
HILLEL'S CONNECTION TO THE COMMUNITY!

IN THIS ISSUE

A Letter from Our Head of School, Allison Oakes

Meet our Kindergarten Teachers

Our 2021-2022 Application is Open!

Tuition Affordability Programs

Images from Kindergarten

Gratitude

A Message From Hillel's Board of Trustees

HILLEL ACADEMY KESHER

HILLEL'S CONNECTION TO THE COMMUNITY!

DECEMBER THOUGHTS

A LETTER FROM HEAD OF SCHOOL,
ALLISON OAKES

Do you remember your Kindergarten teacher? I do! Her name was Ms. Pearl and because I also went to a Jewish day school, my Hebrew teacher was Morah Yehudit. Now, Kindergarten was a very long time ago, but this important school year is often remembered by many. Why? Because, on pretty much the first day a kid is born, parents start thinking about where their child will go for Kindergarten and talk and talk and talk about Kindergarten for the next five years until their child walks through their first elementary school door.



It is the transition that takes our little babies from toddler/little kidhood into big kidhood where often the practice of holding their hand and walking them into their classroom ceases and we drop them at the bus stop or school carline. We launch them into the world of schooling where many will be for the next 17, 20, 25 years dependent upon the educational path they choose.

Therefore, choosing which Kindergarten a child will attend is a big decision! This is their first taste of “real” school and where academic, social, and emotional success may set the stage and the foundation for what comes next. At Hillel Academy, we say our Kindergarten is a **magical** place. Our kids are appropriately challenged for their individual academic needs such as providing the right tools for kids that are already reading and those that are just starting to read. They are in an environment where they are nurtured, cared for, and loved for the little human beings they are. Most importantly, they begin their development of mature social connections, guided by educators who are committed to Chesed, kindness. And, finally, unique to Hillel Academy, is an integration of Hebrew and Jewish study, celebration, and life! There are very few places in our area that offer a 2nd language to such small children and at a time when their brains are poised for expansion.

Permit me the opportunity to sit with you, virtually this year, and share the magic of a Hillel Academy Kindergarten and school experience and education like no other!

Meet Our Kindergarten Teachers



Maritza Patet

Maritza has not only been a teacher at Hillel since 2003, but is also our Primary Division Director. She received her BA in Elementary and Special Education from Tabor College. Maritza previously worked at TGH Psychiatry Center in their Center School for inpatient children, where she received specialized training in the ADHD clinic. She also worked at Bowman Academy, where she received training through Lindamood Bell in their reading curriculum.

Her desire for each child to be successful has been the driving force in her classroom. Kindergarten is often "abuzz" with exciting units of study, hands-on activities, singing, student directed sharing and teaching, and a community atmosphere. Kindergarten is truly the place to be!



Angela Alman

This is Angela's first year at Hillel and we cannot feel more lucky to have her join us! Before moving to Florida, she worked as a School Age Care Coordinator for twenty years. She worked with students before and after school, half days with Kindergarten, on all non-school days, and for full summer programs. She enjoyed building social and academic skills through activities, projects, field trips, family events, and more! Angela then worked as a reading and math tutor at a school in Bradenton. Before Hillel, Angela worked at two Charter schools.

Angela believes that all students, all individuals, are great at something! She loves helping students discover their interests, talents, and greatness. She encourages students to try, even when it is difficult!

The 2021-2022 application is now open!

Ages 1 year old - 8th Grade



Interested in learning more about Hillel Academy?
Join us for a virtual tour!

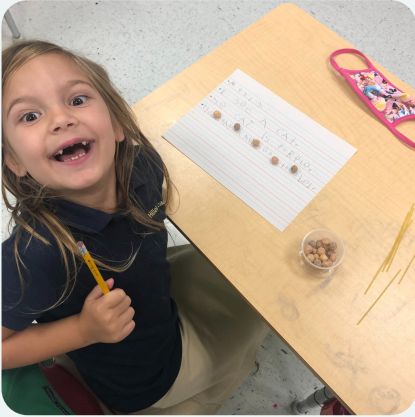
Email advancement@hillelacademytampa.com for more
information

Tuition Affordability Programs

Have you wanted to join the Hillel family but are unsure about the financial commitment? Hillel is committed to providing a quality, affordable private education for all families who wish to access it. In addition to our ongoing Variable Tuition program, Hillel offers a brand new Tuition Incentive Program (TIP). See below for details! However, the first step is meeting with our Head of School and Advancement Director to see how a Hillel education prepares your child for his/her future.

Tuition Affordability at Hillel	
Tuition Incentive Program	Variable Tuition
No application fee	\$35 application fee
Aimed at families with an AGI of \$150-\$300k	Application through FACTS, a third party processor
Easy google form	All supporting documentation required
Less documentation required	More flexibility in terms of how much tuition credit is offered
Can qualify for a credit of up to \$5k per student	

Images from the Kindergarten



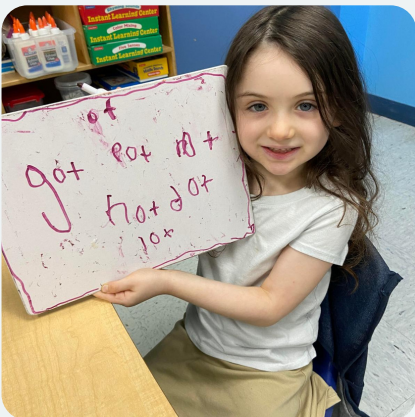
Practicing writing
with "spaghetti and
meatballs"



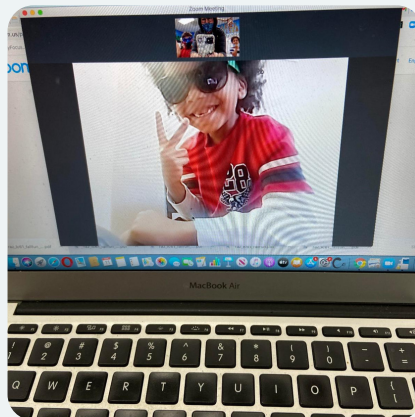
Observing color
changes



Practicing ordering
numbers to 50



Practicing word
families



Virtual learning in
action



Science with
pumpkins

Gratitude

The following people made donations to the Hillel Fund in
October & November:

Miriam Zack, in honor of Dr. Albert & Judith Tawil
Laurence Taylor

The Kattan Family, in honor of Zara's birthday
Joyce Karpay

Herman Forbes Charitable Trust



Hillel Academy is proud to be a
beneficiary agency of Tampa Jewish
Community Centers and Federation.



Happy Chanukah

from Hillel Academy



A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Giving Thanks! What does that truly mean as we end a year like this one? How do we give thanks when this year was such a challenge? When so many people have had their own personal challenges these past 9 months? When I haven't hugged my 80-year old Dad since March 7th? My kids haven't been able to go to hug their grandma?

When I start going down that rabbit hole, I think about the Heros in our lives! The first responders, doctors, nurses and OUR TEACHERS!!!! Since we opened the new school year on August 12, I have been so Thankful of all their hard work and dedication to teaching differently, but still exceptionally during these difficult times. Thank you for teaching every day so our kids can learn and grow! No matter if they are in person, or virtually!

So, what role does the Board of Trustees have in supporting our wonderful teachers and staff? The Board of Trustees provides:

Direction: We support the mission and work with administration to steer it in the right direction, Drafts and/or approves broad policies, Has one employee (Allison), who runs the daily operations of Hillel with her teachers and staff.

Oversight: Adopts an overall strategic mindset and approach. Annually evaluates the performance of our Head of School.

Resources: Holds fiduciary responsibility for Hillel Academy. Sets fiscal policies, approves an annual budget.

But, it isn't all work and no play on the Board. We also provide monthly Board Treats for the teachers as well as making sure they have a steady supply of Dunkin Donuts and Coffee! Some Board members have dressed up to make delivering a personal treat to each teacher special. We just had Dr. Fauci visit the teachers! Unfortunately, the couldn't bring a vaccine with him. Maybe in the spring!



As we say Good Bye to 2020 and hope we don't have another year like this past one, I personally want to say Thank You to all our families who trust Hillel Academy. We are more than a school, we are community. Have a wonderful New Year!!!!
