

KINNERET DAY SCHOOL

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November 21, 2021

Dear Kinneret family and friends,

As the world slowly returns to normalcy following more than 20 months of challenges, disruption, and fear, we are called to reflect upon this period.

During this difficult time, the Kinneret Day School community has successfully provided a safe, warm, and effective educational environment, both online and in-person. This was due, in no small part, thanks to the commitment of our staff, parents, children, and the community-at-large. Their generosity and devotion continue to provide our children not only with an education, but also with values and a sense of family.

Our spirit is embodied in the lives of two great representatives of our Kinneret family whom we lost this year – Dorit Niven Z"l (KDS teacher, 1967-2021) and David Tov Hibshoosh Z"l (KDS Class of 2010).

For over five decades, Dorit's kindergarten classroom served as the gate and foundation for hundreds of students who came through Kinneret. Her devotion to, and care for both the school and its students, permeated throughout our building and culture, setting the tone for the formative experience that is a Kinneret education. Her former students, spread throughout the world, are the blessings of her life, carrying on her legacy, which was made possible by your support. It is with profound gratitude for and admiration of her life of service to Kinneret that we remain committed to our mission.

When asked late in his teenage years what he wanted to achieve in his life, David Hibshoosh listed two things: one, to help the world eat better, and two, to support Kinneret Day School. Kinneret had been the forge in which David's identity, in fact his personhood, had been defined. From his deep sense of belonging to the Jewish people, and his love of Jewish tradition, to his desire to live his life as best he could in accordance with those traditions, the roots were attributed to Kinneret. David realized that belonging was fundamental to human existence. He credited Kinneret with cultivating that sense of belonging not only within its walls, but throughout his life. And he recognized that he stood on the shoulders of giants such as Dorit Niven. David sought to ensure that those students who came after him could achieve even greater heights.

Dorit's and David's experiences are emblematic of the exceptional Kinneret experience and commitment to Jewish culture. Here, teachers like Dorit helped students like David grow up in a place that cultivates not only a sense of belonging, but also an environment that challenges them to be the best that they can be.

To be an alumnus or a teacher of Kinneret is a badge of honor, a source of pride, and a responsibility to uphold. And to continue David's and Dorit's legacies of generosity and care, we need your support more than ever. In a world that is increasingly isolated and fractured, we continue to demonstrate the value of our KDS community to its members by providing a safe and functioning environment that prioritizes our communal goals. Like so many of our families, Kinneret has been struggling financially over the course of the pandemic—we have needed to hire additional staff to enable social distancing practices, the cost of books and supplies has increased, and attending to the needs of parents, students, and staff has been harder than ever. Please consider this deeply as you receive this appeal.

May this year of difficulty be a source of strength for us as we continue pursuing our goals and may the memory of those who go before us remain ever a blessing.

Sincerely,

Asher Abramovitz, Principal

Aaron Frank, Head of School