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**Kitah Hey (5th grade)**

**Week of December 10th**

This week in Hey Judaic Studies we continued investigating what it’s like when we begin our formal Talmud Torah. Students studied the phrase “It is not good for man (a person) to be alone” from Genesis and we extended the thoughts around that to why isn’t it good to live alone, to work alone, or to study alone? Why do we learn more when we are with others? Through words and phrases we explained this to each other and then identified the process as “creating Midrash” Then, using for other phrases from Torah, we studied more about why we need others to learn Torah best. Share with your Hey child a time you remember learning something significant from Torah through study with others.

**Week of December 3rd**

In our last class the students literally got a “taste” of what it used to be like to begin your formal Jewish education. In talking about Consecration, the point at which our parents and our godparents send us to begin our formal Jewish education we learned that students used to begin learning their Hebrew alphabet by studying letters on a slate. The letters were covered with drops of honey. If the student was able to name the letter and the sound it makes they were allowed to eat the honey as a treat. Thus they were rewarded for their learning and learned early on that studying Torah is indeed sweet. Ask your students about licking the honey from their “slates”.

**Week of November 19**

Hey Judaic Studies returned to our study of the lifecycle and revisited the ceremonies of Brit Bat and Brit Milah. Students worked in small groups to plan for a mock Brit Bat or Brit Milah services.  Then, with the participation of the whole class, they carried out there special ceremonies for their boys and girls. Ask your students which role they played in Gabe‘s Brit Milah or Eve’s Brit Bat. Special thanks to those who participated in our Hey Shabbat service last Friday night; it was beautifully done. Happy Thanksgiving to all.