

NEW YORK • NEW JERSEY • FLORIDA

JEWISH IMAGE™

The Largest Monthly Jewish Family Magazine **January 2007**

Chief Rabbi Saul Kassin Visits The Sephardic Nursing Home

Medical

The Lena Cymbrowitz Pavillion at Maimonides

Sephardic Community Health Resource Guide

Lifestyle Change: A Must For Losing Weight and Keeping It Off

Get Ready For Mid Winter Vacation

HILLEL YESHIVA
SHAUL AND MIRIAM TAWIL
HIGH SCHOOL



THE JACK & GRACE CAYRE BUILDING

Hillel Is Soaring Higher

Dr. Ruth Katz
Head of School, ELC, Elementary & Middle School

Rabbi Howard Bald
Head of School, High School



The Word is Out: Hillel is Soaring Higher

Take a walk, any day, through Hillel Yeshiva and you will discover new energy. The classrooms are alive with spirited discussion about everything from Torah to presidential elections. The High School students are conducting online research, using a state-of-the-art wireless system. Middle School students are engrossed in science experiments in their brand new laboratory facilities. Elementary School students are enjoying reading books in their new in-class libraries. In the Early Learning Center, Hillel's youngest students are painting, singing and loving coming to school.

Sammy Saka, President of Hillel, states, "We strive for our students to be prepared for higher education while being respectful, thoughtful and active members of our community." For over 50 years, Hillel Yeshiva has built a strong reputation for providing a solid education and instilling Torah values within its students' hearts and minds. Today, however, it has renewed its commitment to preparing students for personal and professional success, exciting new programs. With the highest enrollment in years, Hillel Yeshiva is grabbing the attention of parents and the entire community. They are spreading the word: "Hillel is soaring higher."

This year, stimulating new activities have been introduced and successful programs have been enhanced to provide students with even more opportunities to explore, learn, and rise to become the future leaders of the Jewish community. Hillel Yeshiva is filled with examples of re-focused attention to the needs of individual students, an upgraded curriculum, a strong collaboration among students, faculty, administrators and parents, and a reinvigorated, dedicated teaching staff.

High School

Rabbi Howard Bald, Head of the High School, is quick to praise Hillel's prior success as he anticipates a vibrant future. "We are a true community school that recognizes the strengths, interests and talents of

our diverse students. It is exciting to see how recent changes to the curriculum strengthen that commitment and help our students learn and grow."

The High School faculty recognizes that their students learn on many different levels. A support team, with learning specialists and counselors, work with the faculty to develop strategies for addressing the learning style of each student. Every High School subject in every grade, both general and Judaic studies, is now offered in three sections: high honors, honors and regular. There is a wide selection of Advanced Placement (AP) courses, as well as new courses in science for all students.

An exciting innovation to the High



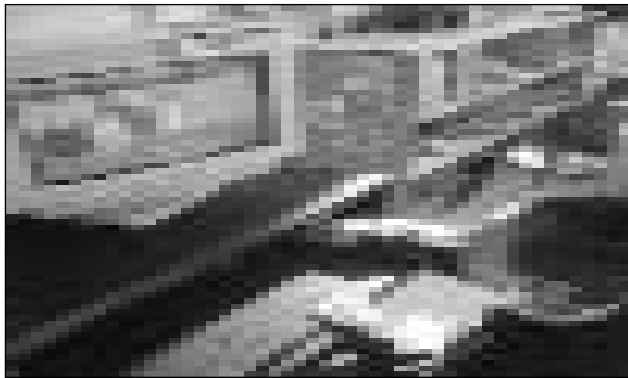
School program is its Business Academy. This two-year program, which begins in a student's junior year, facilitates classroom interaction and provides real work experiences. An introductory class covers economic theories and systems, business practices and technology. The second year course aids students in planning for enrollment in post-secondary business programs. The Business Academy is augmented by an after-school laboratory component. During the first year, students have the opportunity to put theory into practice in a workshop environment. In the second year, students have an opportunity to intern

Continued on page 2

The Word is Out...

at local businesses. The beauty of the program is its infusion with Jewish values. Ethics/Halakha components enable students to study important texts and concepts with Rabbinic leaders and Hillel's Judaic studies staff. This helps them learn how to navigate the complex world of business, according to the Torah.

Other programs that take place outside the classroom, such as the Freshman Immersion program and Shabbaton, have been enhanced. The Freshman



Immersion program allows students, faculty and senior class mentors, to leave the campus for a morning filled with informal sessions that address practical topics such as stress and anxiety, peer pressure and day-to-day responsibilities. The morning ends with lunch followed by fun activities. The annual High School seminar run by Rabbi David Zeit, Director of Student Life, is a popular and intense Shabbaton experience of learning, prayer and enjoyable activities for the entire High School student body, their families and the faculty.

Technology has recently become a huge part of the High School students' education. A new mobile lab cart holds twenty-two laptops. Teachers are now able to introduce lessons to their class using PowerPoint, on a regular basis. They can also share valuable math and science software with their students. Hillel's college admission process has also been adjusted to begin in a student's ninth grade year. At an introductory session, parents are informed of the necessary steps to plan and prepare for their children's college education.

Over a hundred Hillel High School students participate in organized Chesed projects throughout the year. Visiting senior citizens, stocking a community food pantry, and Erev Shabbat Challah deliveries are just a few of the acts of kindness that are facilitated through the renowned Sephardic Bikur Holim organization. Hillel students volunteer their time in the Yachad program for disabled teens and adults.

Rabbi Bald is excited by the increasing number of seniors that are expressing an interest in attending yeshivot and institutions in Israel after graduation. He

notes, "We encourage this experience. Students return better prepared and more mature. Their enhanced sense of ethics and values make them more successful in life." We are proud of Hillel's Early Decision students who have been accepted at Columbia, Barnard, NYU, Brandeis, Rutgers and SUNY-Binghamton. In addition to these acceptances, three Hillel students have been awarded the Edward J. Blaustein-State of New Jersey Scholarship Award.

Elementary/Middle School

Dr. Ruth Katz, Head of the Early Learning Center (ELC), Elementary and Middle School, notes, "We are preparing our students for success. We want them to feel good about themselves and develop good character. Hillel gives them both a Torah-based value system and the skills necessary for personal development and academic achievement."

The acclaimed 'differentiated instruction' approach has permeated Hillel's Elementary and Middle School, by recognizing that each child has unique skills, levels of interest and ways for successful learning. Hillel's teachers identify strategies and work as a team. With additional collaborative teachers and counselors, each student thrives in the classroom.

This balanced approach is reflected, for example, in the new "Reader Writer Workshop." Walking into this type of classroom looks and feels different than a traditional classroom setting. Rather than sitting at their desks and working on the same assignment, students are engaged in a variety of activities, appropriate for their learning level. Some are writing stories with the assistance of teachers, others are reading independently, while others are reading aloud to each other in pairs. All children are supervised by a team of dedicated teachers. This style of teaching is designed to match the individual learning style of all students.

In the seventh and eighth grade Beit Midrash Gemarah class, boys work in pairs, assisting each other in learning. "This cooperative learning helps them understand and practice the valuable concepts of shared responsibility and looking out for each other," notes Rabbi Saul Kassin, Rabbinic Halachic Authority and Curriculum Coordinator of Judaic Studies for the Elementary and Middle School.

In recognizing that students have diverse interests, Hillel has introduced a Club Program for its fourth and fifth grade students. Students can select from among dozens of clubs in which to participate, from art, cooking and dance, to computers, chess, and sports. Children in the Makhela choir club have performed throughout the community, including the New Jersey Monmouth Mall. The Israeli dance club has performed at assemblies and at the annual Salute to Israel Parade on Fifth

Continued on page 3

The Word is Out...

Avenue in New York City.

The new Lunch and Learn program gives students additional opportunities for advanced study. It allows qualified students to conduct independent research on social studies topics that they are learning in class. Also, any students who need extra support can get aid from teachers in a math or reading clinic.

Another group program that the sixth grade girls are enjoying is the enhanced Bat Mitzvah program. The highlight of the experience is the spring dinner, at which the girls present the product of this year-long exploration of famous women. These women range from matriarchs of the Tanach to the women within their own families, like their mothers and grandmothers. The girls also collect money to donate to the charity of their



choice. This year's class will make a contribution to Project Tikva, which helps Israeli families who have been victims of terrorism.

Hillel Yeshiva students also reach out to people beyond their immediate Hillel family. To carry out this school's theme for the year, *Achenu Kol Bet Yisrael*, (We are All Brothers in Israel), girls in the Bat Mitzvah program are writing to High School girls in Israel. They exchange letters and stories and learn about each other's cultures. The fourth and fifth grade Chesed Club visits seniors at the JCC's Young at Heart program. The sixth grade boys decorated the Succah at one of our local community synagogues. Lastly, the eighth grade students welcomed children with special needs to the Deal area by participating with them in a Yachad Shabbaton.

Additional new activities promote Hillel's balanced approach to learning. Throughout Health and Safety Week, students learn about health by studying nutrition and the human body in science classes. The third and fourth grade students are enjoying the new 3H Club, a weekly afterschool activity in which they do Homework, enjoy Healthy snacks, and participate in Healthy physi-

cal activity, as well as a weekly dose of Hashkafa, a brief lesson illustrating an important Torah value.

Other innovative programs have been introduced. The new science curriculum, in accordance with the standards of the New Jersey core curriculum, is being offered to the first through eighth grades. Dr. Jeffrey Ozinitsky, Science Coordinator says, "Students cannot wait to get into the lab, where the science comes alive with hands-on visual demonstrations that correlate to their classroom learning." In addition, the new Media/Video Conferencing Technology Center, with over \$17,000 of equipment, was donated by Yeshiva University's Center for the Jewish Future for Students/Teacher Learning. "We can now bring the best and brightest educators from around the world to Hillel Yeshiva," says Rabbi Tzvi Pittinsky, Director of Technology and Professional Development.

Dr. Ruth Katz is proud to say that at Hillel Yeshiva, we are a community of learners, where all members of the community, that is, faculty, students and parents, are engaged in learning and practicing "twenty-first century" progressive education.

Early Learning Center



Upon entering Hillel Yeshiva's Early Learning Center, one is immediately impressed by the vitality that it exudes. Hillel ELC's small class sizes and incredibly low teacher to student ratio allow its staff to focus upon each child and how he/she is growing and learning. The program is vibrant and stimulating, because its state certified teachers are active learners applying cutting edge research within their classrooms each day. In addition to maintaining a strong affiliation with JECA, the Jewish Early Childhood Association of the BJE, Hillel Yeshiva's staff members integrate the philosophies and methods of acclaimed educators Dr. Stanley Greenspan, Dr. Mel Levine, Lillian Katz, Julie Ross and Bev Bos to create a most unique and progressive program. "Open ended art" is just one of the many oppor-

Continued on page 4

The Word is Out...

tunities children are given to express themselves creatively. Emphasis is placed on the skills and joy a child gleans during the 'process' rather than the superficial beauty of the finished 'product.' Teachers follow the children's lead, allowing them to think, experiment and discover on their own. 'Cookie-cutter' education does not exist at Hillel. Hands-on, experiential learning (learning by experiencing) is the hallmark of this program.

ELC students are motivated and invigorated within bright, colorful and fully equipped classrooms. A brand new 4,800 square foot playground, made possible by Marilyn and Joe Chira, allows children to run, play and exercise in all weather conditions. The newly designed Parenting Center occupies a prominent area in the core of the ELC Wing. Mommy and Me classes meet four times a week for enjoyable music, movement and library programs. "Parents and children love the experience," exclaims participant, Mrs. Barbara Ades. "Morah Gila has created a hands-on program that is just amazing! Lauren is having the time of her life. She can play on her own or follow the program. It's her choice." Parents are an integral part of the Early Learning Center experience, through daily communication as well as on-going "Read Aloud" programs and "Alphabet Guest" presenters. Even grandparents get involved, as they attend special interactive events such as PreK Grandparent/Guest Day, Kindergarten Buddy Breakfast Day, Nursery Shabbat Program, and more.

Mrs. Ruchie Czermak, ELC director, is quick to explain the school's formula for success, "Our students delight in their accomplishments, while flourishing in an atmosphere where they feel loved, nurtured and fulfilled. The incomparable professionalism of our staff, their commitment, love and caring, has earned our ELC a sterling reputation."

Why is Hillel Yeshiva so special? Rabbi Bald offers an insightful response, "We teach in a way that touches the souls of our students, so that the important choices that they make in their lives, in their professions, communities and with their families, are always shaped by Jewish values."

The action and spirit behind those words, combined with the strength of a fifty year old foundation, have raised Hillel Yeshiva to a new level of commitment to "Jewish Heritage and Academic Achievement." With the help of Hashem, Hillel's new generation will indeed, 'soar higher' than ever.

To learn more about Hillel Yeshiva, visit us at www.hillelyeshiva.org. □