

# CBJ RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

## BET EXPLORES B'TZELEM ELOHEIM

The Bet students have been very busy over the past few weeks. We have been exploring the Jewish Value **B'tzelem Eloheim**, being created in God's image. The students brainstormed ways to be good people and how to take care of themselves. They had fun looking in mirrors and creating Word Art describing themselves. We also discussed why it is important to think of others and to help make the world a better place. The students decorated tzedakah banks and brainstormed places where we could donate money. We really enjoyed learning about B'tzelem Eloheim.



## HEH: SIX PILLARS OF JEWISH PEOPLEHOOD IN PHOTOS

Heh students have been learning about Judaism through photography - "The Jewish Lens". They learned how to read a photograph and choose texts that connect to photographs. Heh students practiced taking pictures using various compositional aspects, including lighting and framing. They posted their photographs on Padlet and wrote about their meaningfulness and how they relate to the Six pillars of Jewish Peoplehood. This idea represents Judaism not only as a religion, but as a way of life, a culture, a language, a connection to Israel, historical memories, and values.



## ALEPH TORAH PROJECT IN THE WORKS

The Aleph class has been doing a fantastic job on our Torah project! Recently, students made their very own Yad. First, they decorated all the pieces and then decided how they wanted to put the pieces together. The students came up with some unique designs and did a terrific job putting them together!



[Click here to view Jerusalem Acrostic Poems student created.](#)

## GIMEL LEARNS ABOUT ISRAEL

The Gimel class has been doing a wonderful job learning all about Israel! So far we have focused on the Dead Sea and Jerusalem. The kids read articles, took virtual tours, watched videos and created some beautiful projects. They have done an awesome job navigating technology!

We learned about the Western Wall tunnels and some ancient artifacts that were discovered this summer. The Gimel students each painted a water color Kotel and wrote beautiful prayers. They also painted Jerusalem and wrote informative acrostic poems. They are doing a fabulous job learning about Israel.

## GIMEL CONNECTS B'TZELEM ELOHEIM TO TZEDAKAH

The foundation of the Jewish value system is the notion that human beings are created B'tzelem Elohim, which means "in God's image." We explored how we can honor the image of God in ourselves and in others by how we act and behave. The Gimel students decorated ceramic tzedakah boxes with items that represented who they are as individuals. In return they shared with their classmates what makes them unique and how they see themselves represented in the image of God.

The Gimel students focused on where they would like to donate their Tzedakah \$ to at the end of the school year. They came up with many great organizations and their top 3 choices were Silver Whiskers, American Red Cross and Orphans of the Storm. Collectively they voted and the organization we will be donating to at the end of the school year is Orphans of the Storm.



# KINDERGARTEN EXPLORES SUKKAT SHALOM & OMETZ LEV

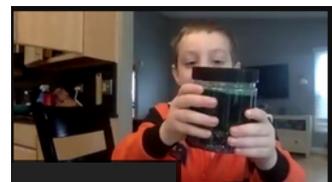
The kindergarten class has been off to a wonderful start. Over the past few months, we have been learning about the concepts of Sukkat Shalom (shelter of peace) and Ometz Lev (strength of heart/inner strength.)

We discussed and shared about places that were our Sukkat Shalom. For Ometz Lev, we have spent time talking about big emotions and strategies to help us handle them. We created our own jack-in-the-boxes to remind us of how emotions can “erupt”. We also created an Ometz Lev jar, or a calming bottle, to use when we need to calm our emotions. In addition to looking at these two

concepts, we have also discussed the weekly Torah portion, learning about Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Esau.

We have read books teaching us about Gemilut Hasadim, watched a video about Shalom Bayit and more.

We cannot wait to see what is to come!



## FIRST GRADE THANKFUL FOR ALL OF YOU!

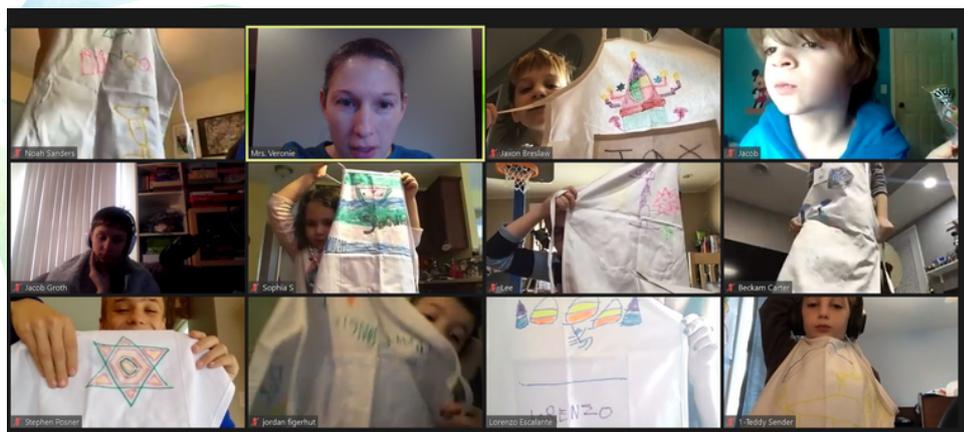
What a different year this has been! I have to start off by saying how proud I am of all of the 1st graders and their families and how all of you have adapted to this year. I look forward to seeing all of you on Sunday mornings and you always make me smile. =)

We have been busy already this year with our Hebrew letters, learning Torah stories, and learning about Jewish values. So far we have explored the letters Aleph-Heh. We’ve practiced key words, put the letters in our machberet, made the letters out of playdoh, and put our bodies in the shapes of the letters.

We have also been exploring a few Torah stories and looking at the lessons that we can learn. We learned how Ruth was loyal to Naomi and took care of both of them. We tied the story of Ruth and Naomi to helping the hungry in our own community. We created beautiful placemats to add to Thanksgiving food baskets for families in need in our community. We also looked at the story of creation and used loose parts to recreate some of the days of creation.

Along with our Torah stories, we started exploring Shabbat and Havdalah. We made our own spices for Havdalah with an orange and whole cloves to help us remember the sweetness of Shabbat and how we can’t wait for it to come back each week. We also listened to a story about the missing ingredient on Shabbat. We learned that the missing ingredient was having friends and family around us to help celebrate Shabbat and enjoy a festive meal. We decorated our own aprons so we could help be “the missing ingredient” and help our families prepare for Shabbat and enjoy a delicious meal together.

I’m excited to continue learning with all of your children this year and see what the rest of the year will bring.



# HAVDALAH CELEBRATIONS



## SECOND EXPLORES HAKARAT HA'TOV

It's been a most unusual year in Second Grade. After our brief get together in August in the shul parking lot, we have been coming together virtually. I continue to marvel at how adaptable the kids are and how much we are able to accomplish together in class. Our time together flies by--- at least it does for me!

In Second Grade, we've been considering some important Jewish values like Hakarat HaTov, recognizing the good, and the kids are very, very good at beginning class by sharing what they are grateful for. We even talked about some upsides of having a Zoom class when we can't be together in person. As you might imagine, your kids ranked sleeping later, not hurrying to school and finishing breakfast while on screen as positives but they miss their friends and even their teachers.

We've been talking about Jewish values of Bikkur Cholim, cheering the sick, and Tzedakah which we all understand is the mitzvah of helping those who have less than you. Our Thanksgiving project of making placemats to go with our food pantry donation was a huge hit for the kids.

We are going full steam ahead with our Hebrew learning. We've learned Bet, Tav, Shin, Mem, Lamed--- and two vowels----- the building blocks to Hebrew reading and decoding! We use bottle caps for vowels, playdough for letters and whiteboards for writing. I am really proud of how they are beginning to put together the letters and the vowels.



## DALET CREATES WEBPAGES ABOUT SIFREI KODESH

In the beginning of the year, the students discussed Teshuvah and the process of Jewish repentance. We applied the Teshuvah process to the students' lives. Through many activities, the students learned how to improve their behavior and relationships to others.

The second unit involved B'tzelem Eloheim and how people are created in G-d's image. Discussions were held regarding the attributes of what makes one beautiful. We also discussed the differences between mitzvot (commandments) and G'milut Hasidim (acts of loving kindness). The students spent many classes on disability awareness and inclusion of all individuals. This included wonderfully insightful discussions.

The third unit Sifrei Kodesh (holy books) was very exciting for the students. They learned about the Tanach, Mishnah, Talmud, and the Shulchan Aruch. The students created a web page using Google Sites, designed a Kahoot game to share with the class, and presented their information orally. Incredible work by our Dalet students!

