

Shaarey Zedek Religious School 2018-2019/ 5779



Focus: Torah



ותלמוד תורה כנגדד כולם

These are the things for which a person enjoys the dividends in this world while the principal remains for the person to enjoy in the world to come. They are: honoring parents, loving deeds of kindness, and making peace between one person and another; but the study of the *Torah* is equal to them all.

- Talmud Shabbat 127a

Torah is fundamental to the Jewish people. It contains our history, our stories, our values, and our vision of a just and righteous society. Though we don't view Torah as scientifically or historically accurate, we do understand Torah to be True – that Torah contains Truths to guide our lives. SZRS students will study Torah this year to meet and learn from Biblical characters and stories with the intent of finding meaning and value in our foundational text.

Younger Grades: *Gan* (PreK-K), *Kittah Alef* (1st grade) & *Kittah Bet* (2nd grade) students will be introduced to Torah through story-telling, play-acting, arts and crafts and discussion. They will also learn about and celebrate Jewish holidays as they occur during the school year.

Gan students and interested parents will participate monthly in Mother Goose on the Loose activities. Mother-Goose-on-the-Loose is an award-winning multi-sensory early childhood literacy program adapted for a Jewish setting.

Kittah Bet students are introduced to the letters of the *alef-bet* to provide Hebrew reading readiness skills in preparation for next year.

Middle Grades: *Kittot Gimmel – Hey* (3rd- 5th grades) students will learn Torah using many sources including the JPS Illustrated Children's Bible. They will learn Torah stories, delve into text studies, explore traditional and contemporary commentaries and write their own commentaries and reactions to the text. Additionally, each class has a specific *mitzvah* that they learn about and engage in throughout the year. Middle grade students continue their connection with Israel through SKYPE visits with classes in Israel via the *Yachdav* Partnership Program sponsored by the World Union for Progressive Judaism. Students also learn prayers, focusing both on recitation of the prayer and understanding the *kavannah*/ Intent or meaning of the prayer. **Gimmel** students focus on Hebrew reading and develop the ability to recognize all Hebrew letters and vowels and put them together in simple combinations. **Daled & Hey** students further develop their Hebrew reading skills including participation in *The Machon*, "Institute for Hebrew Reading," where students advance in rank as their reading skills improve.

"*Heneni* (Here I Am!); Becoming a Responsibility-Bearing Member of the Jewish Community" is the focus for **Kittah Vav-Zayin** (6th-7th grade). Recognizing that students will soon become *Bar* or *Bat Mitzvah*, the curriculum explores mature topics including *Torah* study, prayer, and the Holocaust with a focus on engaging in the Jewish community as "responsibility-bearing" members. Students also prepare and then lead a *Shabbat* morning service for themselves and their families. Special activities, field trips and family programs enhance the curriculum. A more detailed description is available upon request.

The **Tichon 8th-12th grade** program includes classes for 8th-9th and 10th-12th graders, the *MiT* (*Madrachim*-in-Training) and *Madrachim* programs, and Confirmation. A description of the *Tichon* classes and programs is available upon request.

Adults: "Torah is Not for Kids II: Difficult and Racy Torah" is the topic for the corresponding Adult Education series taught by Aviva Panush. Classes meet two Sunday mornings in December and two Sunday mornings in February.

Shaarey Zedek celebrates 100 years!

Shaarey Zedek Religious School joins the congregation in celebration Shaarey Zedek's 100 years with special programs and activities throughout the year including:

- ❖ Gemini Concert at Kickoff – Sunday, October 28 11:15 a.m.
- ❖ Shaarey Zedek 100 Years Family Program – Sunday, March 3

Other SZRS Program components



Chugim / Interest Groups *Gimmel – Zayin* (3rd–7th grade) students participate in a chosen *chug* (interest group) during the last 20 minutes of school on Wednesdays. *Chugim* can include Arts, Creative Writing, Israeli Dancing, Library, depending on teacher and student interest. *Chugim* begin in October.



Havdalah The SZRS community gathers together to begin each Sunday morning with *Havdalah* and a brief assembly. Parents and visitors encouraged to participate.



Shira (singing) Students participate in monthly *shira*/ singing, learning melodies for prayers and Jewish songs in Hebrew and English.



Sifriya (Library): Students meet monthly with the SZRS librarian. Most classes contain a *Sifriya Ba'Kitah*, a mini-library in their classroom with books chosen for that group of students.



Special Programs Because we believe in the importance of community, that parents are students' most important and powerful teachers, and that learning takes place both in and outside of the classroom, community programming, family education and field trips are incorporated in the SZRS program.

Pre-Sukkot Family Program – Family activities including making *sukkah* decorations and decorating the synagogue *sukkah*, *Shira* (Singing), *Sifreya* (Library) and *Tnua Ivrit* (Hebrew through Movement). Parent meeting during last hour while students with their class. Followed by Snacks in the *Sukkah*. Sunday, September 23

Gemini Concert to kickoff Shaarey Zedek's celebration of 100 Years – Sunday, October 28

SZRS-KI Kivunim Joint Program in conjunction with the Global Day of Learning - Sunday, November 11 at KI

"What Happened at Sinai?" Family Program to explore how we interpret Torah for *Kittot Gimmel –Zayin* (3rd-7th grade) students & parents –Sunday, December 16

"Making Mornings Jewish" Family Program for *Gan-Kittot Bet* (PreK-2nd grade) students & parents – Sunday, February 10

"Shaarey Zedek 100 Years" Family Program for *Gan – Kittah Zayin* (PreK-7th grade) students & parents – Sunday, March 3

Other field trips and special programs for *Kittah Vav-Zayin* (6th - 7th grade).



T'fillah (prayer)/ worship service Students join Rabbi Bigman or Aviva Panush for an engaging and interactive learning service. Discussion, dance, demonstrations and exploration are incorporated as well as prayer recitation.



Tnua Ivrit *Tnua Ivrit* is 15 minutes of immersion Hebrew based on the TPR (Total Physical Response) method, allowing students to be engaged in learning conversational Hebrew as an active, fun experience.