hilleldayschool.org.



Chanukah Toy Drive

PTA organized a Chanukah toy drive and collected dozens of new toys to donate to local children in need, through **Chai Lifeline of Southeast Florida**.



Faculty and Staff Gift Collection

On Chanukah, every single person employed by KHDS received a very generous gift in honor of the holiday. We are grateful to the incredible KHDS parent body for their support and contributions! Thank you to **Holly Seidenfeld** and **Young Mi Skehen** for organizing the gifts and thanks to **Danielle Frija** and **Alissa Kroll** for their help distributing them.

Israel Merch Sale

PTA raised close to \$2,500 for **United Hatzalah** and the KHDS women's mission through our Israel merch sales! We sold over 400 t-shirts and sweatshirts that can be seen all over campus. A big thank you to KHDS parent **Jacquelyn Jungreis** for creating the catchy Chai design.



With Praise, Thanks & Admiration

❖ Thanks to **Rachel Fraiman** and **Anna Jacobs** for assembling the gift bags for our teachers to use during Parent-Teacher Conferences.

❖ Thank you to **Jennifer Berkowitz** and **Leah Ravavee** for coordinating and distributing Chanukah treat bags to all the kids, and thank you to **Danna Averbook** for helping to assemble them.

❖ Kudus to **Tamar Feld** and **Young Mi Skehen** for organizing discounted tickets to **Universal Studios** during winter break.

❖ Thank you to **Holly, Hannah, and Heshy Seidenfeld** for cleaning up the Lost & Found on their day off from school, and to **Danna Averbook** for overseeing the Lost & Found.

❖ Thanks to **Cara Harris, Leorah Marcus, and Na'ama Rosenberg** for co-chairing our Class Moms program.

❖ We are grateful to **Rachel Fraiman** and **Na'ama Rosenberg** for organizing our uniform shoppe. It's not too late to order a new Hillel Lions sweatshirt or stock up on your spirit shirts!

❖ Thank you to **Deena Frist** and **Margo Rosman** for coordinating our monthly Teacher Appreciation Breakfasts.

Women's Mission to Israel (also see page 15)



Backyard Tailgate for New Dads

The inaugural New Dads Backyard Tailgate held on November 16th, hosted by PTA and the **Feld family** and catered by **Oak and Ember**, was amazing! Over 30 dads came out to meet one another, school administrators, and PTA husbands. Many thanks to **Ben Feferman** for the idea and his team of **Abby Feferman, Dovid and Jaime Feld**, and **Anna Jacobs** for making it happen. We hope to have more dads involved in the future!



Challah Bake Rises to the Occasion



Our Challah Bake was a tremendous success with over 400 people joining together for this sold out event! **Esty Wolbe** of [cookingwithtantrums.com](https://www.cookingwithtantrums.com) shared her world famous recipe, and each family received their own bowl full of ingredients to make 5 lbs. of challah.

While the dough was rising, KHDS parent **Ahron Fraiman** led the crowd in singing and Tehillim, and everyone watched a video about Shabbat, starring the children from 5A and produced by the B'not Sherut. After the video, we created flower bouquets to enhance our Shabbat tables and enjoyed delicious fruits and snacks. Then it was back into the gym (with the new floor tiles, thank you, PTA!) for a demo on how to braid the challah.

The evening was truly incredible. The feelings of unity and simcha were felt so strongly that even the security and maintenance crews mentioned there was something special going on. Huge thanks to the committee of **Rachel Fraiman, Yitty Garden, Anna Jacobs, Alissa Kroll, Na'ama Rosenberg, and Shoshana Zuretsky** for their weeks of prep and planning, and to the countless other volunteers who helped throughout the evening. Special thanks to **Rabbi Eisenberger** for his technical support and **Melissa Litton** for her photography and videography. Of course, none of this would have been possible without the help of **Simone Jacobs** and her team of dedicated and helpful support staff. We also are so thankful to the **Grove Kosher Market** for subsidizing a portion of the supplies and to **Imprint Specialists** for sponsoring the logo printing on the aprons.



Moms Night Out

KHDS moms in each grade enjoyed meeting one another and schmoozing during their Moms Night Out events.

2nd grade and 8th grade moms had a blast making delicious babkas! Thank you to **Julie Ehrlich** for organizing along with class moms **Leah Wubnech, Emma Hirsch, and Ellen Pardau.**



Kindergarten moms had a great time making graduation caps for their future grads! Thanks to class moms **Rachel Fraiman, Jennifer Romanoff, and Meira Weiss** for coordinating -- and the **Fraiman family** for hosting.



EC4 moms enjoyed their night out and everyone went home with their own bracelets in little acrylic boxes. They also donated \$145 to Israel. Thank you to class moms **Molly Jacobs, Jacquelyn Jungreis, and Coralie Teichman.**



5th grade moms got together to enjoy delicious treats and good company at **Brewle**! Thanks to class moms **Ivana Aronovski and Rachel Khaimov** for organizing.



6th grade moms enjoyed a paint night, where they created beautiful pictures of the Kotel! Thank you to **Sara Schochet** for hosting and to **Yona Kimche** for leading the paint night.



IN MEMORIAM ARI ZENILMAN, Z"l



צבא ההגנה לישראל
מודיע בצער על נפילת
רב-סמל-ראשון
ארי יחיאל זנילמן ז"ל
בן רוברט אלן וליסה מרתה
הלוויה תתקיים ביום שני
אור לכת' בכסלו התשפ"ד
11 בדצמבר 2023 בשעה 13:30
בבית העלמין הצבאי הירוק
המשפחה תשגב עכבה
בדרך מצפה נב 108, דירה 3
מעלה אדומים

The entire KHDS family mourns the tragic passing of **Master-Sgt. Ari Yehiel Zenilman, Z"l**, age 32, a former KHDS student, who fell in battle in southern Gaza. Ari made Aliyah with his family and otherwise would have graduated with the KHDS Class of 2005.



KHDS B'not Sherut, **Emuna and Moriya**, created a beautiful poster in Ari's memory and **Morah Hadassah** gave a touching tribute as a Yizkor candle was lit on December 12th.

IN MEMORIAM ELISHA LOEWENSTERN, Z"l



The entire KHDS family mourns the tragic passing of **Master-Sgt. Elisha Loewenstern, Z"l**, age 38, beloved nephew of former KHDS parents **Elliot and Shelley Loewenstern** (of the KHDS Loewenstern Cafetorium), who fell in battle in southern Gaza.

**KHDS
STANDS
WITH ISRAEL**



JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES: COMMUNITY SUPPORT



Ruth & Norman Rales
Jewish Family Services

JFS has worked closely with our school 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, **Danielle Greenblatt**, LCSW, at 561-852-3151. For additional information on the services JFS provides please visit www.ralejfs.org.

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