



# מה חדש Ma Chadash?

A newsletter from Talmud Torah to the parents & students

Nov 1  
14 Cheshvan

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## *Darkaynu* (Our Way)

Written by Chana Shagalow, Program Director of *Sha'arim - A Learning Institute*

*Sha'arim*, to continue its mission of providing an opportunity for every Jewish child with special needs to receive a Jewish education and experience meaningful inclusion within the Jewish community, launched the *Darkaynu* (our way) program in collaboration with the Inclusion Department of the Sabes JCC in the Fall of 2008. *Darkaynu* reaches out to Jewish students with autism, or any other moderate to severe diagnosed challenges, who are unable to attend mainstream Jewish educational programming alongside typical peers. The goal of the program is to provide a rich and meaningful Jewish education for each student according to his or her own way of learning. **Students spend one hour in Judaic Studies and one hour in a social/recreational activity.** The Judaic hour introduces a weekly theme, focusing on Jewish holidays, mitzvot, Jewish lifecycle and some basic Hebrew vocabulary. The social/recreational hour continues this theme through movement, creativity and hands-on projects. Each week *Sha'arim* invites a community Rabbi to lead our opening Tefillah and Ruach session to interact and meet with the students to allow them to feel a further connection to the larger Jewish Community.

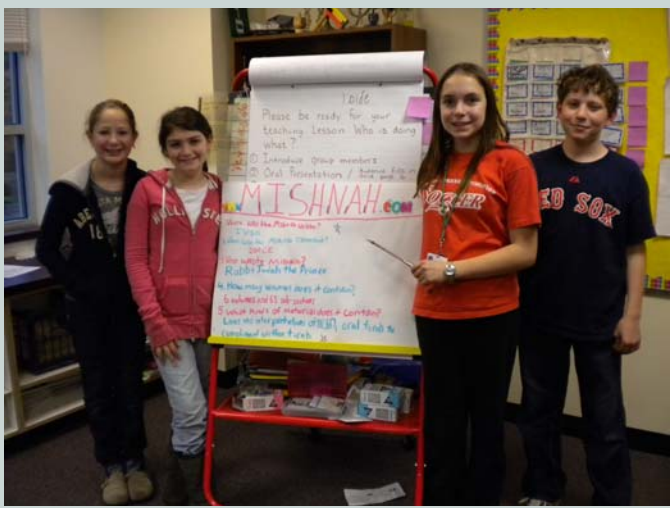
This past year, Danny and Rosie Mann, two students at Talmud Torah Bet Midrash volunteered for the *Darkaynu* program. They not only contributed greatly to their partnered students' quality of learning, they gained valuable and meaningful experience working alongside children with special needs. **The *Darkaynu* program would like to extend the opportunity to Jewish teenagers who wish to volunteer for one hour per week on Sunday mornings at the Sabes JCC** working alongside our professional staff to provide Jewish children and teenagers with special needs a meaningful Jewish education and social experience. To schedule an interview please contact Chana Shagalow, program director of *Sha'arim*, at 612-327-9195.

One hour a week of your time can translate into a lifetime of a difference for the *Darkaynu* students.



### Excitement Fills the *Alef* Classroom

The *Alef* classes celebrated the holiday of *Sukkot* with visits to our *Sukkah*. For *Simchat Torah*, we were honored to have a *Sefer Torah* in our classroom. To remember this special day, each student was photographed holding the *Sefer Torah*. In our new textbook, *Ha' Garin* we are learning conversational Hebrew through pictures. We can already say many complete sentences! Excitement fills the *Alef* classroom as we learn so much!



### Dalet Students Teach Each Other about the Tools of Our Trade

The Dalet students have been preparing to teach their peers about our Sacred Texts. Each class has been divided into groups to teach about the Jewish Tools of Our Trade: Tanach, Mishna, Talmud and Shulchan Aruch.

Each group is preparing an oral presentation, an illustration of a web page and a worksheet for their peers. Student Groups will then teach the details of their assigned Holy Book through group presentations and evaluation.



### Mitzvah of "Bikkur Holim"

Our *Hey* students have been studying about the *mitzvah* of "*Bikkur Holim*," visiting the sick.

We have learned about the reasons why Judaism considers this *mitzvah* to be so important and we are now learning about the "hows" of performing this *mitzvah*.

The students particularly enjoyed creating and then performing their own skits based on Rabbinic quotations of things we should and should not do in performing this *mitzvah*.

Each of the classes will be hearing from a health professional about the physical and emotional needs of the sick and elderly. They will also be performing the *mitzvah* of *Bikkur Holim* with a visit to Sholom Home and Roitenberg Assisted Living.

Hopefully the study of *Bikkur Holim* will set the foundation for lifelong practice of this *mitzvah*.

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

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*Talmud Torah is a beneficiary agency of the Minneapolis Jewish Federation*



