

Sample Parent Blessing

From the day you were born you have been a blessing to our family. Your father and I marveled at how easy-going you were from the very beginning- it was if you knew there was so much going on around you that you would be the laid-back child. You were so amazingly thoughtful right from day one! Rarely do you test our patience (not speaking for your sister here). While your surfer-dude attitude has endeared you to all, it belies a strength of character that makes you a model son, grandson, great grandson, brother, loyal friend and overall honorable young man. We have such faith in your judgement, integrity and compassion for others. You exude a quiet but unwavering confidence and are always modest about your accomplishments (ok, maybe not when you beat me at ping pong). You are truly our renaissance boy- with so many varied interests- from excelling as a student, an athlete in soccer and tennis; playing the trumpet, ping pong, Katan, every card game imaginable; volunteering at the Mt. Kisco Boys and Girls club; doing magic; solving Rubik's cubes; flipping water bottles; playing jump on your iPhone... the list keeps on growing. Your intrinsic curiosity about the world is to be celebrated and we hope that your enthusiasm for learning never wanes.

You embody the Jewish hallmarks of kindness, fairness, perseverance and unconditional love for your family and friends. Your Torah and Haftarah readings both depict an angry God ready to do battle to "cleanse the land" of non-believers and give the world a do-over. You focused not on the threat to humanity, but instead on how important it is to show mercy. You didn't subscribe to the fatalism of messianism- but rather encouraged all of us to be our own messiahs- and to do our part for Tikun Olam- showing mercy for our threatened planet. You praised Moses for his bravery and leadership skills and we hope that you, too, will always stand up for what you believe in.

We have so enjoyed watching you grow up to be the kind, bright, honest and fun-loving boy standing before us. You are a hard worker- exemplified by how ably you lead the service today. And we are equally impressed by how you have embraced your Jewish heritage and identity. To say we are proud of you is quite an understatement. You have a wonderful sense of balance in life- perhaps this is part of your relaxed personality, or

perhaps this comes from being the well-adjusted middle child, sandwiched between your older brother and younger sister. While you may sometimes complain about the inequity of this birth order, I know that you are actually the luckiest- always surrounded by love, friendship, even some healthy sibling rivalry- from the two people who admire you the most.

So as you celebrate this important rite of passage, take time to enjoy all the good wishes for your future. It has been an exciting journey watching you become the person you are today and we can't wait to see where you take us next. We love you. Mazel Tov.