

TEMPLE ISRAEL AND
JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

475 GROVE STREET
RIDGEWOOD, NEW JERSEY 07450
School: (201) 444 - 4194
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Religious School Handbook

5769-5770

2009-2010



And You Shall Teach Them To Your Children

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Our School's Curriculum

Temple Israel provides formal Jewish education for children ages three through thirteen and is affiliated with both the Bergen County High School of Jewish Studies and the Rebecca & Israel Ivry Prozdor – the supplemental high school of the Jewish Theological Seminary. The course of study offered at Temple Israel provides our students with academic and experiential knowledge of Jewish tradition, *Tarbut* (culture, prayer, history and Torah). The primary goals of our school are fluency in reading Hebrew, comfort and familiarity with the *siddur* and Jewish liturgy, and a basic understanding of our prayers. We also strive to help our students see the world through Jewish eyes, develop an understanding and appreciation for the Jewish Holidays, Shabbat, *Tarbut* (culture), Israel and all of Jewish life.

The pre-school programs for children ages three to five meets for eight 2 hour sessions over the course of the year. It is open to the children of both members and non-members. The Sunday program for Kindergarten, First Grade and Second Grade is also open to members' and non-members' children and meets for 2 hour sessions on Sunday mornings. The five-year Religious School program (Third through Seventh Grades) is open to the children of Temple Israel members only. For all 5 years children attend for 5 hours each week, 2 hours during the week and 3 hours on Sunday mornings. . In addition to the two days a week, Kitah Dalet and Hey (6th and 7th grades) have a supplementary community service component that serves to complement in the in-class instruction. Pre-K, K, 1st and 2nd Grade students are encouraged to attend Na'areinu every Shabbat morning. Kitah Aleph-Kitah Hey students (3rd-7th grades) are encouraged to attend all Junior Congregation services.

PRE-SCHOOL (AGES 3 AND 4)

What are the Jewish holidays? What do they mean to us? What is the cycle of the Jewish year like? Our pre-school program focuses on introducing each child to different holidays on the Jewish calendar and concepts in Jewish life. Our youngest students will explore these holidays through a variety of methods and activities including story telling, arts and crafts, and music. Children may attend our pre-school programs for more than one year. Depending on the ages and number of students registered, the pre-school students may be divided into two classes. Our Pre-K will also include a 20-25 music session with our Cantor and the students from the Kindergarten class.

First Day of School: Sunday, September 13

KINDERGARTEN

Our Kindergarten students receive an introduction to Judaism, the Jewish Holidays and Shabbat. Students are introduced to each holiday on the Jewish calendar and the people and stories associated with them. As each holiday is celebrated, our little ones will experience the celebrations through the creation of personal ritual objects (such as Shabbat candlesticks, challah, Kiddush cup, and the *Havdalah* spice box), tasting holiday treats, and learning the songs and music associated with each celebration. Songs, arts and crafts and stories are shared with the class as part of their Jewish learning. The Kindergarten will also meet weekly with the Cantor for a 25 minute music class.

The Kindergarten Class meets from 9:30-11:30 on Sunday mornings.

First Day of School: Sunday, September 13

Family Workshop Dates: Friday evening, October 16 and Sunday, December 6

FIRST GRADE

Students are introduced to important stories from the Torah, such as Creation, Noah and the Ark, Joseph in Egypt, and Moses. Children will learn how each story in the Bible helped shape our Jewish religion and faith in God. Each holiday is celebrated with projects, songs, and a variety of activities. Hebrew vocabulary and brief prayers are introduced in class. First grade students are given their own books with information about the holidays and Bible stories that are covered in class. Each book can be used at home to reinforce the children's learning. They begin to learn Hebrew letters and have a number of units on the synagogue and synagogue ritual items so that they begin to feel comfortable in the synagogue setting. The First Grade will also meet weekly with the Cantor for a 25 minute music class.

The First Grade Class meets from 9:30-11:30 on Sunday mornings.

First Day of School: Sunday, September 13

Family Workshop Dates: Friday evening, October 16 and Sunday, December 6

SECOND GRADE

The theme of second grade is exploration. The people, places, and symbols of our Jewish heritage will be the center of these students' studies throughout the year. Students begin to explore Jewish life through the Synagogue, Israel, Shabbat, and Jewish ritual objects. From the *talit* to the *Kipah* to the Torah scroll and the ark to the symbols on the Seder plate, students will explore the meaning of symbols and how Jews have used them throughout all time. Each aspect of Jewish culture is examined in different projects and classroom activities. They will also focus on the weekly Torah portion, reading stories and summaries from a *Parasha* workbook designed for 2nd grade students. Students in second grade will also begin their formal introduction to the Hebrew language by focusing on Hebrew reading and writing readiness. Our students will also encounter the blessing as a form of prayer as the blessings over food are learned in class. The 2nd Grade will also meet weekly with the Cantor for a 25 minute music class.

The Second Grade Class meets from 9:30-11:30 on Sunday mornings.

First Day of School: Sunday, September 13

Family Workshop Dates: Friday evening, October 16 and Sunday, December 6

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL (Grades 3-7)

The Religious School curriculum is based on the spiral curricular concept in which students visit similar areas of study throughout their years (not necessarily every year) of school but on an increasingly sophisticated and theme-based level. Our goals are to grow with our students, to facilitate their religious and spiritual growth and development, and to share with them the joy and excitement of Jewish living.

Once students enter Religious School in Third grade (Kitah Aleph), they begin an intensive course of study, approximately half of which is dedicated to learning how to read, write and pray in Hebrew. Once Hebrew reading is introduced, the focus turns to familiarization with and, ultimately, mastery of the Friday night and Shabbat morning services. Basic prayer themes, key words and chants associated with each prayer are learned. The long-term goal of our Hebrew/*Tefillah* (prayer) curriculum is to enable our students to walk into any Conservative synagogue and follow or even lead a service. In addition to the Friday night and Shabbat morning services, students study the other central prayers associated with holidays, life cycle events, and home rituals. As our students become more familiar with Hebrew, we introduce a beginning Modern Hebrew component in the later grades, this also helps to make Hebrew study meaningful. Students don't just memorize prayers, but can conceptualize what they mean and can also feel like they are beginning to master the spoken language.

Familiarity with the *Siddur* and Hebrew reading skills are reinforced through synagogue services. Students will continue to develop their Hebrew skills as they delve into the study of prayer where they will learn the structure of the *Siddur* and meaning of the central prayers in both the Friday night and Saturday morning Shabbat services. Each week students in Kitah Aleph through Gimmel participate in a simulated Friday night service where they can experience and practice what they have learned. Once a month, Kitot Aleph-Gimmel also have a Shabbat table experience to continue to familiarize themselves with Shabbat home rituals for Friday nights. On Tuesday afternoons, our Kitah Dalet and Kitah Hey students participate in a weekday afternoon or evening service with the Rabbi and/or Cantor. The Aleph through Hey students also attend a Sunday morning service to help to familiarize them with morning liturgy, so that they will ultimately feel comfortable in Shabbat morning service. Each class, Bet through Hey, leads one Friday night service during the year. The Aleph class has a Saturday morning *Siddur* celebration when they receive their first prayer books.

The study of Torah is of utmost importance as our students examine and discuss the following questions: What is the Torah? What is the Bible? What do these ancient books mean to Jews today? What do they mean to me? Students will study our patriarchs' and matriarchs' life journeys and formation of the people Israel. Through this history, our students begin to study the centrality of the State of Israel in Jewish life.

As each Jewish holiday approaches, themes and practices are introduced and reviewed in an age-appropriate progression. Students express this knowledge through song, dance, arts and crafts, and drama. Students are expected to participate in special school events that enhance the celebration of the Jewish holidays and allow them to relay what they have learned to their fellow peers.

An important component of the religious school curriculum is the study of *Mitzvot*. Students will focus on learning what a *mitvah* is, and what it means to be commanded. Each year students will study different types of *mitzvot* associated with different aspects of Jewish life. Furthermore, every year of Religious School students collect *tzedakah* (charity) to donate to various funds of their own choosing. Various *tzedakah* projects are also performed throughout the year.

TARBUT: (Jewish Culture)

A new component that was added last year, is a Jewish cultural arts period on Sunday mornings. Twice a month, students will join with our Cantor in a music session. The other Sundays, they will either go as a class to Jewish cooking, Israeli Dancing, or Art. All of these components will be led by volunteers who are members of the Temple Israel community.

KITAH ALEPH Third Grade

Hebrew/liturgy: The Hebrew language is introduced in an individually paced program focusing on reading, with a secondary concentration on vocabulary and writing. A highlight of the term occurs toward the end of the year, when the children receive their first *siddurim* (prayer books) in a special synagogue-wide ceremony. Thereafter, selected prayers from the Friday night service are introduced as part of their reading curriculum. The Aleph class will be asked to master 8 Tefillot by the end of the year.

Judaica: Four areas are covered during the year in Kitah Aleph: *Torah, mitzvot, chagim* (holidays), and *menschlichkeit* (Jewish values). Students begin work on studying the stories and events in the Torah. As each holiday approaches the children learn its central themes and values that each holiday expresses, as well as its *brachot* (blessings), ritual objects, and symbols. The Aleph class also starts to explore what it means to be a good person and studies the values that Judaism teaches all of us to aspire towards. During the course of the year there are family programs that help reinforce the children's classroom experiences.

The Aleph Class meets from 9:30–12:30 on Sunday mornings AND 4:00-6:00 on Wednesday
First Day of School: Wednesday, September 9
Family Workshop Date: Sunday, January 31, Sunday, March 21
Parent Siddur Workshop Date: April 25
Aleph Siddur Presentation Ceremony: Shabbat Morning, May 15 at 9:00am

KITAH BET Fourth Grade

Hebrew/liturgy: The Bet class begins the year reviewing their Hebrew reading and writing. Students will utilize a Hebrew language program that focuses on Siddur Hebrew and they will delve into such topics as the importance and meaning of prayer. The Bet students continue work on the Friday night service until understanding and mastery of the service is achieved. Our Kitah Bet students also engage in a T'filah unit focusing specifically on the *Shema U'virchotecha* (the *Shema* and its surrounding blessings). This will be achieved as students pursue study in both group and individual tutorial settings. The students will also begin studying the writing of Hebrew script.

Judaica: During the course of the year, Kitah Bet learns a variety of subjects including the *Siddur*, the synagogue, and *tzedakah* (charity). They also continue to study the Bible as they encounter the characters found in the Prophets and Writings such as: Samson, Deborah, David, Ruth, Esther, etc. As the Bet class learns more about the members of our Biblical ancestry, personal family history is introduced. Children investigate their own family history and present their work to their classmates. Kitah Bet also engages in a yearlong study of the land and people of Israel for the first time where they explore the geography, history, and people of the land.

The Bet Class meets from 9:30–12:30 on Sunday mornings AND 4:00-6:00 on Wednesday
First Day of School: Wednesday, September 9
Family Workshop Date: Sunday, January 31, Sunday, March 21
Bet & Gimmel Shabbat: Friday, March 12 Dinner at 7:00pm followed by services at 8:30pm

KITAH GIMMEL Fifth Grade

Hebrew/liturgy: After briefly reviewing the previous year's work, Gimmel students begin an in-depth study of the Saturday morning service. They continue to learn the Jewish way to pray and the customs surrounding prayer. An in depth study of the *Amidah* takes place throughout the year. Our Kitah Gimmel students are also given a more formal introduction to Modern Hebrew. Through the use of everyday vocabulary and simple grammar, the students' connection to Israel and their Jewish heritage are strengthened.

Judaica: The Gimmel class will encounter the Biblical text in a new and challenging way, using a unique curriculum, which combines an analytical text study using the inquiry method (What does this text say? What does this text mean to me?) with role-playing games, activities, and projects designed to invite young people to engage in Jewish text. They will also have many class projects relating to the themes of the text they are studying. The class also reviews what they have learned about each holiday and the *mitzvot* (commandments) and *tefillot* (prayers) incorporated into each holiday. The school term ends with a unit on the *Aseret HaDibrot* (The Ten Commandments) at which time Shavuot will be celebrated.

The Gimmel Class meets from 9:30–12:30 on Sunday mornings AND 4:00–6:00 on Wednesday

First Day of School: Wednesday, September 9

Family Workshop Date: Sunday, January 31, Sunday, March 21

Bet & Gimmel Shabbat: Friday, March 12 Dinner at 7:00pm followed by services at 8:30pm

KITAH DALET Sixth Grade

Sunday Judaica:

Students learn about the milestones of a Jewish life such as birth, naming ceremonies, beginning Jewish education, the Jewish wedding, and death and mourning rituals. They will participate in a mock wedding. Kitah Dalet, for the first time, will explore Jewish history from the beginning of the Middle Ages and will travel from the creation of the *Talmud*, to the times of *Rashi*, to the Jewish communities of Spain and Europe. Our Kitah Dalet students will investigate and learn how these events, though seemingly from the very past, have shaped the state of Modern Jewry as we know it today.

This year, 2009-10, our Kitah Dalet students will also be participating in a special cultural arts program called **KEHILLAH PARTNERSHIP** at the YJCC in Washington Township. Six (6) times during the year (4 Sundays, 1 Saturday evening, and 1 overnight retreat) they will join with 6th graders from 8 area synagogues to engage in Jewish study through the cultural arts. The theme of the year will be connection to Israel and each session will focus on a different way that Jews are connected to the Land of Israel. This program is free for Temple Israel although there will be a nominal fee for the overnight program. These sessions are mandatory for all 6th graders in our religious school and will count toward absence if they are not attended.

Sunday Hebrew:

Our 6th grade students will be introduced to spoken Modern Hebrew. They will be using a text book called "Let's Talk," a modern Hebrew text for teens. This curriculum is designed to give students a basic understanding of the grammar and vocabulary of Modern Hebrew so that they will have the foundations to study more in depth as high school and college students.

Tuesday:

Kitah Dalet students will also continue to use their Hebrew skills as they continue to grow in their mastery of the Shabbat morning *T'filot* (prayers) and build on their knowledge of Modern Hebrew. They will study with the Cantor in preparation for Bar/Bat mitzvah. Students begin learning Haftarah trope, Torah and Haftarah blessings, and continue to master Shabbat morning prayers and the Torah service.

Gemilut Hesed:

Each child in the Dalet class is required to put in **15 hours** of service to others. This can be accomplished entirely independently, or by completing 10 hours independently and 5 hours through synagogue programs held outside of school hours. You will receive more details on these programs over the course of the year. Gemilut Hesed hours should be recorded on sheets your child will receive in school. These service hours are important in helping our children to understand that they are part of a larger community and that Jewish life requires that we give of ourselves to others. If you have questions about the type of community service allowed, please be in contact with the Director of Education at 201-444-4194.

The Dalet class meets from 9:30-12:30 on Sunday mornings AND 4:00-6:00 Tuesday

First Day of School: Tuesday, September 8

Family Workshop Date: Sunday, October 18, 11-12:30 B'nei Mitzvah Family workshop,

Sunday, March 21 Yad Making

Dalet and Hey Shabbat: Friday, December 18 Dinner at 7:00pm followed by services at 8:30pm.

HEY Seventh Grade**Tuesday:**

The Tuesday curriculum, which is divided into three units, devotes itself to teaching students how Judaism is a way of life.

- **What makes us unique as Jews?** Being a Jewish adolescent today means many different things. Sometimes it requires our students to uphold to different standards and values than the secular world. Kitah Hey will discuss Jewish values and what may or may not make us the “chosen people”.
- **Present day Jewish life:** As students in Kitah Hey prepare themselves for Bar/Bat mitzvah and the responsibilities of Jewish adulthood, they will learn what is expected of them in the community. The class will also learn about the many mitzvot that Jewish adults are commanded to perform. A variety of mitzvot will be performed as a class as well as on an individual basis throughout the year.
- **Parashat HaShavua:** Students will engage with the weekly Torah portion to understand how to make the text meaningful and to help them in the writing of their personal divrei Torah for their B'nai mitzvah.

Sunday:

The Sunday session is divided into three units as well.

- **Hebrew/Modern Israel:** Students will study the history and geography of Israel beginning in 1948 to present day. Many historical figures will be studied including Golda Meir, Moshe Dayan, David Ben-Gurion and Yitzchak Rabin. Students will also look at the current situation and explore the challenges being faced by the State of Israel today. The class will include weekly assignments to study current events either on-line or in newspapers and to be prepared for class discussions each week. This unit will also include studies on the Israeli army, modern Israeli life, Modern Hebrew, and Israeli culture.

- **Holocaust:** An historic overview stresses quality over quantity of information. The relationship of the current generation to this period is discussed and debated, as are the emotional/philosophical questions raised by the Holocaust. Film, art, museums, and many resources that supplement textbook learning are woven into the curriculum. The first hour includes text study and discussions of contemporary issues in the lives of our students. Students will also study practical adult Jewish skills such as the wearing of *tallit* and *tefillin*).
- **Modern Hebrew:** Our 7th grade students will continue to learn spoken Modern Hebrew. They will continue using their text book called "Let's Talk," a modern Hebrew text for teens. This curriculum is designed to give students a basic understanding of the grammar and vocabulary of Modern Hebrew so that they will have the foundations to study more in depth as high school and college students.

Gemilut Hesed:

Each child in the Hey class is required to put in **20 hours** of service to others. This can be accomplished entirely independently, or by completing 10 hours independently and 10 hours through synagogue programs held outside of school hours. You will receive more details on these programs over the course of the year. Gemilut Hesed hours should be recorded on sheets your child will receive in school. These service hours are important in helping our children to understand that they are part of a larger community and that Jewish life requires that we give of ourselves to others. If you have questions about the type of community service allowed, please be in contact with the Director at 201-444-4194.

The Hey Class meets from 9:30-12:30 on Sunday mornings AND 4:00-6:00 Tuesday

First Day of School: Tuesday, September 8

Family Workshop Date: Sunday, October 18, 11-12:30 B'nei Mitzvah Family workshop,

Sunday February 7, World Wide Wrap. March 14 (at BCHSJS), April 18 (at Prozdor)

Dalet and Hey Shabbat: Friday, December 18 Dinner at 6:45pm followed by services at 8:30pm.

Hebrew High School

Graduating students have two options of Hebrew High School programs. We actively encourage our students to pursue one of these options upon the completion of the Temple Israel program. The Bergen Country High School of Jewish Studies meets on Sundays at the Frisch School in Paramus. Students can also study at Prozdor, the Hebrew High School of the Jewish Theological Seminary, which meets Sunday mornings at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York City, and Tuesday evenings at Temple Israel. You will have the opportunity to hear more about both of these programs and visit with representatives of these schools during the year.

Student and Family Information

Our Religious School Registration Forms include all of the following materials that we may need to get to know your child. This packet includes:

- Emergency Contact Information
- Authorization for Pick-Up at School
- Personal Health Information
- Information About Individual Learning Styles
- Security Information (Pick-Up) Form

If any of this information changes during the year please notify the Religious School Office.

Parent School Communication

We actively encourage parents to become involved in their child's religious education! Please contact us should you have any questions, comments or concerns during the school year either by phone at (201) 444-4194, or you can contact the education director via email at slitwin@synagogue.org. By registering your child in religious school and providing us with an email address, you are automatically registered for school-parents@synagogue.org announce list. This is an electronic newsletter sent to the parents weekly with updates about classes, assignments, workshops, dinners, programs, and other religious school happenings. It is strongly encouraged that you read these updates.

Back To School Day:

Please join us in the classroom on Sunday, November 15, when parents are invited to attend Religious School with their children for part or all of the day. Observe the class, participate with your child and support their religious upbringing by sitting with them for a session of Religious School.

Class Parents/Volunteers

Each grade has a class parent. A member of our school committee will contact volunteers to fill this important position. Class parents are responsible for contacting families in the event of emergency school closings. They also arrange the volunteers for bagel preparation and sales each Sunday. Class parents also find volunteers to assist teachers with special projects such as cooking and holiday programs.

Family Workshops

At least one family program is scheduled per grade level each year. These sessions are during school hours and designed as an opportunity for parent and child to learn together. The dates for each workshop are on the school calendar. These workshops are mandatory for all students and we actively encourage you to attend with your child(ren).

Torah – Take – Out / Homework

In order to keep parents informed in what is going on in the classroom, each teacher will handout a daily Torah – Take – Out. This will include a synopsis of what was covered in class, homework assignments, and notify parents on any class plans! Teachers in grades Aleph through Hey may give a TOTAL of one hour of homework per week. Homework is often emailed home by Rabbi Sharon as well. Please check your email after school on Tuesdays/Wednesdays and Sundays

Arrival

Students are expected to arrive on time unless prior arrangements have been made with the school office. Students, who arrive to class 15 or more minutes late, must be accompanied by a parent or other adult to the Religious School Office before going to class.

Because of varied schedules, some students may need to arrive at school earlier. Students are permitted to arrive from 3:30 on to do homework and quietly spend time with their peers. If any student needs to arrive earlier than 3:30, the Education Director must be notified in advance and special arrangements may be made.

Dismissal

We want our school to be a safe environment for our children. Each child must have a Security Information Form on file in the office. Only those authorized to pick-up a child from school will be allowed to leave with that child. If someone else needs to pick up your child, special arrangements must be made in advance with the Education Director. **NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE TO THIS RULE.**

Any student who is allowed to walk home alone must have a letter on file at the office.

Tuesday and Wednesday Dismissal:

Student pick-up is outside the Main Sanctuary doors. All Parents/Guardians must come in to the building to pick up their child.

Sunday Dismissal:

K,1,2

All Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade students will be dismissed to the lobby outside of the sanctuary. Please meet your child there at 11:30am.

Aleph-Hey 12:30pm dismissal

On Sundays, Student pick-up is outside the Main Sanctuary doors. All Parents/Guardians must come in to the building to pick up their child.

Early Dismissal:

If a parent is picking up a student early, they must report to the Religious School Office and sign the student out. In no case will a student be allowed to stand alone outside the building awaiting a ride. Also, please send a note to the child's teacher informing them that the student needs to leave early. This way the teacher can send the student to the office with an aide at the proper time and the class is not disrupted.

Attendance Policy

Kitah Aleph – Dalet (Third – Sixth Grades)

Our school cannot function without its students! Please have your child here for all scheduled classes and events. Students in Kitah Aleph-Dalet **may not miss more than 20% of classes during the school year**. Students who miss an excessive number of class sessions will be asked to complete special make-up assignments. **Students may be prevented from advancing to the next level should they not complete the level of work expected in each grade.**

Kitah Hey (Seventh Grade)

Please be advised, the School Committee and Temple Israel Board of Directors have passed a special attendance policy for **Kitah Hey** students. In order for a student to graduate, and receive his/her diploma, he or she **may not miss more than 15 classes** during the year. This includes Sundays, Tuesdays, and all scheduled school programs!

Synagogue Service Attendance Policy

All religious school students, Kitah Aleph through Kitah Hey, must attend a minimum of thirteen services throughout the year in order to receive a synagogue attendance award. This requirement can be fulfilled by attending any 13 Shabbat services from September 1, 2009 through May 22, 2010. Please note that attending High Holiday Services for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur does not count towards the completion of this requirement.

Discipline Policy

Our Religious School is a Jewish School that upholds Jewish values. The school must be a place where students, teachers, and families feel safe and supported. We expect that students, teachers, and families honor each other, and act with dignity and respect at all times.

Teachers and students will work at the beginning of the year to create a classroom code of conduct that will serve as the guiding principals for behavior and personal discipline in the classroom. A student who is unable to abide by their classroom rules will be asked to meet with the teacher and discuss solutions for any problems or issues that might arise. If the situation continues, the Education Director will meet with the student and parents. The Religious School is eager to involve parents in all stages of the disciplinary process. We hope that parents will join us as partners in their child's education!

PLEASE FILL OUT AND RETURN THE DISCIPLINE AND CODE OF CONDUCT FORM IN YOUR MAILING BY SEPTEMBER 1, 2009.

Kashrut/Food in School

All food brought into Temple Israel must be Kosher. This means it must be in a sealed package marked with a registered trademark Kosher insignia or in its natural state (e.g. apples, oranges, etc). **Please note that food marked only with the K is not permitted in the building. The Kosher Snack Bar will be open on weekday afternoons from 3:30-3:55, all snacks will cost \$1. Bagels and juice will be for sale on Sunday mornings for Kitah Aleph-Hey students for \$2 during their break. Proceeds help support education at Temple Israel & JCC.**

Religious School students may bring a snack during the week to have at the beginning of class. Please make sure that all snacks correspond with the above listed Kashrut requirements. **Students in Pre – Kindergarten through Second Grade are given snacks, usually cookies or pretzels and juice.** Please make sure that your child's allergy information is on file.

Books and Materials for Class

Textbooks and other educational materials will be distributed throughout the year. The cost of these books is included in the school tuition. Please note that it is the student's responsibility to bring these books to class. **Students will be charged for any text-book that needs to be replaced.** Students should also bring a pen/pencil, notebook, *kipah*, a donation to *tzedakah*, and any class assignments. From time to time, a teacher might also request that a child bring in something special for that class session. Please check your child's Torah-Take-Out for this information.

Siddurim (Prayer books)

After learning to read Hebrew, the Aleph class receives a Siddur in a ceremony that takes place during the Shabbat morning class. From this point onward, students are required to take care of their Siddur and bring it to school for class.

Kippot (Skullcaps or Yarmulkes)

Male students are required, and female students are encouraged to wear a *kippah* when at Temple Israel as a traditional sign of respect and devotion to God. It is strongly recommended that each student bring his or her own *kippah*. Extras are available at the school office.

Office Hours

If you need to contact the Religious School Office during school hours, please call (201) 444-4194. You may also contact the Main Office at (201) 444-9320 from 9-5PM Monday through Thursday and 9am-3pm Friday.

Emergency School Closing

In case of inclement weather or other emergency, Temple Israel Religious School has the following policy:

Weekdays:

If the Ridgewood Public Schools are closed because of inclement weather, then Religious School will be closed, even if the weather improves during the day. Should the weather conditions deteriorate during the school day, please call the Temple Israel Religious School Office (201) 444-4194. There will be a message on the answering machine or left with an assistant to tell you if school is closed.

Sundays:

Rabbi Sharon will send an email to the School Parents email list by 8:30 am if school is being canceled. There will also be a message on the school answering machine indicating if school has been canceled.

Student Progress Reports

Twice each year the religious school mails Progress Reports to all students in Kindergarten through Kitah Hey. Parents are encouraged to discuss their child's progress at any time during the year with their child's teacher or Director of Education.

Tutors

Tutors are available to aid students, in Kitah Aleph through Hey, who need help with Hebrew reading. The school can recommend alumni and day school students to help our children with Hebrew and *T'filah* (Prayer) skills for students who need more intensive help, for a fee. Please contact the Director of Education for more information.

Health and Safety

If it becomes clear that a student is not feeling well during school hours, every effort will be made to contact a parent. If a child requires prescribed medication during school hours, parents are required to contact the Religious School Office. We will not distribute any medication without a parent or doctor's written permission.

It is our hope that your child/ren will enjoy their time in Religious School, that s/he will feel a connection to his/her classmates and to the teacher. We pray that the hours spent at Temple Israel and JCC Religious School will build a foundation for your child/ren's Jewish identity and will provide him/her with a meaningful basis for a long Jewish life.