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# מה חדש Ma Chadash?

A newsletter from Talmud Torah to the parents & students

Talmud Torah of  
Minneapolis  
The Heilicher Education  
Center  
Barry Family Campus  
4330 South Cedar Lake  
Road  
St. Louis Park, MN 55416  
P 952.381.3300 | F  
952.381.3301  
[www.talmudtorahmpls.org](http://www.talmudtorahmpls.org)



Dear *Talmud Torah* Parents,

Welcome to *Talmud Torah*! *Mah Chadash* is our bi-weekly emailed newsletter which includes brief highlights and pictures from the elementary through the *Bet Midrash* classes. In each issue, we will cover two grade levels and will rotate the grades so about every six issues that grade will be covered again.

This newsletter will give you a “taste” of all the various activities and events happening throughout the school so you will be more informed and, hopefully, become more involved.

Kim Steil, our school secretary, will send you a text-only version if you do not wish to receive the email *Mah Chadash* with pictures. Please notify her if that is the case. If you have any feedback at all, please send your comments to [Schalom@talmudtorahmpls.org](mailto:Schalom@talmudtorahmpls.org)

The school year has started very well in all the departments. We are at our projected number of 394 students. We may still be getting more students who have yet to register.

I would like to welcome a new teacher in our *Dalet Etgar* program and in our *Bet Midrash*- Denelle Carriger. She is originally from South Africa and has worked in Austin, Texas, in both the day school and supplemental school setting. She brings to *Talmud Torah* over eighteen years of teaching experience. We are very excited to have her in our school and we welcome her to our community.

We have held Curriculum Night Orientations for the *Mekhina Alef, Mekhina Bet, Alef, Bet, Gimel* and *Dalet* classes these past two weeks. *Toda Raba* to all the parents who attended the orientations to hear from our teachers!

On the first day of class, everyone met in *Bet HaKneset* for a welcome back assembly. Each class of older students shared with the younger students what they had to look forward to in the coming year. It was nice to hear what the students shared as they eagerly raised their hands to give heartfelt endorsements for great teachers, interesting lessons, learning to speak, read and write Hebrew, making good friends, doing fun art projects and participating in special programs. The older students welcomed the new students to *Talmud Torah* and shared experiences of how nervous and anxious some of them had felt on their first days of school “a long time ago,” and how it all turned out great! Every student understood the most important message we wished to convey: All students are part of a very loving and caring community made up of friends and teachers who will ensure that they are going to be safe, supported and will learn a lot.

My wish is that all of you feel this way about your being a part of our *Talmud Torah* family. We are in this sacred partnership together. We will teach your children the Jewish

knowledge they need and we depend on you to bring this knowledge to life in your home.

May you all be written in the *Book of Life* for a year of good health, contentment and joy! *L'Shanah Tovah Tikatevu* in the coming year of 5770.

Susie Chalom

#### Hey Families Participate in "A Meal of Many Blessings."

As an introduction to their *t'fillah* (prayer) unit entitled: "Why Pray," Hey parents and students came together on January 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Talmud Torah for "A Meal of Many Blessings."

This meal included special foods, good company and conversation. It gave everyone the opportunity to experience joy and wonder as well as to express gratitude.

Everyone enjoyed the sense of community and one participant remarked: "This was a wonderful communal experience, not just eating, but enjoying the food with friends and other children. It made me more thankful and appreciative."



#### The *Dalet Hag* Worts Program

*Dalet* Classes began their new *Talmud Torah* year with an exciting *Hag* (Holiday) *Worts* Opening Program. Students were introduced to the tools of learning for this year by rotating in teams from station to station. A Rabbi or Jewish educator was at each station to help the students explore Judaic items and sacred texts. The program concluded with each group performing songs that they wrote.

What a great way to begin our *Dalet Etgar* (Challenge) Program!

A special thank you to the rabbis who participated in our program: Rabbi Ettedgui, Jim Sherman, Rabbi Lilly Kaufman, and Rabbi Woolfe



#### Bet Midrash Classes

In our continual strive for excellence in content and engagement of our students, we have added new Bet Midrash classes to our first semester offerings. Our new classes and teachers are: Israeli Dilemmas (Noga Shavit), Jewish Literature (Terry K. Kleinbaum), Adopt a Survivor and Hot topics in Jewish Ethics (both taught by Denelle Carriger), Science Fiction and the Torah (Rabbi Jonathan Perlman), Jewish Humor—from the Bible to Borat (Tamar Lavintman), Salt in the Wind (Rabbi Avi Olitzky), Panim—the Jewish Civics Initiative (Cara Strauss). In addition to new classes, these popular classes from previous years are part of the program: Pirkei Avot and Torah texts (both taught by Rabbi Aryeh Cohen), Turned Onto Judaism (Rabbi Moshe Weiss), HaZamir (Ross Fishman), The David Project and Avoda Arts (both taught by Danny Ettedgui), Jewish History and Wrestling with God (both taught by Rabbi Avram Ettedgui), Reel Learning (Leslie Gotlieb on Wednesday and Danny Ettedgui on Sunday). All students attend their very relevant and engaging grade level Kehilla classes, 9<sup>th</sup> grade led by Danny Ettedgui; 11<sup>th</sup> grade led by Tamar Lavintman and the 12<sup>th</sup> grade Passageways Course taught by Susie Chalom. Confirmation classes, for 10<sup>th</sup> graders, are taught by Rabbis Kravitz and Olitzky on Wednesday 8:00. In addition, our full time students take either the CIS Hebrew



for college credit or Ulpan-Conversational Hebrew classes.

There will be more information about the *Bet Midrash* classes in the months ahead.

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Questions or comments regarding **the Ma Chadash**? Email them to [schalom@talmudtorahmpls.org](mailto:schalom@talmudtorahmpls.org)

Missy (Tamar) C. Lavintman- Editor  
Kimberly Steil- Assistant

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