

## MINDBURST....The Arts are Alive at Yavneh!



This fall, as the Yavneh arts faculty discussed plans for the year, they began brainstorming about ways to end the fall semester, as the traditional Fall Arts Night and Spring Literary Café were now to be combined into a single event in the spring semester. Music teacher Kim Corbet suggested the idea of a multi-media art installation, transforming the downstairs area of the school into a dynamic, interactive environment, showcasing the work of all the Yavneh arts students in a week-long exhibit. Art teacher Monica Ribald hit upon the

name, "**Mindburst**," and a visionary idea was born. In the weeks that followed, Mr. Corbet's music students created a video, Ms. Ribald's art students created visual masterpieces, Lisa Huffaker's Creative Writing students wrote poetry, and Ari Dembo's Video class created a series of films. Behind the scenes, arts faculty members and students alike were planning and building ways to turn the entire space into a work of art. On Monday, December 7th, when students walked into the building, they were immersed in a joyful surprise.



Thousands of paint sample cards hung along strings, creating curtains of overwhelming color that cascaded from the staircases. Bursts of colored tissue paper, ribbon, and more paint cards turned the entire space into a kaleidoscope of color, and within it, the students' art shone like jewels. Poetry spoke from the steel beams, along the strands of color cards, and between dynamic black-and-white drawings. Colorful still-lives echoed the bright colors of the space, while onlookers typed on vintage typewriters, adding to ongoing stories inspired by large Botticelli-inspired portraits. Exciting

student films played, as students rearranged magnetic words to form poems, added to Keith Haring-inspired chalk drawings, and took turns looking through a kaleidoscope and writing descriptions of what they saw.

Under the stairs, music videos played on a TV connected to the disembodied mechanism of an old piano. Students stood between the curtains of color and added their own words to the cards.

Throughout the week, the space was alive: the Music Ensemble played live music in the space, and the Creative Writing class read their work aloud. Best of all, students added their own drawings, words, and presence to the installation. Much discussion, laughter, and delight pervaded the atmosphere, and the message was clear: the arts are alive at Yavneh!

