

THE Hillel Herald

ONE TEAM, ONE DREAM



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Katz Hillel Day School
of Boca Raton
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**KHDS
STANDS
WITH ISRAEL**



See pg. 7 for the Chanukat Habayit & Tribute Evening recap honoring Governor Ron DeSantis.

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Have a great summer!**

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2 From the Administration

RABBI MORDECHAI SCHWERSENSKI NAMED HEAD OF SCHOOL

Announced on March 10, 2025



We are thrilled to announce the appointment of **Rabbi Mordechai Schwersenski** as the new Head of School at KHDS for the 2025-2026 school year. After an extensive search process, we are confident that Rabbi Schwersenski brings the experience, vision, and leadership to guide our school toward continued growth and excellence.

Rabbi Schwersenski will be coming to KHDS from **Yeshivat Noam** of Paramus, New Jersey, where he has served as the principal of the elementary school for the past seven years. Prior to Yeshivat Noam, Rabbi Schwersenski was the assistant principal of Judaic Studies at **Caskey Torah Academy of Philadelphia**. Rabbi Schwersenski is a graduate of **Fuchs Mizrahi** in Ohio; **Ner Israel**; and **Johns Hopkins University**. His impeccable professional reputation, love for Judaism and Israel, and his passionate and warm personality will propel him forward as our new Head of School.

We believe Rabbi Schwersenski's leadership will foster a nurturing environment where all members of our school can thrive religiously, academically, and socially. With a deep passion for education, Zionism, and modern orthodoxy, he is excited to build on the strong foundation our school has established and work together with students, staff, and families to create an even brighter future.

Please join us in extending hakarat hatov to the many people who contributed to this effort: to the search committee for their tireless work, and to the parents, teachers, and administrators who lent their time and expertise throughout this process.

We are looking forward to warmly welcoming Rabbi Schwersenski and his wife **Deena** to our school family and anticipate exciting opportunities for our vibrant school under his leadership. The best is yet to come!

Respectfully,
Daniel J. Katz, Board President
Liora Adler and Amy Tarlowe, Search Committee Co-Chairs



Lev Stark, Executive Director

From Transition to Triumph: Reflecting on a Year of Growth at KHDS

If this school year had a theme song, it might be something like "Ch-ch-changes" or maybe "Ride of the Valkyries," depending on which week you asked. But as we closed out the

year at Katz Hillel Day School, one thing was abundantly clear: this was a year of transition and triumph.

This year began with a question mark. Without a head of school, who would guide our ship? Who would lead us through the choppy waters of change with wisdom, heart, and maybe a working knowledge of Google Docs?

Enter: our remarkable leadership team. Stepping up with grace, grit, and a healthy dose of caffeine, they didn't just hold the fort; they turned it into a launchpad. From maintaining high academic standards to preserving our school's uniquely warm and values-driven culture, they ensured that KHDS didn't just "get through" the year; we soared.

And then came the moment we'd all been waiting (and davening) for. After an extensive and thoughtful search, we were thrilled to announce that **Rabbi Mordechai Schwersenski** will join KHDS this summer as our new Head of School. With his passion for education, deep-rooted Torah values, and visionary leadership, we are more than confident; we are inspired.

But leadership wasn't the only thing that expanded this year. We quite literally grew in size! This year saw the grand opening of our stunning new expansion building, a space that reflects the growth of our school in every sense. The building officially opened with a moving **Chanukat Habayit** event, highlighted by the participation of **Governor Ron DeSantis**, who helped us affix a mezuzah to the doorpost. Say what you will about Florida politics, this was a mezuzah moment for the books.

Now, as we roll into the summer months, we're not resting on our laurels (or our lounge chairs). The halls may be quiet, but the planning is anything but. Our team is hard at work prepping classrooms, programs, and dreams for the next chapter in the KHDS story.

Which brings us to a brief Torah thought, because what would a KHDS reflection be without a little Dvar Torah?

In *Parshat Bamidbar*, as Bnei Yisrael prepared to enter the next stage of their journey in the desert, they reorganized by tribes, each with specific roles and responsibilities. It wasn't chaos; it was a structured transition. And what anchored them all? The Mishkan, the sacred center of their community.

At KHDS, we too have journeyed through a year of change with purpose and unity, anchored always by our shared values and our dedication to Torah, learning, and one another. Like the Bnei Yisrael, we are ready to move forward, not into a desert (thankfully), but into a future that is bright, bold, and beautifully built.

Wishing our entire KHDS family a restful summer, a rejuvenating break, and a renewed excitement for all that's to come. The best is yet to come, and we can't wait to experience it together.





Hadassah Smolarcik
Judaic Studies Principal, Grades 1-8

As we reflect on the past months, it's remarkable how swiftly the academic year has progressed. It seems we were just setting our goals, and now we're entering the planning phase once more.

Soon, we will be reading the Torah portion of Balak, in which Bilam describes the Jewish People as a nation whose origins are firmly entrenched as rocks and hills. Rashi comments that the rocks allude to the Patriarchs and the hills to the Matriarchs. The loyalty of the nation to their forebears allows them to remain steadfast, firm, and strong in their commitment to Hashem. Bilam revealed the secret to the continuity and invincibility of the Jewish people to be able to withstand the challenges that beset them from their earliest moments of when they became a nation. Our faith is so deeply rooted in our Avot and Imahot, and so we have been able to withstand the winds of change that bankrupted the moral compass of contemporary society. We also survived throughout our history events of degradation, slaughter, and persecution. No nation has undergone such difficulties and tumult and can claim that not only did they survive, but that they thrived and have become stronger and more committed.

The Menorah, a tradition that has been transmitted from generation to generation, is what protected us and continues to protect us during this long and difficult Galut. Our heritage has been the glue that kept us together. While this heritage is transmitted through our Rebbeim and Morot, Rabbis and Shuls, it is the vehicle of parents to children that is most basic, fundamental, and effective. It is the responsibility of the father and mother to inculcate the child with the love and basics of our Judaism, and the school and Shul community to supplement and engage the child to love the Torah and Mitzvot.

The Torah introduces Jewish history with the story of the Avot and Imahot, emphasizing the significance of the family and the Jewish home. The strength of the family is the anchor.

Two women who were old friends met after several years at a resort. Mrs. G. had her son Moshe with her. Mrs. F. had not seen Moshe for many years and was taken aback at this mature, pleasant, and warm-natured young man. Mrs. F. declared, "I would give 20 years of my life to have a son like yours." Mrs. G. responded, "That is exactly how I did it. I gave 20 years of my life to have a son like this."

When parents sacrifice for their children with their time, pleasure, interest, and well-being, the foundation is concretized and will continue to serve as a source of satisfaction, pride, and joy for them and the entire Jewish nation.



3rd graders participated in the **Bracha Bee**.



5th graders celebrated Pesach Sheni on 14 Iyar!



6th graders held a Siyum to celebrate completing another Amud of Gemara.

Mazal tov to the winners of the Aluf Ha'ivrit Competition:

1st place:
Annaelle Schlager

2nd place:
Lilly Lerman

3rd place:
Yoav Rudnick



4 From the Administration



Shireen Butman
General Studies Principal, Grades 1-5

This has been an incredible year of learning, growth, and achievement for our lower school students. I am so proud of each and every one of them for pushing through challenges, and demonstrating determination and perseverance while maintaining interest and motivation in their learning. As we head into the summer vacation, I want to take a moment to emphasize the

importance of summer reading for our children. While summer is a time for rest, exploration, and family fun, it's also the perfect opportunity to help students maintain the academic progress they've made throughout the year.

Research consistently shows that when students read regularly over the summer, they are far more likely to retain and strengthen the skills they've worked hard to build during the year, especially in literacy. On the other hand, children who don't engage in reading activities are at risk of experiencing what's known as the "**summer slide**," a decline in reading ability and comprehension that can make the transition into the next school year more challenging.

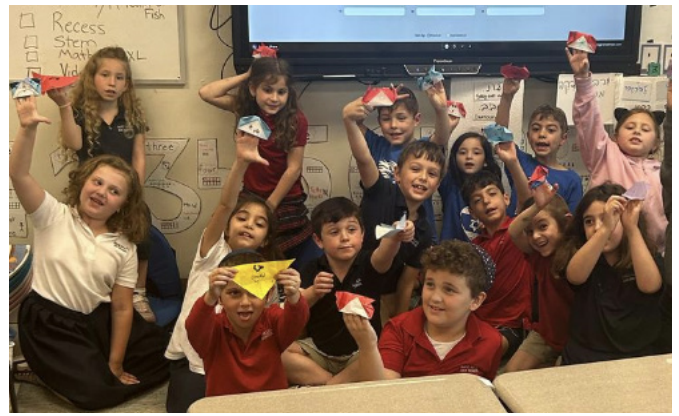
At Katz Hillel Day School, we encourage all families to make reading a natural part of their summer routine. Whether it's a few pages before bedtime, a shared book during a family trip, or independent reading time by the pool or at the beach, every minute counts. Reading not only supports academic success, it also fosters imagination, empathy, and a love of lifelong learning.

In addition to reading books, we encourage families to **engage children in thoughtful conversations about age-appropriate current events.** These discussions strengthen reading comprehension, vocabulary, and critical thinking while helping children build a more informed and compassionate view of the world.

Equally important is the **language we use when speaking with our children.** Summer is a wonderful time to enrich conversations by using **sophisticated and expressive vocabulary.** Research shows that children who are regularly exposed to rich language at home develop stronger verbal reasoning and communication skills. Asking open-ended questions, exploring big ideas together, and explaining unfamiliar words all contribute to their language development and academic confidence.

To support summer reading, we've provided a *Summer Reading List* filled with engaging and age-appropriate titles. We encourage each student to read at least one book (and hopefully more!) from the list and to share their reflections with us in the fall.

Thank you for being our partners in your child's educational journey. With your support, we can ensure that this summer is relaxing, enriching, and stimulating, setting the stage for a strong start to the new school year for our students.



1st graders dove into the world of geometry with a hands-on twist as they crafted origami finger pets. They explored parallelograms, trapezoids, quadrilaterals, squares, and triangles in action. With each fold, their papers transformed into playful creations, sparking excitement and wonder at the magic of math in motion!



General Studies faculty engaged in a collaborative workshop focused on curriculum alignment across grade levels. Led by teachers, this intensive session allowed the team to identify key areas of focus for each grade and determine where additional curricular support is needed. By refining our approach, we aim to create a more cohesive and seamless academic experience for students as they progress from grades 1 through 5.



Students were egg-cited to hatch chicken eggs in an incubator! This hands-on science class experience helped them understand life cycles and animal biology in a fun and engaging way as they cared for the eggs and prepared for them to hatch.



5th grade students learned about nutrition and constructing a balanced meal.



Rina Lanner
General Studies Principal, Middle School

In Parshat Beha'alotcha—read this year on the Shabbat immediately following the last day of school—the Ramban paints a striking image. He describes how Bnei Yisrael departed from Har Sinai with surprising eagerness and joy, “like a child running away from school.” Why such enthusiasm? Because they feared that if they lingered, Hashem might give them more mitzvot. They felt overwhelmed—enough rules already!

The analogy resonates: the joy of students sprinting out of school on the last day, lockers emptied, final bell ringing, and carpool lines filled with excitement and relief. It's a familiar scene.

And yet, at Katz Hillel Day School, the scene looks very different.

Here, our students don't run away from school—they linger. Of course, they welcome a break from tests and homework (who wouldn't?). But as the final days approach, the halls echo with emotion. There are tears. Heartfelt goodbyes. Yearbooks passed around and uniform shirts signed. Graduates don't celebrate an escape—they reflect on a meaningful journey. And always, they promise to return. And they do.

So what makes KHDS so different from the schoolchild described by the Ramban in the 13th century?

The answer lies in our people and our purpose. At KHDS, our teachers love and care for every student. They are fully invested in each child's success—academic, emotional, and spiritual. Our approach goes beyond rigorous education; we nurture the whole child. Every student feels seen, known, and valued as a unique world unto themselves.

As a Class of 2025 graduate so beautifully said at this year's graduation, “We are under construction.” Our mission is to guide that growth with care, purpose, and love.

We are deeply honored to partner with you—the parents—in shaping the next generation of Jewish leaders, thinkers, and mensches.

Wishing you a restful, rejuvenating, and growth-filled summer!



6th graders prepared for their trip to **Pigeon Key** by examining different types of fish.



7th grade Life Science students brought DNA to life by recreating a model of **Watson and Crick's** famous double helix—often called the ‘twisted ladder’—as they explored how nucleotides form the genetic blueprint of who we are. And yes... it was a delicious way to learn!



KHDS welcomed **Rabbi Meir Avrachen** of **All Mishnah Jr. (AMJ)**, which has galvanized nearly 2,000 middle school students across the globe to learn two Mishnayot a day during their free time. Students who logged their learning were entered into weekly drawings to win awesome prizes, and all participants received cool AMJ swag!



8th grade girls learned the Aseret Hadibrot in Chavruta.

6 From the Administration



Gwenn Baer
Early Childhood Principal

As we close the doors on another remarkable school year, I find myself filled with gratitude and pride for all that we've experienced together. From the very first day of school, our goal was clear: to nurture each child with love, intention, and joy—and to partner with

our families in building the strong roots of love for Torah and mitzvot, curiosity, and confidence.

This year has been nothing short of extraordinary. The EC hallways have been filled with laughter, discovery, music, and meaningful learning. Through thoughtful programming led by **Frumah Cohen**, creative rituals, and purposeful play, we've watched our children flourish—socially, emotionally, and academically. Whether celebrating at Oneg Shabbat, exploring Hebrew letters, engaging in hands-on lessons, or participating in sensory-rich activities that support development, every moment has been a step on their journey of growth.

One of the highlights was preparing for and celebrating Kindergarten graduation. Watching our kindergarteners get ready to move from early childhood to lower school as they took the stage—confident, capable, and full of pride—was a beautiful reminder of how much they've grown. It feels like a blink of an eye since many entered our EC2 as wide-eyed toddlers.

To our amazing early childhood Morot—your dedication and warmth create the magic of this program. To our families—thank you for your trust and partnership. And to our students—you are the heart of everything we do.

As summer begins, we wish all of you a season of rest, sunshine, and sweet family moments. **Camp Ruach** is already buzzing with excitement as we share the fun with many of you—with sunscreen and smiles!

Thank you for a wonderful year!



Shabbat Shalom from the **Rosalind Henwood Early Childhood Learning Center!**



EC students got inspired by French painter **Berthe Morisot's** famous painting "Roses" in art sensory class.



Students explored the magic of magnetism—discovering how opposite poles attract certain metals, while like poles repel each other.



Kindergarten learned about service dogs during a visit from the **Palm Beach County Sheriff's K-9 Therapy Unit**.



KHDS CHANUKAT HABAYIT & TRIBUTE EVENING IN REVIEW

On March 30th, over 300 members of our 'KHDS Family' gathered on the **Milton B. Katz Campus** for an unforgettable evening during the **Chanukat Habayit & Tribute Evening**. This fundraiser celebrated the dedication of our stunning new expansion building and honored **Governor Ron DeSantis** for his steadfast leadership in championing school choice and enhancing security for Jewish schools. We also recognized six dedicated faculty members for their milestone years of service to KHDS: **Tova Gil, Lauren Glaun, Frieda Greenblatt, Rabbi Yosef Kassorla, Dina Oleyek, and Samantha Witztum**.

Guests followed a lantern-lit walkway to the check-in area, where they were warmly welcomed by KHDS volunteers **Sarah Berzon, Jenelle Boda, Abby Feferman, Michal Goodman, Naomi Katz, and Avital Rosenberg**. They proceeded to the delicious buffet dinner in the expanded Atrium, beautifully transformed into a bistro-style café. As they mixed and mingled, attendees explored the new building and dedication opportunities.

A VIP reception provided an exclusive meet-and-greet with **Governor DeSantis**, where Governor's Circle supporters extended a warm welcome to the guest of honor. As guests proceeded to the brand new **Bernard Rutman Beit Midrash**, **Governor DeSantis**, along with incoming Head of School **Rabbi Mordechai Schwersenski**, and Executive Director **Lev Stark**, affixed a permanent mezuzah on the exterior doors of the new building, marking a significant moment before the start of the tribute program.

The program began with the national anthems led by **Ahron Fraiman**, followed by Tehillim led by **Rabbi Philip Moskowitz**. The video debut of **CRIBS**, inspired by the MTV show, featured a fun guided tour by students throughout the KHDS campus and classrooms.

Ben Shapiro then delivered introductory remarks and, alongside KHDS Vice President **Amy Tarlowe**, presented the *Champion of Faith & Freedom Award* to **Governor Ron DeSantis**. After addressing the guests, **Governor DeSantis** joined **Ben Shapiro** for a lively one-on-one conversation on a range of relevant topics.

The *Faculty Dedication Award* video spotlighted the achievements of our six honorees, who were then presented their awards by KHDS administrators **Hadassah Smolarcik, Shireen Butman, Rina Lanner, and Gwenn Baer**.

Amy Tarlowe graciously acknowledged those who helped make the new building, and the event, a success. After sharing a few words of Torah, she introduced KHDS incoming Head of School, **Rabbi Schwersenski**, who delivered a D'var Torah and closing remarks.

As guests departed, they enjoyed a hot chocolate and coffee bar, along with dessert-to-go—truly a sweet ending to the evening.

We express Hakarat Hatov to the event committee—**Caroline Goldstein, Anna Jacobs, Daniel J. Katz, Jacqueline Labovitz, Mor Shapiro, and Amy Tarlowe**—for their tireless efforts and countless hours planning every detail of this event. Special thanks to **Orlie Cohen** for her invaluable guidance, wisdom, and behind-the-scenes support. We are deeply appreciative of everyone who worked so hard to make this event a success.

And finally, sincere thanks to everyone who generously supported this fundraiser, KHDS, and Jewish education.

Photo credits: **Leonardo Moran and Shlomi Cohen, iPicture Magnet**



Scan the QR code to view the complete list of acknowledgments, event photos, videos, and donor scroll!



POMP & CIRCUMSTANCE: CLASS OF '25 GRADUATES



On June 15th, 69 students participated in the **27th Annual Commencement Exercises** for the 8th grade Class of 2025. Following the processional, Judaic Studies Principal **Morah Hadassah Smolarcik** extended a warm welcome and introduced 8th grade graduate **Menashe Ilyayev**, who led the singing of the *Star-Spangled Banner* and *Hatikvah*. Next, 8th grade graduate **Tani Gutstein** led the audience in the

recitation of a chapter from *Tehillim*, acknowledging the current tensions in Israel. **Morah Hadassah** then acknowledged the administration, faculty, staff, alumni, and those families graduating their youngest child. Board Vice President **Amy Tarlowe** addressed the graduates on behalf of Board President **Daniel J. Katz**. **Mrs. Tarlowe** addressed the 8th graders with an inspirational message as she challenged them to view events in their lives as positive and the power of perspective.

8th grade graduate **Hannah Lynn** delivered a beautiful Dvar Torah as she represented the students who earned the *Keter Shem Tov Award* for demonstrating excellence in Middot and Derech Eretz. Yearbook editors **Abby Adler**, **Matan Aghion**, **Abigail Matias**, **Elizabeth Slesinger**, and **Shana Weber** spoke about the meaning of this year's yearbook, *Under Construction*, and thanked **Morah Hadassah** and those who assisted with its production. Middle School General Studies Principal **Rina Lanner** introduced PTA Co-President **Naomi Katz**, who offered well wishes and presented siddurim as gifts to the graduates on behalf of the PTA. The graduation film, produced by **Zachary Cohen/Coco Productions**, graced the silver screen and was followed by the presentation of diplomas and siddurim by **Morah Hadassah** and **Morah Lanner**.

A special shout-out was given to Assistant to the Head of School **Jill Kaminetzky** for her tireless efforts and behind-the-scenes planning of every detail of the graduation and to alumni parent **Caroline Katz** for photographing the 8th grade portraits (as well as many of their portraits when they were in kindergarten) and creating the photo boards that classmates were able to sign with special messages. A reception took place after the ceremony for the graduates and their families. Mazal Tov!

Mordechai Abed
Abigail Adler*
Matan Aghion
Emily Basailov
Efrat Belizon*
Isaac Ben Yoram
Daniel Benzaquen
Leora Bichachi*
Ava Bienenfeld
Aryeh Bierman
Leelah Blanka*~
Leeraz Blanka
Ahuva Broide
Rosie Cohen
Noa Deichman
Noam Dorfman
Lauren Feld
Asher Fellman
Aaron Fridman
Briah Fried
Jack Friedman
Mia Frist
Ilana Ganz
Temima Ganz
Joey Gately
Ethan Goldberg
Buzz Goldberg
Azi Gross
Tani Gutstein
Noah Haibi
Nava Haik
Gabriel Harris
Rafi Herman
Menashe Ilyayev
Aaron Kaplan*~

Jacob Katz
Alexa Klein
Sarah Korkos
Pearl Krawatsky
Aiden Lerman*
Evan Levontin
Joshua Levy
Orelle Levy~
Noa Loren*~
Hannah Lynn~
Abigail Matias*~
Maia Mazor~
Asher Meyers
Aviv Molayev
Daniella Nafisi
Gabi Ohayon*
Nelly Perez
Judah Rackman
Emunah Rosen
Elie Rosman
Ori Sassi
Sarah Shulkes
Jacob Sicherman
Elizabeth Slesinger*~
Maayan Sommers
Evan Sperling*
Shalev Stein
Ari Verbitsky
Gavi Warshawsky
Shana Weber*~
Gabe Weisfeld
Abby Weisstuch
Phineas Yablon
Ariel Zussman~

* National Junior Honor Society

~ Keter Shem Tov

KINDERGARTEN MILESTONE GRADUATION



KHDS kindergarten graduation took place on June 12th as 59 adorable students dressed in blue and white took center stage for their last hurrah as kindergarteners. Following the processional, Early Childhood Principal **Mrs. Gwenn Baer** made welcoming remarks to introduce the main performance, including English and Hebrew songs, and then the graduates were individually acknowledged. After the video montage, a reception was held for the students and their families on our new PTA patio.

Kudos to the kindergarten team for their hard work over the past year and for coordinating the program: **Judith Reichenbach** and **Sheri Siegel**, **Tami Gerlitz** and **Saray Atias**, **Karen Fromowitz**, **Yael Geller** and **Ofra Struogano**, and **Cheryl Mirsky**, **Nechama Levin**, and **Lauren Glau**.

Special thanks were given to **Caroline Katz**, KHDS alumni parent, for photographing and producing the beautiful yearbook and cap and gown portraits; **Lisa Pinkis**, art teacher, for decorating the graduates' photo frames; **Simone Haddad**, music teacher, for piano accompaniment; **Lori Landa**, Assistant to the Principal of Early Childhood, for administrative support; **Rabbi Gershon Eisenberger**, Director of Technology, for technical assistance; and **Bridget Cohn**, **Esteban Mercedes**, **Marcos Hernandez**, and the KHDS maintenance team for all of their assistance behind the scenes.

Finally, we gratefully acknowledge all of the graduation volunteers who helped to make this graduation memorable and beautiful: **Alissa Kroll**—committee chair, **Samantha Abraham**, **Jaime Feld**, **Jennifer Glickman**, **Eliana Kornfeld**, **Yitty Levine**, **Penina Nudell**, **Sagit Rafailovitch**, and **Meira Weiss**.

Onward and upward to 1st grade! Graduation Photo credits: **Leonardo Moran**

Lian Abraham
Jacob Amos
Raphael Avezbadalov
Avi Chametsky
Miriam Cohen
Brody Czarka
Navah Davidov
Devorah Elkoby
Chloe Feld
Ava Rose Fellman
Ariella Fridman-Rubin
Khay Friedman
Hailey Fuzailov
Savannah Garden
Liam Gately
Ariella Glickman
Yonah Groveman
Emunah Gurin
Charles Hauptman
Gabriel Herman

Adira Herrmann
Serena Hersh
Lielle Hopkins
Libi Jacob
Abraham "Abe" Jacobovits
Emilio Jaff
Trevor Jungreis
Matthew Karp
Amaya Kassorla
Cyla Kassorla
Romy Kivelevitz
Hailey Klein
Kaylee Kornfeld
Lola Kroll
Roi Lasry
Leo Matias
Kayla Meiteles
Nadav Meiteles
Alex Mergui
Doron Miller

Elai Mizrahi
Orya Molayev
Shoshana Mulayev
Libby Ofengenden
Shiloh Ohayon
Tory Orbach
Gabriel Rafailovitch
Ateret Rodrigues
Devorah Rosenlicht
Noa Schlager
Gabrielle Schulman
Carmiel Sharma
Shira Simakhov
Ariya Steinberg
Abigail Teichman
Sarah Weisfeld
Olivia Winokur
Daniel Yatzkan
Eli Zisholtz



PREMIERE OF NAMES, NOT NUMBERS®: A MOVIE IN THE MAKING

KHDS gratefully acknowledges the **Names, Not Numbers®** program, which has taught our students about the Holocaust through the accounts of eyewitnesses and provided them with interviewing, filming, and editing skills. The program also enabled the survivors and our students to forge meaningful relationships.

On Tuesday, March 18th, the documentary premiered at **Temple Beth Shalom in Century Village**. The film chronicled the lives of eight Holocaust survivors, as well as the personal experiences of the KHDS 8th grade students who worked on this project since the beginning of the school year under the direction of faculty coordinator **Rabbi Ari Mirzoeff**. We also acknowledge **Dov Rosenberg** (executive producer), **Drew Aldridge** (film editor), **Michael Puro** (film-maker/director), and **Gila Stern** (visiting journalist).

Special thanks to **Jill Kaminetzky, Naomi Katz, Rina Lanner, Karen Moskowitz, Sonja Nadritch, Hadassah Smolarcik, Chava Weissstuch**, and all of the parent volunteer drivers, **Congregation Torah Ohr**, and **Congregation Beth Shalom**.

Most of all, we thank **Tova-Fish Rosenberg** (Producer and Project Creator) for creating this innovative curriculum and the survivors who shared their impactful stories: **Halina Baumgarten, Mary Eckstein, Bella Ejnes, Rosette Goldstein, Melvyn Grossman, Sarah Katz** (KHDS grandparent), **Alex Konstantyn**, and **Mickey Warshawski**.

This program has transformed the traditional study of the Holocaust and KHDS has benefited tremendously through our participation in this project.

Funded by:



on the basis of a decision
of the Bundestag

With Assistance from the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany Supported by the German Federal Ministry of Finance and the Foundation Remembrance, Responsibility and Future.

Photo credit: **Leonardo Moran**



WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS

(\$360+)

The Averbuch Family
*In honor of the participating
survivors and in recognition of
Rabbi Mirzoeff for his efforts*

Charles & Judy Kandler
*In honor of Asher Meyers
and Rabbi Mirzoeff*

Eli & Naomi Katz
*In honor of our survivor,
Sarah Katz, and in memory of all
our family that perished
in the Holocaust*

**Elliot & Shari Levontin
and Family**

The Tarlowe Family
*In memory of our dear friend,
Henry Frankel, survivor and
inspiration to our family and
all who knew him*

We shall never forget!

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



Visit our online gallery to view more
photos on our website.

Photo credit: **Leonardo Moran**

10 HilleLites

PICTURE PERFECT ART NIGHT



On the evening of April 27th, students in Kindergarten through 5th grade proudly showcased their artwork in a beautifully curated, Israeli-themed gallery during **Art Night**. The event was nothing short of spectacular and enriched with Israeli-inspired art, delicious food, and uplifting a cappella music—making it a special experience for all who attended.

A huge thank you to **Gwenn Baer**, **Lisa Pinkis**, and **Yael Loren** for planning this event and to **Shoshanna Breitbart** and the KHDS maintenance team for their additional assistance behind the scenes.

Photo Credit: **Shlomi Cohen, iPicture Magnet**



CURTAIN CALL: KIDS TIME PROGRAM ANNUAL PERFORMANCE

The **Annual Kids' Time Program (KTP)** performance took place on May 19th at **Olympic Heights High School**. The show opened with ballerinas and gymnasts performing under the direction of **Joy Deco** and **Stephanie Strazzi** (ballet), and **Coach Maia Shaffer**, **Dr. Penina Dorfman**, and **Isabella Lopez-Merlot** (gymnastics). **The Little Mermaid, The Musical, Jr.**, was this year's featured drama production, under the direction of show director **Jill Lustig**. An additional female-only performance took place on May 20th. Special thanks to **Julie Abrams** and **Maia Shaffer**, KTP Directors, for their work on this, and to **Rabbi Gershon Eisenberger** for his assistance behind the scenes, including tickets and producing the **PLAYBILL**. Congratulations to student artist **Ruthie Epstein** on her winning banner design.



Winning banner design by
7th grade artist:
Ruthie Epstein

View all of the photos on our website.

Photo Credit: **Leonardo Moran**

6TH GRADE PIGEON KEY

The 6th grade girls embarked on their class trip to **Pigeon Key** on March 24th, and the boys' trip followed on March 31st.



7TH GRADE ORLANDO

7th graders enjoyed their class trip to Orlando from May 6th-7th with stops at the **Holocaust Memorial and Education Center**, **Tree Trek**, **Dave & Busters**, and **Universal Studios**.



8TH GRADE PANAMA

The Class of '25 took their graduation trip to Panama May 4th-8th.



12 HilleLites

HACHNASAT SEFER TORAH

On February 20th, a school-wide Hachnasat Sefer Torah ceremony took place as the Sifrei Torah dedicated by **Daniel & Caroline Katz** and **Sandy & Barbara Cohen** were danced into the beautiful new Aron Kodesh housed in our new **Bernard Rutman Beit Midrash**.

The procession departed from the former Beit Midrash and made its way through the campus with singing and dancing, before reaching its final destination in the new Beit Midrash. We look forward to many meaningful Tefillot and inspiring programs that will take place in the new Beit Midrash, dedicated by **Jeffrey and Jodi Harris and Family** in memory of Jodi's beloved father, **Bernard Rutman, Z"L."**



The **Kids Heart Challenge** is one of the favorite fundraising events for many students. This year we raised a total of \$2,275, but most importantly this program helped students learn about the benefits of regular physical activity and heart health while raising funds to fight heart disease and stroke. The event was filled with competition and rewards for outstanding performance. So far our KHDS lifetime donation is \$89,098!

Mazal Tov to this year's fundraising winners:

1st place: Yair Gutstein (3rd grade) raised \$384.64

2nd place: Abigail Klein (4th grade) raised \$337

3rd place: Leilani Hauptman (2nd grade) raised \$302.10

Based on the total that was raised this year, the **American Heart Association** rewarded us with a \$200 gift certificate, which will help purchase new equipment for our PE Department.



1ST GRADE MITZVAH FAIR

1st graders celebrated the creation of their Mitzvah portfolios by hosting parents and grandparents at the **Mitzvah Fair** in February. This year's theme was focused on Geulah, redemption, and helping to build the third and final Beit Hamikdash. Students invited their parents to help complete their portfolios by focusing on ways they could do a Kiddush Hashem together. Afterwards, KHDS parent **Mrs. Abby Feferman** lead a Mashiach tambourine decorating activity.



4TH GRADE WAX MUSEUM

4th graders presented their amazing biographies at the **Annual Wax Museum** program in March. This was the shining moment highlighting all of their research, writing, rehearsals, and creative talents. We were so pleased parents were able to join us for the special day.



2ND GRADE VISITS COX SCIENCE CENTER & PLANETARIUM

Students experienced what it's like to travel through space and work on the **International Space Station** and were fascinated by the experience as it brought their current solar system unit of study to life! They also participated in **The Newton Olympics** exploring Newton's Laws of Motion through hands-on experiments. In addition, they explored a dinosaur exhibit and engaged in a variety of interactive activities in the museum's **Discovery Center**. It was a fun and interesting day of learning!



14 HilleLites

3RD GRADE STATE FAIR

3rd grade students proudly showcased their knowledge at the *Annual State Fair*, the culminating event of their project-based learning unit on the United States. Students conducted independent research on their assigned states and shared their findings with peers, teachers, and families. The event began with a performance of patriotic songs, followed by an interactive fair experience outdoors, complete with games, refreshments, and a spirited parent vs. child pie-eating contest hosted by **Mrs. Butman**. It was a wonderful celebration of learning, community, and fun!



5TH GRADE LEGOLAND

Despite the soaring temperatures, 5th grade students had an unforgettable day at **LEGOLAND** for their end-of-year trip.



MOVIN' ON UP

Middle School hosted *Moving Up Day* for the incoming 6th graders as 5th graders were welcomed by **Morah Hadassah**, **Morah Lanner**, and **Mrs. Herschman** and experienced some classes by rotating between a math activity, a Torah class, and a tour of the building. They also had an opportunity to hear about all of the amazing programs that middle school offers and had an interactive Q&A with some of our 8th grade students. As they went back to their 5th grade classrooms, they were given an ice cream treat and many exciting things to look forward to next year! Thank you to **Mrs. Herschman**, **Mrs. Zangre**, **Morah Lanner**, **Rabbi Mirzoeff**, **Mrs. Troy**, **Rabbi Eisenberger**, **Mrs. Feder**, **Mrs. Butman**, **Morah Hadassah**, and the 5th grade teaching team for helping make the program a success!



KHDS PLACES IN NATIONAL VEX IQ CHAMPIONSHIP

On March 31st, the **KHDS VEX Robotics Team**, accompanied by our LS General Studies Principal **Shireen Butman** and STEM teacher **Spencer Landreth**, traveled to the **Armory** in New York to compete in the **2025 CIJE National VEX IQ Championship**. Congratulations to the teams for securing 2nd, 3rd, and 4th places out of 140 teams from over 30 Jewish schools across the US. Notably, our first-ever girls' team placed in the top five, and team co-captain **Asher Fellman** and his team achieved the highest score in a regular season game. Additionally, the boys demonstrated an act of Chesed by helping a younger participant rebuild their broken robot so that he could resume play. Incredible work by our dedicated and motivated KHDS students! KHDS continues to be a top contender in the VEX Robotics community.



KOL HAKAVOD

2nd Place Overall:

Aiden Lerman
Jacob Sicherman
Shalev Stein
Phineas Yablon

3rd place Overall:

Asher Fellman
Aaron Kaplan
Joshua Levy

4th Place Overall:

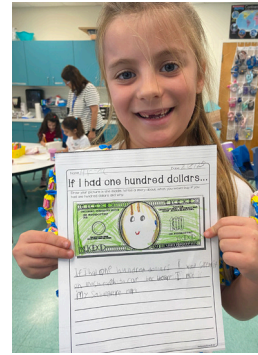
Rachael Avezbadalov
Avigail Molayev
Eliana Wolgin
Sophia Zour

Notable Mention:

Joshua Stein
Amichai Steinberg
Ariel Zussman



100TH DAY OF SCHOOL



February 19th was the 100th day of school as students and faculty celebrated this milestone.

MARCHING INTO TZAHAL WEEK



Thank you to our incredible B'not Sherut for organizing an inspiring Shavua Tzahal! Students learned about the various units of Tzahal through projects and even fitness training. A spirited competition between the grades was also held (congrats to the winners—3rd and 5th grades) and a special Tzahal-themed Oneg closed out the week!

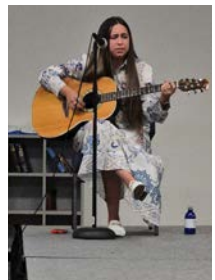
JDAIM MONTH



During the month of February, and as part of **Jewish Disability Awareness and Inclusion Month (JDAIM)**, our lower school students participated in the **Yachad Sensitivity Fair**, where they learned about the challenges faced by individuals with blindness, deafness, and mobility issues through interactive stations. A big thank you to **Dr. Penina Dorfman** for organizing this impactful event, and to our parent volunteers for their support in making it a success. It was a valuable experience that helped our students build empathy and understanding.

TZNIUT IS CUTE: FASHION SHOW HITS THE RUNWAY

A celebration of trendy and comfortable modest fashion, the **Tzniut is Cute Fashion Show** inspired students with the beauty, relevance, and possibility of tzniut today. The event featured student models showcasing beautiful modest looks that were both comfortable and stylish. We were honored to host two inspiring alumni as part of this event: **Olivia Kahane** ('19), who spoke about the power of not judging a book by its cover, and **Izzie Gately** ('22), who captivated the crowd with a moving musical performance. After the show, guests had the opportunity to shop from a variety of modest fashion boutiques, bringing the runway experience to life.



16 HilleLites



Another **IDF** unit shared their appreciation for the letters of thanks they received from KHDS students.



Ella Cohen, Morah Lindsay, and the Cohen-Miller family distributed letters from the 2nd grade to Chayalim over Pesach break.



KHDS had the privilege of hosting a delegation of Israeli soldiers who were visiting Boca in February. Students greeted them joyously and then had the opportunity to hear from them personally.



Middle school students participated in a teacher raffle, a school fundraiser where students bought tickets and entered raffles to win prizes donated by teachers, such as homework passes, gift cards, and special experiences. All proceeds from the event will go toward a new Sefer Torah cover in memory of **Master Sgt. Ari Zenilman, Z"L**, a former KHDS student who gave his life defending Am Yisrael. Thanks to the incredible generosity and enthusiasm of our students, we surpassed our goal, raising an impressive \$1,510! Kol Hakavod to all the teachers who contributed prizes and to our dedicated 8th grade committee for organizing such a meaningful and fun event.



Students wrote letters to Israeli soldiers and their devoted wives with the hopes of lifting their spirits and expressing their deep gratitude and support.



Grab your passports! The B'not Sherut created a flight simulation to Israel.



Students had the honor of fulfilling the mitzvah of Mezuzah in their new classrooms in the expansion building.

Rosalind Henwood Early Childhood Learning Center



Incoming Head of School **Rabbi Mordechai Schwersenski** read a story to EC4 during his visit in May.



Early Childhood

EC4-C spent each week mastering a new Hebrew letter along with related Ivrit vocabulary, until they finally completed their Alef-Bet trains!



EC students learned what bioluminescence was in science. This remarkable superpower allows certain animals to produce light within their bodies by using special chemicals to generate a glow.



Healthy bodies, happy hearts! Our little learners explored health and wellness during **EC Health Week** with a variety of special activities and programs.



Our superstar EC2-K students were full of energy during PE, then embraced a peaceful parachute moment—practicing mindful, calming breaths and enjoying a gentle pause in their day.



Students got inspired by **Kandinsky's** famous painting "Circles," in art sensory class.



So much fun on **Aunt Jessie's Playground**.

18 Spotlight by Grade



Young artists worked on "straw art" creations.



Rabbi G's Kosher Chocolate Factory rolled into KHDS, serving up sweetness with a side of Torah!



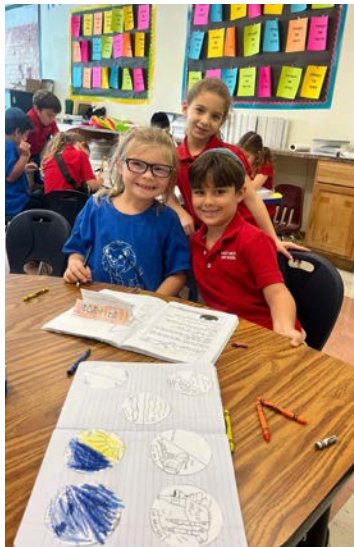
Students prepared to welcome Shabbat with a celebration complete with all the blessings.



Students learned all the letters of the Aleph Bet and celebrated with a party. Each student was assigned a Hebrew letter and brought a food item that started with that letter.



The power of reading! Students visited the **Palm Beach County Library**.



Students dove into Torah as they worked on their Parsha books.



Continuing their ocean-themed learning, students read *A House for Hermit Crab* and learned all about happenings from under the sea, made their own ocean scene, and designed their own hermit crab.



Students explored the meaning of Earth Day and why it's important to care for our planet. They discussed different ways we can help keep the Earth clean and then wrote about one way they can each make the world a better place!



After researching different careers, students chose a community helper they'd like to be when they grow up and wrote all about it. To top it off, they each designed their very own shirt to match their chosen job—which they proudly wore during the big presentation.



Students visited the **Sandoway Discovery Center** in Delray Beach as part of their **Community Helpers** unit. They learned about various animals that were rescued by the center and are being taken care of in their new home. Students used two fingers to gently pet turtles, baby alligators, and stingrays that were swimming in a big tank and also saw a lionfish and sharks being fed their lunch!



During **Read-In Day**, students came with their favorite cuddly stuffed animals, robes, and slippers. They shared books, stories, and creativity in making a special fort and enhanced the mood with lamps and a cozy ambiance video playing in the background.



2nd graders love learning Chumash!



Students learned about the three states of matter: solid, liquid, and gas, by making root beer floats.



Students studied unpoppable bubbles and learned about surface tension.



Eager and focused, students waited their turn to read Chumash to **Morah Hadassah**.



Winners of the **Brachot Bee** buzzed with pride.



2ND
GRADE



Students explored the concept of friction in science by filling water bottles with rice. They repeatedly inserted a pencil into the rice until the friction was strong enough to hold the pencil in place—allowing them to lift the entire bottle using just the pencil!



3RD
GRADE



Students dove into the world of rhythm during music class and had an absolute blast! They rocked their way through exciting centers—exploring and creating beats and patterns, and playing interactive games with energy and enthusiasm.



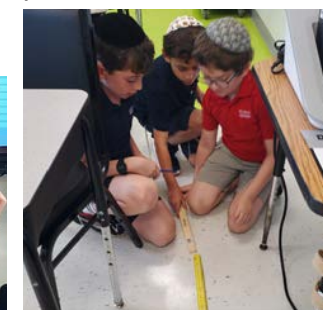
Students had a yummy time learning about the phases of the moon!



In honor of Shabbat Chazak, finishing Sefer Vayikra, students visited the **Bernard Rutman Beit Midrash** to see the Sefer Torah. Our deepest thanks to **Rabbi Wexler** who spoke about the Sefer Torah and showed the students Sefer Vayikra and the letters that correspond to their names.



In Ivrit class, students created Mother's Day cards in Hebrew and enjoyed a craft project.



Students were so excited to move to their classroom in the new building. They used their knowledge of multi-digit multiplication, measurement, perimeter, and area to determine how many inches they have in their new space.

20 Spotlight by Grade



Mathematicians played a game of **Jeopardy** to review for an upcoming division test. They reviewed remainders, estimating quotients, the distributive property of division, and division with multiples of 10.



Armed with blueprints and determination, students designed "roller coasters" featuring at least one loop or hill—then tested their creations by trying to land a marble in a cup at the end of the ride, all as part of their force and motion lesson.



Just in time for the holiday, 4th graders got creative and crafted personalized Pesach aprons!



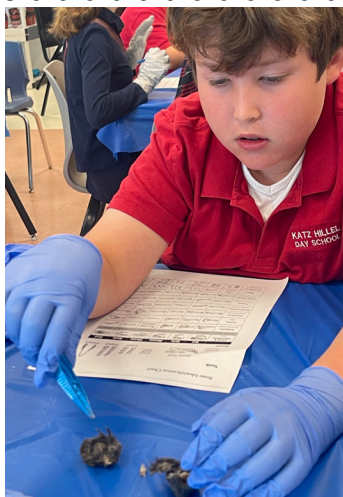
Students explored the history and meaning of Earth Day and created beautiful posters to celebrate the planet!



On their field trip to the **Busch Wildlife Sanctuary**, students engaged in hands-on learning about the importance of protecting Florida's wildlife and natural resources. They also gained a deeper understanding of conservation efforts, including how animals are rehabilitated and the role of environmental education in preserving our ecosystems.



Jerusalem came to life with a museum-style exhibit, as each student became a Hebrew-speaking tour guide, presenting iconic sites through creative displays.



During an owl pellet dissection, students were excited to see what really was inside and learned about the food chain in real time!



Students brought their decimal unit to life with a trip to **Whole Foods** as they practiced real-world math by calculating costs, comparing prices, and budgeting while grocery shopping.

Students witnessed how the sun is able to create images or designs by exposing light sensitive chemicals on paper to sunlight and where areas blocked by objects will remain unchanged. This was a great scientific visualization.



A math-Pesach themed activity was inspired by the pyramids of Egypt. Students connected learning to geometry by exploring different types of pyramids as 3D shapes.

5TH GRADE



5th graders performed skits in Hebrew with the new words they learned.

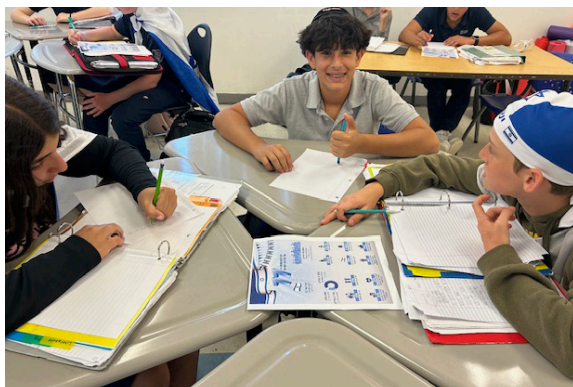


Middle School

Students had the zechut to hear from **Rav Shmuel Slotki** and the heroic story of his sons on **Kibbutz Alumim** on October 7th.



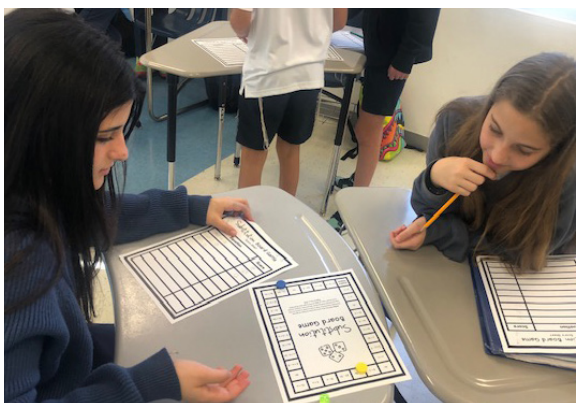
KHDS welcomed special guest speaker, **Rabbi Leo Dee**, who was a community rabbi in the UK before returning to Israel in 2014. In April 2023, his life changed when his wife **Lucy** and two daughters, **Maia** and **Rina**, were brutally massacred by Hamas terrorists on their way to Tiberias for the Passover holiday. He shared his message of how to find light even in the darkest of times.



In honor of Yom Ha'atzmaut, 8th graders took on a special math challenge! Using population data from Israel — presented entirely in Hebrew — students created their own math problems. They applied a wide range of skills they've learned this year, including working with percentages, ratios, and more. Their questions were both thoughtful and challenging, showing creativity and a strong grasp of mathematical concepts. Kol Hakavod to 8.2!



6th grade science students continued their marine bio studies. They learned about mollusks and conducted a squid dissection!



The 7th graders created models of the four phases of mitosis (cellular division). They learned that body cells must be replicated for us to grow and repair our bodies.

6th grade students evaluated algebraic expressions (the value of the variables is what you get on the dice!) to move on the board game.



Duck, dip, dive... and DODGE! The middle school girls outsmarted female faculty in a friendly match of Dodgeball during the last week of school.



Students wrapped up their unit on measures of central tendency and graphing with a fun and colorful Fruit Loops math activity! They sorted, counted, and graphed the different colors of Fruit Loops, then used their data to calculate the mean, median, mode, and range. It was a sweet and engaging way to apply their math skills and end the unit on a high note!

22 Spotlight by Grade



As part of the **Mitzvah of the Month** program, middle schoolers studied the mitzvah of Mezuzah, exploring its significance and requirements. Their learning journey concluded with the special moment of hanging mezuzahs in the new building. This hands-on experience brought their studies to life, reinforcing the importance of this meaningful mitzvah.

Middle School



7th graders completed their 100th minute in math!!! Minutes (daily warmups) were completed at the beginning of every class and played a crucial role in the development of students' confidence and abilities. They celebrated with a minute party filled with yummy treats! A big thank you to **Ryan Jacobs and the Jacobs family** for sponsoring the pizza!



Students who participated in the **Sunday Morning Learning Program** were treated to a **Marlins** baseball game in April.



The web we weave: 6th graders played a "web" game and learned about proper speech and the power of words.



To kick off their 8th grade Shabbaton, students enjoyed a fun-filled game of Panoply, bringing energy and excitement to the event. Adding to the festivities, the boys eagerly signed up to compete in a cholent cook-off, showcasing their creativity and teamwork in preparing the classic dish. The event set the stage for a memorable and engaging Shabbaton experience.



Mrs. Feder welcomed the 8th grade girls to her home to bake challah and make centerpieces in advance of their February Shabbaton.

2024-2025 ATHLETES OF THE YEAR



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



EVAN LEVONTIN ~ PERRI KRAWATSKY

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GO, LIONS!



"This year was very successful as both teams made it into the playoffs, which was a big accomplishment. Overall, everyone had fun and learned new skills each time we practiced or had a match." – **Coach Karen**



"The first-ever boys volleyball team proved to be tough competitors. Their skills improved with every practice, learning the game and gaining confidence. They have set the stage for the successful future of boys volleyball at KHDS! Go Lions!"
– **Coach Alan Krull and Coach Steve Nazaire**



"Congratulations to the Lady Lions on winning the first-ever flag football championship. Words cannot describe this amazing TEAM and their undefeated season which was accomplished by hard work, love, unity, and so much more. Our victory in the championship game against **Renaissance Pembroke Pines** was well-deserved and the trophy is proudly displayed in the gymnasium lobby."
– **Coach Shawn & Coach Dylan**



"Remember that soccer is more than just a game—it's about teamwork, perseverance, and growth. I'm proud of each of you for the hard work, passion, and improvement you showed. Keep playing with heart, and never stop striving to be better, both on and off the field!"
– **Coach Panda**



"The team enjoyed a successful developmental season, showing steady improvement with each game. Their progress was evident even when facing some of the strongest teams in the league. With a roster made up mostly of 4th graders, the future looks bright—especially as the 5th graders prepare to transition to the middle school team next year." – **Coach Kos**

24 Holiday Happenings



Students created fruit trees for Tu B'Shevat.



A special Tu B'Shevat-themed **Middle School Monday** project brought middle school and early childhood students together.



Tu B'Shevat celebrations were rooted in joy!



1st grade took a Tu B'Shevat field trip to **Bedner's Farm** to get a better appreciation of the miracles of vegetation. This was a great addition to their Brachot unit.



3rd and 4th graders learned about Tu B'Shevat and enjoyed a fun Kahoot to celebrate and reinforce their learning!



4th graders applied an Origametry lesson to the holiday by using what they learned about in geometry to make Origami flowers, while 5th graders focused on the quadrilateral hierarchy and also discussed how trees are like people.



Students welcomed the month of Adar during a special Rosh Chodesh Oneg.



The red carpet was rolled out to welcome Adar!



The B'not Sherut did an incredible job transforming the halls of the **Teddy & Linda Struhl Elementary School** into the story of the Megillah.



Kindergarten students visited our neighbors at **Sinai Residences** to bring Purim cheer.



Themed dress-up days and a carnival were part of KHDS' Purim programs.



During **Middle School Monday**, middle school and early childhood students worked together to decorate Mishloach Manot packages.

26 Holiday Happenings



PESACH



Middle school students enjoyed a meaningful **Preparing for Pesach** event, where our Judaics staff shared insightful Divrei Torah and lessons on the Pesach Seder. These valuable teachings helped students enhance their understanding of the holiday and inspired ideas to share with their families over the Chag.



Torah was in the air as middle school students and their parents participated in the **Pre-Pesach Parent-Child Learning Program** in preparation for the Chag.





Yom HaShoah

A special memorial program was held in commemoration of Yom HaShoah.



Students in grades 5–8 took part in a meaningful Yom HaShoah program thoughtfully organized by **Mrs. Ellie Troy**. The program featured powerful presentations from 8th graders involved in the **Names, Not Numbers®** project, as well as moving personal stories from students who are descendants of Holocaust survivors. The event concluded with inspiring words of Torah and strength from **Rabbi Mirzeoff**, followed by a heartfelt song of unity.

Yom HaZikaron



KHDS observed Israel's national day of remembrance and mourning for the fallen soldiers and victims of terrorism. During the middle school assembly, 8th graders shared stories of soldiers and citizens who lost their lives defending the State of Israel. The lower school assembly led by, **Morah Hadassah**, also paid tribute to all who perished during the wars.

Thank you to **Simone Jacobs** for making the beautiful Yahrzeit candle display.



In an electrifying showdown between the KHDS staff and the 8th grade boys, the gym was buzzing with energy as the entire middle school and 5th grade students cheered on their teams. The basketball game, held in celebration of Lag BaOmer, was filled with impressive plays, teamwork, and a lot of heart from both sides. In the end, the teachers came out on top with a hard-fought 35-23 victory, proving they've still got game!

Lag BaOmer



Students enjoyed marshmallows and festive stickers given out by the B'not Sherut in honor of Lag BaOmer.



Students celebrated Lag BaOmer with a special story during Oneg and made Fruit Loop friendship bracelets inspired by one of the beautiful themes of Sefirah that reminds us of the importance of unity and friendship.

Shavuot



In EC art sensory, students explored the work of **Claude Monet**, drawing inspiration from one of his favorite subjects—flowers—as they created their own beautiful interpretations.



In honor of Shavuot, 4th graders brought their Hebrew lesson to life by following a no-bake cheesecake recipe—entirely in Hebrew.

28 Holiday Happenings



Happy 77th, Israel! KHDS celebrated Yom Ha'atzmaut on May 1st. A special assembly was held, followed by Israel-themed activities, the 5th grade Daglanut (flag dance) performance choreographed by the B'not Sherut, and a special lunch.



During **Middle School Monday**, middle school and EC2-K students collaborated to create Israeli flags for Yom Ha'atzmaut.



Students visited the "Kotel" as part of the Yom Ha'atzmaut special programming.



3rd and 4th graders twisted and folded paper to create the Magen David.



Students gathered for a spirited kumzitz filled with music and ruach.



Amy Tarlowe, Vice President/FRD Chair
Suzanne Rice, Director of Development



Financial Resource Development



DONATE

We would like to take this opportunity to thank those who have made KHDS a priority through a meaningful gift of tzedakah for the 2024-2025 school year. Did you know that our **Annual Campaign Scholarship Fund** is not funded at all by tuition fees and is funded completely by the **State of Florida**, the **Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County** scholarship funding, several revenue-generating programs, and gifts of tzedakah from our generous donors?

Throughout the year, there were many opportunities to support our amazing school—whether joining one of our **Major Gifts Societies**, securing an exclusive dedication as part of **Phase III of our Capital Campaign**, sponsoring a **Day of Learning**, entering our annual **Mega Raffle**, making a **designated gift** or **tribute donation**, participating in our **Chanukah Habayit & Tribute Evening**, or supporting our online **KIDS♥KHDS Campaign Closer**.

If you missed out or would still like to donate, simply scan the QR code above. Your support enables us to provide our students with the highest quality of Judaic and general studies education, a one-of-a-kind KHDS experience, and also provides needed scholarship assistance for the many families who cannot afford the full cost of a Jewish education.

We wish you a restful and rejuvenating summer and look forward to making next year even more successful. Mazal tov, **Class of 2025!**

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PHASE III GENEROUS DEDICATION SUPPORTERS

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Scan the QR code to see the dedication opportunities.



For more information on naming opportunities, contact the Development Office at 561-470-5000 ext. 225 or email suzanner@hilleldayschool.org.

KHDS gratefully recognizes the generosity of our MAJOR GIFTS SOCIETY members for the 2024-2025 school year.

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\$100,000
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Daniel & Rachel Rudensky

CHAI SOCIETY
\$18,000
(payable over 2 years)

Eli & Orli Cohen
Michael & Amy Tarlowe

MAIMONIDES SOCIETY
\$15,000
(payable over 3 years)

Bradley & Yitty Garden
Ben & Leah Ravae
Izzy & Chanie Yetnikoff



KATZ HILLEL DAY SCHOOL OF BOCA RATON
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Danny & Emely Aghion	Philip & Jennifer Landau
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Anonymous	Rabbi Samuel J. & Breindel Levine
Anonymous	Robert & Linda Levy
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Todd & Naomi Cohn	Gil & Lysee Stein
Rabbi Adam & Shira Englander	Ido & Gila Stern
David & Jennifer Epstein	Joshua & Stephanie Stern
Benjamin & Cara Freedman	Ted & Linda Struhl
Rabbi Simcha, z"l, & Anna Freedman	Teddy & Phyllis Struhl
Rabbi Efrem & Yacheved Goldberg	Hammy & Syd Tannenbaum
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Legacy Intent Received

30 PTA: Here to Help

End-Of-Year Celebration Honors Dedicated Leaders & Bids a Fond Farewell



On the evening of May 29th, guests gathered for the **PTA End-of-Year Celebration**, held al fresco on the PTA Patio. The event was a heartfelt tribute to the remarkable service and commitment of outgoing PTA Co-President **Naomi Katz** and outgoing board members **Liora Adler**, **Tamar Feld**, and **Margo Rosman**—all of whom are graduating their youngest child from KHDS this year.

The evening was thoughtfully planned by committee members **Jaime Feld**, **Rachel Fraiman**, **Alissa Kroll**, and **Na'ama Rosenberg**, who created a warm and festive atmosphere. Guests enjoyed a delicious buffet dinner, lively conversation, and a hands-on charm bracelet craft that added a creative touch to the celebration.

The formal program began with welcoming remarks from **Naomi Katz**, who then introduced **Yitty Garden**, co-chair of the **Guardians of Learning** initiative. Yitty spoke passionately about the lasting impact of this program, which she leads alongside longtime GOL program founder **Caroline Katz**.

Next, outgoing board members **Liora Adler**, **Tamar Feld**, and **Margo Rosman** were honored for their years of dedicated service. Each was presented with a personalized graduation cap and a special gift to commemorate their invaluable contributions to the PTA and KHDS community.

Anna Jacobs, PTA Co-President, then delivered a heartfelt tribute to **Naomi Katz**, acknowledging her leadership as PTA President (2023–2024), Co-President (2024–2025), and her long-standing role as a PTA board member over her family's 16-year journey at KHDS. Naomi was presented with a personalized graduation cap and a beautiful map of Israel with the bracha for the IDF—made by KHDS parent **Jackie Labovitz**—as a token of the PTA's deep appreciation.

The program concluded with Naomi addressing the guests and sharing reflections on her KHDS experience while expressing gratitude for the school community that has been such a meaningful part of her life.

A special thank you goes to **Danna Averbook** for personalizing the gifts, **Shlomi Cohen/iPictureMagnet** and **Suzanne Rice** for capturing the evening through photography, and the KHDS maintenance team for their behind-the-scenes support.



Scholastic Book Fair: The **Scholastic Book Fair**, held from March 17th–24th, was a fantastic success! Parents and students loved exploring the vibrant selection of books, posters, and more. A special highlight was the “EC Story Time” on Sunday, where **Morah Cara** and **Morah Ivana** entertained the little ones with stories and yummy snacks. Huge thanks to our incredible Book Fair Committee—**Jennifer Berkowitz**, **Leya Hakim**, **Alissa Kroll**, **Leah Ravae**, and **Sarah Strobel**—for making it all run seamlessly. We're also grateful to the many volunteers and class readers who brought their energy and enthusiasm!



Mishloach Manot for Staff: To spread the joyful spirit of Adar, PTA gifted every KHDS staff member a beautiful Mishloach Manot package. A big thank you to **Abby Feferman**, **Jaime Feld**, **Danielle Frija**, **Stephanie Beneda**, **Sara Shulman**, and **Jennifer Romanoff** for curating and assembling the stunning packages.

Pre-Pesach Spring Boutique and Pop-Up: Our annual Pre-Pesach shopping event was a tremendous success! Dozens of vendors offered everything from jewelry and Judaica to books, clothing, and giftware. Guests enjoyed a unique shopping experience, complete with dinner and snacks from various food trucks. We're especially grateful to **Deena Frist** and **Leorah Marcus** for organizing such a fun and festive event. A huge thank you as well to all the volunteers who pitched in with setup, cleanup, and everything in between—your support was invaluable!

Pre-Pesach Pizza Lunch: On April 8th, PTA treated all students and staff to a delicious pizza lunch. Thank you to **Danna Averbook**, **Abby Feferman**, and **Alissa Kroll** for pulling it all together, and to the amazing volunteers who paused their Pesach prep to help serve!

Teacher Appreciation Week: TAW is always a highlight—a chance to shower our incredible teachers, support staff, maintenance crew, and administrators with love and gratitude. Every day was a special treat: gourmet breakfast, coffee and snack carts, **Jeremiah's** ices, and a delicious lunch from **Smash House Burger**. Sweet Shabbos treats closed out the week, along with relaxing massages and fun raffles. A huge thank you to **Jennifer Berkowitz**, **Jaime Feld**, **Danielle Frija**, and **Leah Ravae** for their creativity and dedication in organizing this unforgettable week. And of course, we're so grateful to the wonderful volunteers who helped us show just how much our teachers mean to us, as well as to all of the families who sponsored!



With Praise, Thanks & Admiration

❖ Our monthly **Teacher Appreciation Breakfasts** are always a highlight for our faculty! Kudos to this year's dedicated program co-chairs: **Deena Frist**, **Alissa Kroll**, and **Margo Rosman**.

❖ Thank you to **Rachel Fraiman** and **Na'ama Rosenberg** for keeping the **PTA Swag Shop** running smoothly all year long and thank you to **Deena Ganz**, **Alissa Kroll**, and **Chava Weisstuch** for opening the shop every Tuesday. The shop has moved to a new permanent location adjacent to the **PTA Patio**, just outside the **Loewenstern Cafetorium**—don't forget to check it out! Special thanks as well to **Rachel Sicherman** of **Tidy Made Easy** for meticulously organizing the new space.

❖ Don't forget that the **Lost & Found** is located on the west side of the **Loewenstern Cafetorium** in the breezeway. Thank you to **Danna Averbook** and **Avital Rosenberg** for organizing and overseeing this year.



Naomi Katz
PTA President 2023-24
PTA Co-President 2024-25

After 16 years at KHDS, the Katz family celebrates the graduation of their youngest, **Jacob**. We extend our warmest wishes and will truly miss their presence. Naomi, thank you for everything you have contributed to our school and community — your impact will be felt for years to come.

We offer our heartfelt gratitude and deep Praise, Thanks, and Appreciation to **Naomi Katz** for her exceptional leadership as PTA President over the past two school years.

Naomi's journey with the PTA began in 2011, and she joined the PTA Board in 2013. Since stepping into the role of President in 2023, she has devoted countless hours to enriching our school community through her dedication, creativity, and tireless effort.

During her tenure, Naomi spearheaded many beloved initiatives, including the grand opening

Guardians of Learning 2025

Thank you to **Caroline Katz** and **Yitty Garden** for co-chairing this year's **Guardians of Learning** campaign. The KHDS PTA has been hard at work to fund and support incredible initiatives to enhance the educational, extra-curricular and daily lives of our students and devoted staff.

PTA has consistently played a strong role in all areas of the KHDS community, from providing big-ticket items such as the Mac Lab, VR headsets, sunshades for the pool and field, electronic scoreboard, the **SATA-PTA Pool**, and the new **PTA Patio**.

Additionally, PTA's presence is felt weekly with initiatives including challot for early childhood on Shabbat, holiday treats, well-deserved Teacher Appreciation initiatives, the **Swag Shoppe**, and milestone gifts for Bar/Bat Mitzvot and graduations. Throughout the years, PTA has been able to invest over \$500,000 to enrich our children's experience at KHDS.

We thank those who have made a commitment to support our most lucrative and essential fundraising program for 2025. The **Guardians of Learning** are the women around whom we rally and applaud for their annual contribution of \$360 — money that is put to work to benefit all of our students and staff at KHDS.

Leslie Abady
Liora Adler
Danna Averbock
Gwenn Baer
Jennifer Berkowitz
Shelly Bloom
Orlie Cohen
Michele Dimont
Julie Ehrlich
Sandra Veszi Einhorn
Dvorah Eisen
Chelsea Eitani
Jaime Feld
Nicole Feldman
Traci Feldman
Rachel Fraiman
Jamie Frank
Cara Freedman
Danielle Frijia
Deena Frist
Dina Ganz
Helen Garden
Yitty Garden
Lauren Glaun
Basheva Goldberg
Caroline Goldstein
Lilly Gontownik
Joanna Gorlin
Laura Greenbaum
Naomi Gross
Rachel Harow
Sarah Hirth
Anna Jacobs
Caroline Katz

Hannah Katz
Naomi Katz
Sharon Kay
Alla Kesler
Hudi Krasna
Judi Krasna
Jacqueline Labovitz
Rina Lanner
Danielle Lazoff
Sara Levine
Linda Levy
Melissa Lovy
Leorah Marcus
Tzvia Orbach
Carol Peer
Leah Ravvae
Juliana Rosenblat
Dana Schechter
Rivka Schlager
Linda Schwartz
Mor Shapiro
Naomi Shapiro
Young Mi Skehen
Hadassah Smolarcik
Lysee Stein
Nancy Stone
Linda Struhl
Robin Struhl
Amy Tarlowe
Edna Tokayer
Marisa Weg-Chametsky
Chava Weisstuch
Rachel Wolk
Chanie Yetnikoff



To my KHDS Family,

It's hard to believe that my time here has come to a close. As my youngest graduates, my family and I prepare to move on from a place that has been our home for so many years — a place that has given us so much more than just an education. I am truly grateful for everything I've learned and experienced throughout my time at

KHDS, especially these last two years as PTA President. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve a community I love so deeply.

Along the way, I've had the joy of meeting so many incredible people, and I've had the distinct pleasure of working with a PTA Board that has been nothing short of extraordinary. These women have been the secret to any success I've had — their passion, dedication, and determination have inspired me every day. Without them, none of it would have been possible. I hope more parents will choose to get involved and join these powerhouse women who truly can accomplish anything they set their minds to.

To the amazing teachers, staff, and administrators — thank you for your constant support of PTA. Because of you, we were able to dream big and get it done — together.

*And finally, I want to give a special shoutout to **Anna Jacobs**, who has been working hard behind the scenes, learning the ropes and preparing to take over the reins. I have full confidence in her and know she will lead with strength, creativity, and heart. Great things are ahead, and I fully expect PTA to be better than ever.*

Thank you for 16 unforgettable years. KHDS will always be part of who I am.

*With love and gratitude,
Naomi Katz*

**Mazal Tov to
Anna Jacobs**



**2025-26
Incoming
PTA President**

*As we are about to close the books on the 24-25 school year, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt and sincere gratitude to **Naomi Katz** for exemplifying leadership and showing me the ropes. I am honored to serve alongside such a dedicated group of families, educators, and staff committed to the success and well-being of our students. It is with great enthusiasm that I look ahead to the upcoming school year and the opportunity to serve as your PTA President. The year ahead presents new opportunities to strengthen partnerships, foster academic excellence, and enhance the educational environment through collaborative efforts. Your engagement—whether through volunteering, attending events, or sharing ideas—is vital to our collective success. Together, we can continue to achieve meaningful goals and leave a lasting impact on our school community. I look forward to a productive, enriching, and inspiring year for all. Wishing you a restful and joyful summer.*

To get involved in PTA, email us at khdspata@hilleldayschool.org.



KHDS EXTENDS A BITTERSWEET FAREWELL TO OUR GRADUATING FAMILIES AND A SPECIAL SHOUT-OUT TO OUR LONG-TIME GRADUATING FAMILIES (12 YEARS+):

ADLER 21 YEARS
BELIZON 17 YEARS
BENZAQUEN
BICHACHI
BIERMAN
DEICHMAN 17 YEARS
FELD (YOSSI & TAMAR)
FRIDMAN
FRIED

GANZ (ELIE/BATSHEVA KAISER-GANZ)
HAIBI

HAIK 12 YEARS
KATZ (ELIOTT & NAOMI) 16 YEARS
KRAWATSKY 17 YEARS
LEVONTIN 15 YEARS

LYNN
MEYERS
RACKMAN 13 YEARS
ROSMAN
SHULKES
SICHERMAN
SLESINGER
VERBITSKY
YABLON
ZUSSMAN

AS WELL AS TO OUR FAMILIES MAKING ALIYAH!

BAR CHAIM
BROIDE 25 YEARS
SHARMA



Thank you to our amazing
B'not Sherut,
Roni and Tsaahala!
WE ALREADY MISS YOU!



WITH GRATITUDE



A very special thank you to **Caroline Katz**, who once again photographed Kindergarten and 8th grade students for their graduation portraits. Year after year, Caroline's beautiful photography is used for the Yearbook and milestone graduations. Thank you, **Mrs. Katz!**

We are deeply grateful to **Yaffi Wexler** for dedicating her time to compiling the 'PTA Pages' in each *Hillel Herald* and for her invaluable help with editing the *Hillel Herald*, the *Weekly Shavuon*, and other school communications each year.

KIDS



KHDS



@KHDSCHOOLEXPERIENCE

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:
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