

Nursery

We will be looking around to see what is Jewish about our home: Shabbat items you might find or a Mezuzah on your door. Also we learn about Tu B'shevat, the Birthday of the Trees, and the importance of trees for food, shelter and fresh air for animals and people. **Patti Chien**

Kindergarten

In January we will learn about Havdallah and begin our weekly ritual of saying goodbye to Shabbat and welcoming the new week at the beginning of class. We will continue our Torah study and visit with Noah and his animals on the ark. Finally we will celebrate Tu B'shevat and make gifts for our tree friends that will bring them visitors and make the winter more beautiful. **Elisa Harrington-Verb**

Grade 1

We will experience the magic of Shabbat to bring together families as we act out the story of Mrs. Moskowitz, who has moved to an apartment and is feeling sad and lonely. As she unpacks and prepares for Shabbat, her apartment becomes her new home, ready to welcome family. Jacob & Esau will help us think about what blessing we want from our parents. We move to Israel for Tu B'Shevat and celebrate with a delicious fruit salad! **Stephanie Mayer**

Grade 2

We will continue our Torah stories with Isaac and Rebecca, Jacob and Esau, and Jacob's blessing. Our Parent Torah Workshop will be on February 3, with parents helping to put together our Torahs. This is always a very exciting day to see our Torah's take physical shape. We will also prepare our Shabbat placemats, learn three more Hebrew letters, and celebrate Tu b'Shevat!

Dr. Sherry Dickinson

Grade 3

We will be introduced to Jewish immigration to America and Israel. There will be discussions about our family histories, why people left for America and Israel, what they found, and how they overcame their hardships. We will also begin the Passport to Israel Program which explores Israel's geography, culture, and history.

Sheryl Schwaber

Grade 4

In January, the 4th graders will be discussing in class and at home what it is about Eretz Yisrael that interests and intrigues them. They will study the land of Israel and learn that that Jewish people everywhere celebrate Tu B'Shevat by planting trees in Israel through the Jewish National Fund. The 4th graders will lead the JNF religious school project teaching the younger children about the importance of planting trees in Israel.

Ann Sail

Grade 5

Our Torah lesson centers on one of our more well known prophets, Elijah. We will talk about why Elijah is so special and we will explore the character traits that make him unique. After discussing many of the texts that highlight Elijah, we will ask ourselves how Elijah can still influence us today. Students will work on writing their own story of how Elijah will come to rescue someone or help a community in need.

Ellen Strauss

Grade 6

We sent our first exchange, personal "Identity cards" to our Israeli classmates, and we are eager to learn about them! The focus now moves to our communities. We will create Power Points about our region and our particular towns to send to Israel, while learning about Jerusalem. We will journey back to the time of King David, and act out the roles of the Ministries of Defense, Religious Affairs, Social Services, Tribal Issues, Water and Environmental Issues and advise King David on whether to make Jerusalem the capital of city of his kingdom.

Ben Michaels

Grade 7

Our students will continue on their journey of Kehillah Kedosha through learning about our Judaic values and Jewish history. We continue to tie the past with the present through creating our own town of residency as a Jewish community that is transitioning from Europe to Philadelphia (set in the 1600's) to find and create a place of religious freedom to practice our valued traditions as we wish. As our town is established we will begin to build our new temple to worship where and as we need to continue our valued Jewish traditions.

**Becky Roberts,
Lyn Miller-Lachmann, Dolores Arar**



Hebrew School Students and Teachers Making Rugalah and Sufganiyot for our congregational Hanukkah Dinner with cooking teacher Sue Kimball



Music

This month, we are focusing on the theme of Justice and Peace. With Oseh Shalom as our cornerstone song, we'll be looking at how both liturgy talks about peace and how different composers have approached the same words about peace.

Leah Wolff-Pellingra

Dance

Dance provides the children with Hebrew language, music and culture from the past 60 years, with a selection of historical and modern dances. The older children experience the variety of choreography used to prepare a dance for presentation. **Lauren Savage**

Kitah Aleph

Students continue to do really well with their Hebrew letters and vowels. You should be very proud. It is very important that your children continue to practice with their CDs at home, as we are continuing to add new letters and vowels each week. **Alyssa Fecura and Jen Price**

Kitah Bet

"Blessed are you Eternal One, Sovereign of the Universe who makes us holy with commandments and commands us ..." we are learning the blessings to be said when doing a mitzvah, a commandment teaching us how to behave toward God and toward other people. We will then read and translate the Shabbat blessings. We are strengthening our reading skills and building toward reading the Kiddush! **Alyssa Fecura and Jen Price**

Kitah Gimel M/W

We are beginning to focus on how prefixes and suffixes are used in Hebrew. As we begin to work as a class on V'ahavta, each student is focusing on breaking down words syllable by syllable - reading carefully and deliberately. Our reading is being reinforced by our work with Modern Hebrew in "Let's Talk" and by practicing at home on the Behrman House Online Learning Center. **Leah Wolff-Pellingra**

Kitah Gimel Sunday

Students continue to work on their prayers, each at their own pace. Students who complete the required prayer list for 5th grade can go on to add all the prayers in the "Kol Yisrael 2" book and in recognition of their hard work, will receive a trophy at the end of the school year. A portion of each week's lesson is devoted to "Limud" (learning), which covers various topics from the Torah. Each Unit relates to the Parashat HaShavuah (weekly Torah Portion) that will be read on that month's Family Service. This is an opportunity to focus on one or two focal points from the Parasha and allow the students to discuss the topic and express their feelings and opinions regarding the Limud topic(s). **Gay Griffith**

Kitah Hay and Kitah Dalet/Hay

Monday as soon as all students are fluent in Birkot HaTorah and Birkot HaHaftarah we will move on to Ahavat Olam and Ahavah Raba. (Which means very soon...) Together with V'Ahavta, these three prayers form the wonderful connection of the Jewish people with G-d. Bonus points for work reflecting the above thought.

It makes for a wonderful family discussion. And yes, you may go on line for help.
Zipporah Harris, Michael Schulman, Sharon Cutler, Ben Michaels, Lee Brice

Sunday Modern Hebrew

Kitah Bet: We continue introducing Modern Hebrew in 4th grade using the "Aleph Bet" Quest. Students learn to read a short story and then work on the vocabulary words from each chapter. Although we only meet for 35 minutes each week, the students are enjoying learning the modern Hebrew that is actually spoken in the Land of Israel. We also have brief discussions about Israel as they relate to some of the stories and vocabulary words.

Kitah Gimel and Kitah Dalet: We continue to progress through the book "Let's Talk", following four teenagers, Dan, Maya, Ben, and Dina, as they travel to Israel for the first time. We also have discussions about Israel as they relate to the story. We learned what a Kibbutz is, and how that it is a unique society to Israel. We discussed how Kibbutzim began and how they have changed as Israel herself has changed. **Gay Griffith**

Tzedakah: Flyers will go home for the following collections...

- Care Packages for Soldiers on Sundays 1/13 & 1/27
The packages will be shipped in conjunction with Social Action Committee initiative.
- Hygiene Kits Homeless on Sundays 2/3 & 2/10. These kits will be distributed by the Bethesda House.

Food Collection: We collected 402 items toward our goal of 1,000 food items. Kindergarten is in the lead with 78 items donated!

3RD/4TH GRADE FAMILY RETREAT AND PARENT MEETING

Over the past year a group of parents and Lee Brice have been planning a weekend retreat for 3rd and 4th grade families. The retreat will be held on the weekend of April 12 at Eisner Camp in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. Please join us on Sunday, January 6 at 9:45 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. for an informational meeting held in the Sisterhood/Hatkoff Room. We have two meeting times scheduled to accommodate parents needs. Members of the planning committee will provide an overview of the activities, costs, and registration process.