

Hillel Yeshiva Responds To Jersey Shore Community Crisis

When a community yeshiva on the Jersey shore was forced to close mid-year, parents of children attending the school were left wondering how their children would manage. What could have been a traumatic event for the families affected by this unfortunate situation in the middle of the school year was responded to by Hillel Yeshiva's "Operation *Achenu Kol Beit Yisrael*" ("we are all connected").

Distraught parents, anxious to see their children settled in a nurturing environment which shared their commitment to educational excellence and Torah values, turned towards Hillel Yeshiva.



The response by Hillel Yeshiva was immediate. In an effort to expedite the process of admission, members of the Educational Support Team, the administration, and the lay leadership of Hillel worked diligently throughout the intersession week to interview and profile each of the student applicants. The information generated by their evaluations, interviews, and recommendations for admission, served as the blueprint for making sure that each student was positioned for academic and social success. "Words at times do not embody the full sentiment deserving of such a superb effort by the Hillel administration," said a Torah Academy parent.

On the first day of the new semester, Hillel Yeshiva students and faculty greeted



90 new students from early childhood age through the eighth grade. Toddlers, just three and four years old, were escorted to their newly configured and constructed classrooms in the Early Child-Hood Division where their *Morot* already knew their names and something special about each one of them. Class lists, room assignments, schedules, textbooks and educational materials were all in place. Grade level assemblies were held on that special day in order to introduce the new students to all of their classmates.



At the Big Brother/Big Sister Breakfast, new students were paired with an eighth grader who accompanied them to the elementary school lunchroom. Spirited songs of greeting as well as smiles on the faces of the students and faculty made it obvious that "Operation *Achenu Kol Beit Yisrael*"

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was a success in practice as well as in theory! At the end of the first week of the transition, special *Erev Tu B'Shavvat* baskets, sponsored by the PTA, were delivered to the homes of each of the new members of the "Hillel Yeshiva Family!"



The ten day whirlwind of "Operation *Achenu Kol Beit Israel*" concluded in a dessert reception hosted by the PTA of Hillel Yeshiva. Dr. Gayle Krost, Chairperson of the Hillel Yeshiva Board of Education, welcomed the new parents to the school. Her welcome was followed by a collaborative presentation of extra curricular events and special initiatives within the school which included an overview of the values which are advocated by Hillel Yeshiva. The program concluded with a photo clip of the new students during the first week in their new school.



We welcome our new families and wish their children much success in Hillel for years to come. "I would like to commend the board and administration of Hillel for a job well executed on the transition of students from Torah Academy," said Nathan Shamosh. □