

THE HEBREW ACADEMY TIMES

HATS OFF TO OUR COMMUNITIES!
Term 1 of the 2023-2024 School Year

***A Newspaper FOR THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE of
Hebrew Academy of Tampa Bay***

We ROAR with LION PRIDE!



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Letter from the Editor

Ms. Stacy

Hebrew Academy of Tampa Bay is filled with such a brilliant composition of people and each one of them is filled with a level of dedication that has impressed this editor. Joining a new school culture is quite an adjustment for all new students; and their teachers as well. However, adding HATB to my life has been one of the easiest transitions primarily because of the amazing hearts that make this school what it already was before the school year began. It's easy to say choosing to join this team has been one of the best decisions I've ever made and I think each person interviewed for this edition of The Hebrew Academy Times will agree.

I'm sure it comes as no surprise that new journeys also bring a few puddles to jump. The Hebrew Academy Times has been one of those puddles. I am here to tell you the students absolutely love working on The HAT and are eager to put more issues out to our school families as the year progresses. Time passess quickly when the journey is new and there is so much to take in.

We are pleased to put into your hands our first published HAT of the year and hope you enjoy meeting the new faces we have learned to love. Hebrew Academy is blessed to have each of you and all of our new friends.

Introducing Mrs. Jordana

By Maya Sasser



I think Morah Jordana is a very kind person, super funny and I think you should get to know her. Did you know that she has always wanted to be a princess with a ton of magnificent jewels.? Something that I find interesting is that Morah Jordana's favorite color is a royal color. It is purple.! Morah Jordana chose to teach at Hebrew Academy because her kids attend our school and they love it here. So that is the reason she decided to teach at Hebrew Academy.

Moprah Jordana's favorite subject to teach is Reading. There are many things about Morah Jordana's life that she would consider to be awesome. Her top six thoughts were:

- 1. She really really loves Disney World.*
- 2. She loves her family so much.*
- 3. Her son Harrison is going to be starting baseball soon, so she is really excited for that!*
- 4. She's happy because she bought her very own house!*
- 5. She really enjoys cooking and her family enjoys her food.*

The most important thing in her life is her family. Her husband and children are what make her the happiest of all. Another thing that makes her happy is Goofy from the show Mickey Mouse.

She thinks she can improve at being a better teacher for her students. Mrs Jordana would give herself the advice in the future to not let tiny things bother her. When asked what step she takes to be the best version of herself she stated, "I remember that no one can annoy you without your permission.

Mrs Jordana's favorite thing to do is play a video game and her favorite video game is Sim. She also likes to cook and her family loves her food, the food that she makes and she also enjoys doing it.

Her favorite types of books are historical fiction, because she loves reading about the "Regency Era". In five years she said she will see herself as principal of Hebrew Academy which think sounds very interesting.

The short summary of Mrs. Jordana's life tells the story of lots and lots of love for everyone, going to Disney World, and teaching wonderful students.

Did you know that in the year 2024 she will be married for ten whole years? Is it just me, or isn't that super exciting? I really enjoyed learning about our new teacher and I hope you did too!

Our Very Own Upper El Teacher, Ms.Stacy

By Avigayil Gondelman

I interviewed the new Upper Elementary teacher, Ms. Stacy, on 09/13 from 2:25 to 2:43. All of these answers are exactly what she told me.



Ms.Stacy's favorite color is orange. The movies she likes the best are those with a great plot and talented actors. She does not have any pets. The reason she came to this school is because she has a teaching mindset like Mrs. Dubrowski. The books she likes the most are the books that make her feel deeply. She was inspired to teach because she wanted to make a difference. The thing Ms. Stacy likes best about the Upper Elementary girls is their willing and helpful hearts. The one thing she could never leave is her love for her family. Life is full of improvements and Ms.Stacy does admit a need to consume less Coke Zero. I asked Ms.Stacy “Do you know any other languages besides English?” Ms.Stacy said Unfortunately, learning languages is not one of my natural talents. I have had the opportunity to study Spanish for many years without much success and I'm embarrassed to say that I only learned enough Mandarin to speak like a 1 year old child. Ms. Stacy gets upset when she comes in contact with rude people.

Before her teaching career, which began in 2007, she had another job working in accounting for several years. The town she taught in was where she taught English to Chinese students in Shanghai, China for 4 years before moving to Florida. Teaching in China was the best decision of her life. She learned so much about the amazing people there and felt loved and accepted by all. Ms. Stacy taught in Indiana for many years and China believe it or not.

She came to Florida to have a “Beach life, baby!” Her dream is to own a boat someday and explore the oceans. Something she wants to do with her life is to travel all over the world! She loves spending time with friends. Her goals are to have plenty of adventures and learn new things. Ms. Stacy is a very friendly person who had so many friends growing up that it's hard to count. Her best friend growing up was a girl named Jaime (which is how she spelled it).

In a nutshell, Ms. Stacy is just out there and if you have more things to ask me or Ms. Stacy, go ahead and ask!

The Great Morah Hilary

By Maggie Konigsberg

Morah Hilary is one of the new teachers at Hebrew Academy. She teaches Primary. Morah Hilary has 3 kids; 2 of which go to the school. Here's a list of things that make her smile: Maggie, Leah Batya, Yaakov Tzvi, her husband, Ruby, BeBe, Primary class, music, her sister, shopping, and reading. Speaking of reading, Morah Hilary's favorite book in the classroom is "The Rainbow Fish". As for food, her favorite food is spicy salmon sushi. Yum! Morah Hilary is also very good at cooking.

Morah Hilary's favorite colors are pink, green, and yellow! Wow! She really loves color! Morah Hilary also said she likes all the colors of the rainbow. Wow! While I was interviewing Morah Hilary, she said that she loved narwhals! She also mentioned that she liked sloths! Isn't that cool?



Mr. Jessie Interview

By Emet Howitt-Vallone

Mr. Jessie is a wonderful security guard and excellent Hebrew teacher. Mr. Jessie has been working at Hebrew Academy for approximately 2 years. He says the most important part of being a security guard is keeping the kids safe and encouraging them to be proud Jews. He is 28 years, 168 days (about 5 and a half months), 7 hours, 3 minutes, and 44 seconds old at the time of this interview.

Mr. Jessie was born in Southeast Orange, New Jersey. Mr. Jessie's favorite color is forest green and his favorite animal is a dragon. His favorite food is potato chips and specifically the Lay's brand.



"Eating potato chips and losing the game," are some of his hobbies (By the way, you just lost the game.) His favorite part of the potato chip is the *crunch*. In his free time, Mr. Jessie makes armor out of 18 gauge stainless steel.

Mr. Jessie is a soldier in the IDF (Israeli Defence Force)! He said it's the most important thing he has done in his life. He served as a fighter for 3 years. "The most important part is keeping the Jewish people safe."

Before HATB he worked at Walmart and Pizza Hut. In the new year, he wants to accomplish drinking his coffee while it's still hot. I asked Mr. Jesse how he could improve on his routines, and he said he wants to stop eating potato chips for breakfast and wash his hands more.

Mr. Jessie would like to share in the HAT that this school year has been phenomenal and he wants to thank everyone!.

We want to thank Mr. Jessie for helping keep us safe at Hebrew Academy and for teaching us Ivrit. We think what you do here is very important!. I hope you enjoyed this report on an interview with Mr. Jessie.



[This interview was before Oct. 7, 2023. Mr. Jesse is now in Israel back in the IDF doing what he cares about most, keeping Jewish people safe. Please, May HaShem keep him safe.]

Masterful Ms. Jessica

By Dovid Yarmush

I had the pleasure of interviewing Ms. Jessica. Her last name is Gersten and her maiden name is Pressler.

Her happiest memory is when she got married. I found out that her husband works for Bally Sports. Bally Sports is a sports App where you can watch the sports game such as the Rays or Lightning game.

Ms Jessica is a teacher in Lower EL. If Ms. Jessica needed to walk to school. She can do that because she lives in Country Place Tampa which is 30 minutes away. She moved to Tampa in 2020 and lived in Plantation Florida before she came here. (Plantation Florida is close to Fort Lauderdale).

In five years she hopes to be a mommy and continue teaching. She said that she really likes this school. She has been teaching for 13 years. Before she taught at Hebrew Academy, she taught at a Charter School.

She is one of three children with two girls and one boy. Ms Jessica LOVES to read books and guess what she did over the summer? She read TONS of books.



Baseball is her favorite sport and the Tampa Bay Rays is her favorite Team. Ms Jessica's school schedule is that she comes at 10 and leaves at four. I hope you enjoyed learning about Ms. Jessica. If you want to learn about some more people make sure to check out all the other articles.

Meet Ms.Christina

By Naomi M.

Ms Christina is a new staff member at Hebrew Academy.. You might see her helping students all over, but mostly with the Lower Elementary students these days. I did an interview and this is what I learned:

Ms. Christina decided to work at Hebrew academy because she likes kids and has experience.

Ms. Christina loves her life because she can choose anything in life that she wants.

Ms. Christina wishes that in 5 years she will have a side business, own her own house and remodel it.



The things Ms. Christina is most afraid of are snakes and boats. She is afraid of boats because not seeing land and being in the middle of nowhere makes her scared.

She said her goals are to be a better dancer and own my own bakery.

I asked her, “What makes you happy?” and she said sunshine, beach, friends, and her kids.

Ms. Christina is Italian, so she wants to live in Italy because of the culture, food and hills are so pretty. She said what she loves most about her life is her personality and her hair.

Ms Christina said looking back at her life she wants to change her college degree.

Being a good friend and example for her kids makes Ms Christina feel accomplished.

A short summary of her life is in school, she was a cheerleader and school photographer. Being in an Italian family, she loved family dinners on Sunday night with her whole family. Ms. Christina used to be a nurse.

I hope you learned a little about Ms. Christina. If you have any more questions just ask Ms. Christina. So next time you see her say hi.

Meet Maggie Koningsberg!

By Leah Batya Koningsberg

Maggie is a very independent young lady. Her bas mitzvah will be in December. She's really good at art. You might learn about that!! She is very good at writing as well.

Maggie's favorite foods are California roll, macaroni and cheese, and the last one is cholent.

Did you know that Maggie has 2 siblings and one of them is writing this article? That's me, Leah Batya!

One of Maggie's favorite memories is ziplining in Georgia on a line 80 feet high. When asked, "Maggie what makes a book interesting?" She said, "Pictures or graphic novels" which seems really interesting! But sometimes she enjoys watching tv. Maggie really loves to draw. She also likes to call her friends and sometimes the people from school a bunch.

Going on adventures with friends, like diving and visiting a cat cafe is fun and exciting. In the future, she would like to own an art shop for people to visit in person.



Why I am Not the Fastest Class

By Daniel Mendelson

Moshe Rivkin joined my class this year and he seemed like a nice kid; so I decided to interview him.

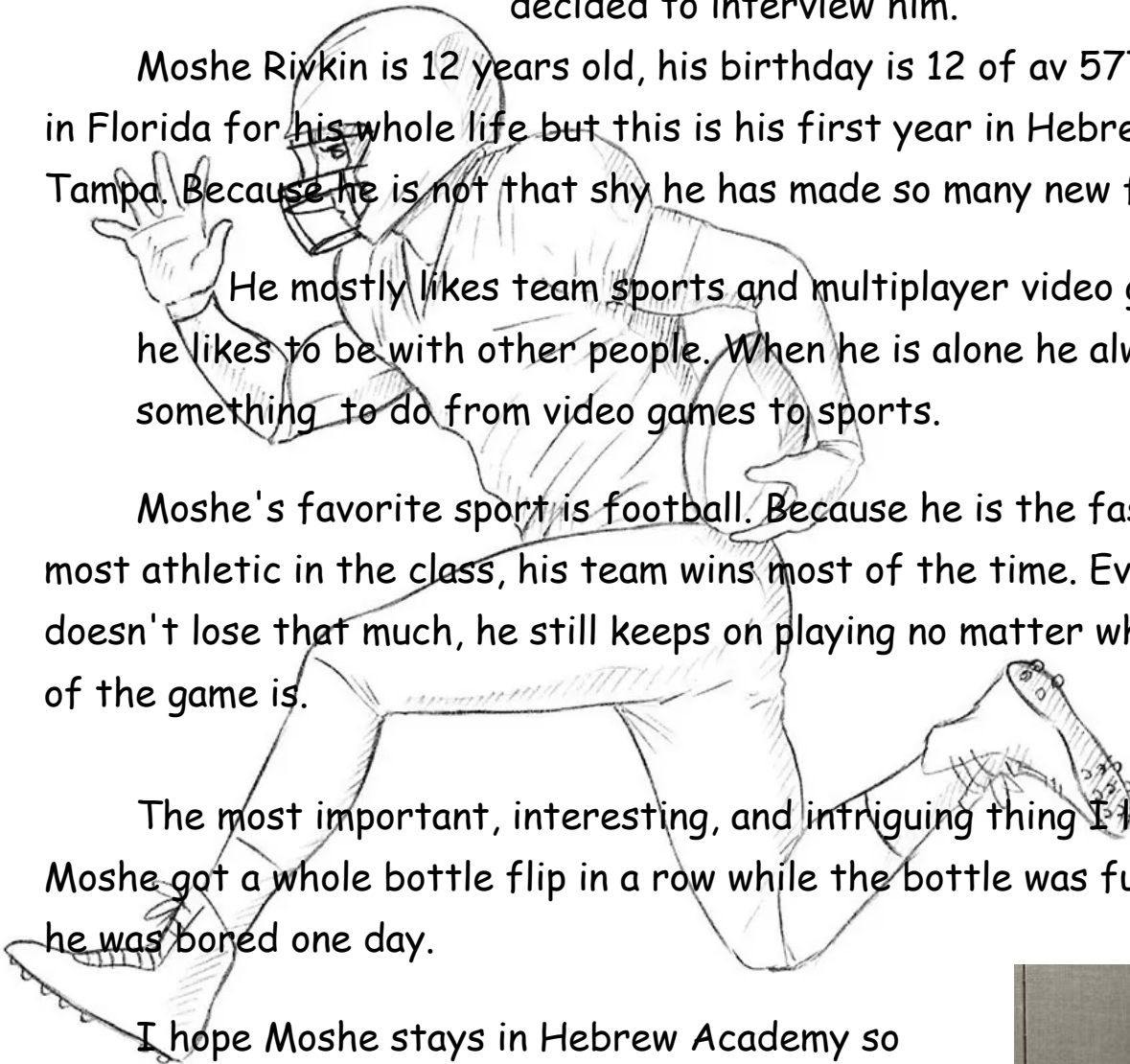
Moshe Rivkin is 12 years old, his birthday is 12 of av 5771. He has lived in Florida for his whole life but this is his first year in Hebrew Academy Of Tampa. Because he is not that shy he has made so many new friends.

He mostly likes team sports and multiplayer video games because he likes to be with other people. When he is alone he always finds something to do from video games to sports.

Moshe's favorite sport is football. Because he is the fastest and the most athletic in the class, his team wins most of the time. Even though he doesn't lose that much, he still keeps on playing no matter what the outcome of the game is.

The most important, interesting, and intriguing thing I learned was that Moshe got a whole bottle flip in a row while the bottle was fully filled when he was bored one day.

I hope Moshe stays in Hebrew Academy so when I visit this school I will be able to see him and play lots more football together.



About Tzvi Dubrowski

By : Shalom Amram

As a new student at Hebrew Academy, I wanted to know more about Tzvi Dubrowski. He agreed to an interview about himself, and this is what I learned.

At school....His favorite subject is Math. He says Rabbi Alon is very interesting because he teaches a lot. Then he said Mr. Jesse is friendly and nice. After, he added Ms. Stacy is a very good Math teacher. Tzvi's best friend at Hebrew Academy is Nosson. Tzvi Dubrowski likes Hebrew Academy because the teachers are very nice.

Life outside of school.... Surprisingly, his favorite food is avocado. Yankel is his best friend, but no one here knows him. Tzvi likes playing sports and reading books. I asked him what he likes about Moshe Rivkin and Moshe Chaim. Moshe Rivkin likes and plays football. Moshe Chaim is his cousin. He stated in five years he wants to be living in at the Bais Hamikdash. He is afraid to go on roller coasters. Tzvi Dubrowski claims that he likes Shalom Amram because he is good at soccer. He stated that his favorite vacation is going to Israel.



Questions for Yehuda Amram

By Moshe Chaim Dubrowski

What is your favorite word?

Answer: Shcoach

How far away does your family live from school?

Answer: 30 minutes

How old are you?

Answer: 12

When is your birthday?

Answer: March 14

What is your favorite subject in school (English and Hebrew)?

Answer: Parsha

What Shul do you go to?

Answer: Jewish Library

What do you want to do in five years?

Answer: be a lawyer or police

What makes you upset?

Answer: when people annoy him

What is your biggest goal in life?

Answer: to be wealthy

Why did you decide to come to Hebrew Academy from Hillel?

Answer: he needs more Hebrew learning



Meet Leah Batya Koningsberg!

By Chana Lipszyc



Leah Batya is 9 years old and in 4th grade at Hebrew Academy of Tampa. She is kind, fun and helpful. She is in the same classroom as me. Here is what I learned about her....

1# Blue is her favorite color. Recently it was orange, but she changed it!

2# Eating fried chicken in New York recently, made it her new favorite food.

3# She and her sister wanted a new book to enjoy. They went to Target and bought *Smile*. Then they came home and her sister read it first. After that it was Leah Batya's turn. And she loved it! It became her favorite book (I also like *Smile*.)

4# This summer Leah Batya really wanted to come to school. Her mother looked around and saw this place. After checking it out, she decided it was good. Now she is at Hebrew Academy!

5# One day in New York, a part of the ceiling fell next to her brother. She was so scared of the possibility of this happening again it became her greatest fear.

6# When she was 7, she started sketching. Pretty soon to see, she was enjoying it so much that it became her favorite hobby.

7# Her favorite holiday is Purim! She just loves to dress up. Her favorite costume is a Giraffe!

8# (This is sad.) When I interviewed her, she said she didn't have a favorite memory. But she said she just went to a wedding in New York. It was really fun, so she said it will remain a good memory!

9# I asked what her favorite subject is in school and she said Parsha. So Parsha it is!

I really enjoyed learning about Leah Batya! I hope you did too. Til next time, bye!!

All about Yisroel Rivkin

By Yehuda Amram

I had the pleasure of interviewing Yisroel Rivkin. Yisroel is a new first grade student at Hebrew Academy. He is funny and interesting. He came into my classroom and was ready to answer my questions. Yisroel was not even nervous. If you want to know more about him read this article and learn a lot about Yisroel.

During the interview, I got so many answers. I knew Yisroel from before



coming to Hebrew Academy. However, the questions I asked provided a lot of new information. After I learned football is his favorite sport I asked who his favorite football player was and he said Tom Brady. His favorite classmate is Nissi Dubrowski. I wondered why, but I did not ask. In a follow-up interview, I learned on his first day here he was bored until he met Nissi. Then he started to have fun in class. I then asked who was his favorite in the Upper Elementary class, not including me. He said Shalom, because he is the only other student he knew at Hebrew Academy.

I also wanted to know more about Yisroel outside of Hebrew Academy. Then I asked who is your favorite movie character and he said avraham from Tovidio because he only believed in one G-d like Jewish people like us and he destroyed all other gods(statues) that other people believed in with a hammer. The statue was as big as a tree trunk.

I know Yisroel must have enjoyed being interviewed for this article because he did not want it to be over. He was honest and said, "No. I don't want to go back to my class."

I hope you like reading about my friend and new Hebrew Academy student, Yisroel. He is incredible! At first he did not want to do the interview, but as soon as he started, he did not want to stop. He was brave and not shy. He answered calmly and I got a lot of answers I found interesting. I hope you also do.