

The Learning Center

The Pelham Jewish Center

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www.thepjc.org

PARENT HANDBOOK

2019-2020

תש"פ – 5780

The Pelham Jewish Center, through the Learning Center,
will empower families to feel connected to the Jewish
people, while providing tools to participate in Jewish life.

Families will be on an ongoing journey to live and
forge daily rhythms of Jewish life values rooted
in a diverse community.

Rabbi Alex Salzberg

Ana Turkienicz, Education Director

Marjut Herzog, Education Chair

Julia E. Coss, Office Manager & Administrator

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LETTER FROM THE EDUCATION DIRECTOR

August 2019/Av 5779

Dear PJC Learning Center Families,

It is with great pride that I present you with our *2019-20 Parent Handbook*, which describes our commitment to excellence in Jewish Education in all levels, for students and their families. The PJC Learning Center has always been a beacon of Jewish Learning, ensuring that the skills and content we aim to provide will have a lifelong lasting effect for our students. Encapsulated in our vision are the basic foundations of learning and Jewish values that have ensured the continuity of the Jewish People as a whole, and have given our students a path to grow and identify as proud links in the historical chain of Jewish tradition.

In one of the LC hallways, there is a poster, stating that “Jews come in many colors”. In our sacred work, we wish to bring these words to reality; there is not one only path to seeking G-d or Jewish Identity; as diverse as our families are, such are the ways in which one can express one’s connection to Judaism and identify with the whole of the Jewish People. Based on this premise, we have chosen to devote this year to the theme: **“United in Diversity”** – acknowledging the wide range of learning styles, family backgrounds, sexual orientation, religious observance, skill abilities and personalities that are woven together into the fabric of our community. Quoting the great Rabbi Nachman of Breslov, “Let the good in me connect with the good in others, until all the world is transformed through the compelling power of love.”

In order to deliver Jewish Education in the highest possible level, much is demanded from us. Current research has proven that Jewish Education is Family Education. So, we see you – the families – as an integral part of our educational model. Our learning experiences on Shabbat, holidays, Friday night dinners and more are intrinsically connected to what our learners experience in our classrooms, and your active participation sends a clear message to our children: this is important to us. Please take a moment to insert into your calendars the special dates listed under your child’s class page; please check out our one-page calendar for our special family events, and add them to your busy schedule. We put a lot of thought and effort to create family programming that is meaningful and experiential, and your presence is invaluable. Additionally, please help your child feel a sense of belonging to his or her classroom and the LC community by attending our classes regularly. Showing up is already 90% of the work!

The LC faculty is honored to be entrusted with the sacred work of keeping the flame of Judaism alive for the next generations. May G-d bless you in all your endeavors and may our homes, our Sanctuary and our classrooms be a safe haven where all of our students are welcome and embraced, free of judgement and stigma, as G-d listens to all prayers, with no discrimination.

Wishing each and every one of you a wonderful year of Jewish Learning at the Pelham Jewish Center,

B’vrachah,

Ana Turkjenicz

Education Director
PJC Learning Center

LETTER FROM THE RABBI

אב תשע"ט/ August 2019

Dear Parents,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to a new year at the Learning Center.

I am excited to learn with and from all of our children, and to see and hear them in the halls and classrooms of the PJC. I also look forward to seeing you before, after and during Learning Center hours. I am always available then to check in and discuss any issues or questions that you might have.

In the Talmud, Rabbi Eliezer quotes the verse from Proverbs: “the Torah of lovingkindness is on her tongue.” He asks, “What does this mean, is there more than one Torah, such that one can be “of lovingkindness” and one which is not?” He answers his own question: Torah that is learned for its own sake, is a Torah of lovingkindness, and Torah that is learned for some other reason is not.

At the Learning Center, we are blessed in that all of the learning done here is for its own sake, and the lovingkindness that goes along with it can be felt every single day. We learn together, not in order to pass an exam or to get a grade, but to deepen our understanding of and connection to the Torah itself.

We achieve this through the learning that happens in the classrooms, and also in the interactions between our children before, during and after Learning Center each day. The relationships that they develop with one another will last a lifetime, providing a positive connection to our community, our people and our faith.

I wish you all a year full of love of Torah and personal growth, in which all of your worthy aspirations will be fulfilled,

Rabbi Alex Salzberg

THE LEARNING CENTER MISSION STATEMENT

The PJC's Learning Center's mission is to create a vibrant and welcoming learning environment in which our children and families develop a love of G-d and Torah. We believe that the family and the Learning Center must work together to nourish our children's Jewish identities in our synagogue, homes and the broader community. We provide opportunities to learn together by participating in Jewish rituals and social action, as well as by studying Torah, Jewish history, Hebrew and Klal Israel.

Goals

“On three things the world stands: Torah, Avodah and *G'emilut Hasadim*.” (Pirkei Avot, 1:2) We want our graduates to be committed to the love of Torah (study), Avodah (worship) and *G'emilut Hasadim* (moral and spiritual justice).

We strive to help our students feel comfortable:

- Asking questions about life and growing up, while seeking answers within the framework of Jewish tradition.
- Transmitting the Jewish tradition to the next generation.
- Being linked to a rich tradition, and realizing their place in this chain through the study of Jewish history and culture.
- Using their skills regarding *Shabbat*, holidays and other religious observances in their home.
- Praying in the synagogue as part of a community of worshippers, and experiencing prayer as an attempt to draw closer to G-d.

As they progress through our school's curriculum, students will:

- Know the Jewish calendar, and celebrate life cycle events and the yearly cycle of holidays.
- Read the Siddur in Hebrew, and be aware of its theological themes and various liturgies, especially the *Shabbat* service.
- Experience Modern Hebrew language, using Hebrew in the classroom and acquiring a basic vocabulary.
- Experience Jewish literature, music and the arts as creative expressions of our heritage.
- Recognize the *TaNakh* (Bible) and other classical Jewish texts as the record of the evolving *Brit* (covenant) between the Jewish people and G-d.
- Recall stories of our ancestors and themes of ethical behavior from the *TaNakh*.
- Identify Torah (Jewish learning) as the source of *mitzvot* (commandments).
- Understand and willingly undertake mitzvot between themselves and others, as well as between themselves and G-d.
- Accept responsibility for giving *Tzedakah* (righteous giving) and performing actions of *Tikkun Olam* (making the world a better place).
- Understand that the world is G-d's gift to humanity, and that it is our responsibility to protect it and use it wisely.
- Understand the value of the Jewish community, and be committed to being a member of it.
- Identify with all Jews (*Klal Israel*) as brothers and sisters, and be committed to Israel as the homeland of the Jewish people.
- Understand the principles of Conservative Judaism.

We want our students to experience:

- The Learning Center as a joyful place of learning, friendship and community.
- Respect for the uniqueness of each individual learner.
- Jewish teachers and other Jewish professionals as positive role models and skilled communicators of Jewish knowledge and values.
- A curriculum that illuminates the depth and beauty of Jewish knowledge and the relevance of ancient traditions to our daily lives.
- Moments and events of *kedushah* (holiness).
- Families who are committed to active participation in Jewish living and *mitzvot*.

Together with parents, the Pelham Jewish Center's Learning Center plants the seeds of Judaism in our students. With nourishment from the home and cultivation from the school, our students' Judaism will grow and continue to flourish throughout their lives.

ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

As part of the curriculum, the PJC's Learning Center provides a variety of programs designed to tailor educational requirements to an individual student's need, to instill a love for Judaism, foster a sense of community among students and impart a sense of responsibility to the greater community. These include:

FAMILY EDUCATION

We understand that every family and each individual family member is at a different place on their own Jewish life journey. At the Learning Center, we wish to meet each family and family member where they are, while allowing all to experience moments of *kedushah* (holiness), when actively participating in our Family Education program. We want our families to experience the LC as a joyful place of learning, friendship and community, where families take charge of their Jewish journeys while growing together towards a greater understanding of Jewish living, identity and *mitzvot*.

For families with children of all ages:

Grades 2-6/Bet-Gimmel-Daled-Hei-Vav Family Shabbat Dinner: Friday, October 25th, 6:30 p.m.

Hebrew High School Family Shabbat Dinner: Friday, March 20th, 6:30 p.m.

All Families/Shabbat Mishpachah – Saturday, November 2nd, Friday, December 6th & Saturday, May 16th

Zayin/B'nei Mitzvah Family Shabbat Dinner – Friday, September 20th, 6:30 p.m.

Celebrate the End of Shabbat Together/Hooked on Havdalah – Saturday, January 25th – 5:30-9:00 p.m.

Families meet at hosting homes for an early dinner (*seudat shlisht*), then join together to end *Shabbat* at the PJC for the blessings – called *Havdalah* – wine and dessert. Parents get to mingle, eat, drink and chat, while their children enjoy Jewish stories, songs or craft activities with an educator. A perfect opportunity to make new friends! Volunteers will be needed to organize this amazing event.

Nitzanim-Gan-Alef: "Shabbat B'Shamayim" Family Shabbat Dinner – Friday, May 1st, 5:30 p.m.

Families with children ages 10-18:

PJC Midnight Run and the ***Breakfast Run*** – working together for Social Justice by helping to clothe and feed the homeless in New York City.

Breakfast Run – Sunday, November 3rd, 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Midnight Run – Saturday, April 18th, 8:45 p.m.-12:15 a.m.

ADDITIONAL ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

Music and Dancing

Jewish music is an integral part of the well-rounded religious school experience. Accordingly, a music program is integrated into the curriculum, teaching holiday songs and selections from Jewish liturgy. The PJC's Learning Center students learn Jewish music once a week, as well as engage in Jewish Folk Dancing during *Rosh Hodesh* (1st day of a Jewish month) or holiday celebrations.

The Shinshinim

The word *shinshinim* is the abbreviation for the Hebrew initial "*Shnat Sherut*", which means "a year of service." The *shinshinim* are four young high school graduates from Israel, in a gap year between high school and the Israeli Army, who will serve as informal educators in our school. They will also serve other synagogues and day schools in our area. The feminine word for *shinshin* is *shinshinit*. Our *shinshinit* will be an integral part of our educational curriculum, teaching about Israel, Israeli culture, Jewish identity and Jewish celebrations. She will touch virtually every part of our synagogue's congregational life and will be a living bridge between our community and Israel. Our *shinshinit*'s name is Tamar Segal. She comes to us from Herzliya, a city near Tel Aviv, and has been a member of the Israeli Scouts since she was very young. She will be at the Learning Center every Tuesday, from 4:00 PM until 8:00 PM, teaching all classes, including our Hebrew High School, about Israel and we are looking forward to learning from her. Please feel free to invite Tamar to your homes, for dinner or just to get to know her better. We would like to thank the Cohen family for their incredible support to the *Shinshinim* program at the PJC.

SHABBAT PROGRAMMING

“More than the Jews kept Shabbat, Shabbat kept the Jews.” – Achad Ha’am

TORAH TIME (TT)

Saturdays, 11:00 a.m. – Nitzanim through Alef (Pre-K through 1st Grade)

Torah Time Leader – Sandi Daniels; sandracarendaniels@gmail.com

Torah Time is a Family *Shabbat* program for families with children ages 3-6. Families will taste a bit of the Torah portion and the *Shabbat* service, in a playful and joyful atmosphere. Activities include dance, songs, games, storytelling and plays.

*Below please see the dates for our Torah Time services. Chaperoning assignments will be made at a later date. **Please be sure to consult your weekly Learning Center Announcements for this information.*** Should you be unable to chaperone on your assigned day, it is your responsibility to arrange a swap with another parent. *Please let Marjut Herzog (marjutherzog@gmail.com) know of any changes to the schedule.*

Chaperoning Schedule for Torah Time	
September 14 th	
November 2 nd	<i>Shabbat Mishpachah!</i>
November 23 rd	
December 14 th	
January 11 th	
February 8 th	
March 14 th	
April 25 th	
May 2 nd	
May 16 th	<i>Shabbat Mishpachah!</i>

JUNIOR CONGREGATION (JC)

Saturdays 10:30 a.m.-12:00 Noon – Bet through Vav (ages 7-11)

Junior Congregation Leader – Arielle Kaden; akaden94@gmail.com

Junior Congregation is an integral part of our *Tefillah* (prayer) curriculum. Our JC program is designed to guide our students on their journey into Jewish prayer, enabling them to comfortably participate and lead services. By actively participating in Junior Congregation, children feel connected to prayer and build their own sacred community – their *Kehillah kedoshah*. Students will share joyous *Shabbat* experiences – enhancing, transforming and inspiring their Jewish life. Parents are encouraged to accompany their children to the synagogue, and act as proud role models! JC is an essential component of our children’s Jewish Education; **attendance is taken** and students with perfect attendance are recognized at our end-of-year assembly. The LC Education Director will meet with families whose children have attendance issues.

Below, you will find a schedule for Junior Congregation parent chaperones for this school year. Your child will love to have you attend Junior Congregation services with him/her, and the Learning Center will appreciate your help supervising the children during the service. You may be asked to put out snack, help the children find the correct page in the Siddur and make sure all children are respectful during services. We thank you in advance for your assistance.

*Below please see the dates for our Junior Congregation services. Chaperoning assignments will be made at a later date. **Please be sure to consult your weekly Learning Center Announcements for this information.** Should you be unable to chaperone on your assigned day, it is your responsibility to arrange a swap with another parent. **Please let Marjut Herzog (marjutherzog@gmail.com) know of any changes to the schedule.***

Dates for Junior Congregation	
September 14 th	
November 2 nd	<i>Shabbat Mishpachah – All Families in the Main Sanctuary!</i>
November 23 rd	
December 14 th	
January 11 th	
February 8 th	
March 14 th	
April 25 th	
May 2 nd	
May 16 th	<i>Shabbat Mishpachah – All Families in the Main Sanctuary!</i>

SHABBAT SERVICES IN THE SANCTUARY

Saturdays 10:30 a.m.-12:00 Noon – B’nei Mitzvah/Kitah Zayin (age 12)

Kitah Zayin student’s (*B’nei Mitzvah*) are required to attend 15 complete *Shabbat* services in the sanctuary during the one year prior to *Bar/Bat Mitzvah*. ***An attendance box will be located under the stairs for students to check in before they come into services.*** Attendance at holiday services is extremely important. The *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* class will be active participants at services.

SHABBAT MISHPACHAH

Saturdays 10:00 a.m.-12:00 Noon – ALL LEARNING CENTER FAMILIES

November 2nd & May 16th

During *Shabbat Mishpachah* (Family Shabbat), all LC families come together in the sanctuary to celebrate spirited, interactive and meaningful Family *Shabbat* services. Parents and students will be invited to have honors and participative/leadership roles during services. Please look for individual communications regarding your role for each *Shabbat Mishpachah*.

FAMILY SHABBAT DINNERS

Fridays 5:30 or 6:30 p.m. – Nitzanim through High School

Families will participate in Friday night *Kabbalat Shabbat* service, followed by a Learning Center *Shabbat* Dinner at the PJC. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet other parents and build community amongst families and teachers. Children should be dressed in appropriate Shabbat clothes, and families should arrive at the PJC five minutes before 6:30 p.m., when services normally begin. (Note: *Shabbat B'Shamayim*, for our Nitzanim-Alef families, begins at 5:30 p.m.) At times, the dinners may take place at a hosting-families' home. If you would like to host such a dinner, please contact Marjut Herzog.

Thank you for the \$36.00 contribution you sent along with your child's Learning Center tuition fees. It will help offset the costs of our Family Shabbat Dinners.

Please find your family's Shabbat Dinner dates below and mark your calendar accordingly.

FAMILY SHABBAT DINNER DATES

<u>B'nei Mitzvah</u> Family Shabbat Dinner	<u>Bet-Gimmel, Daled-Hei & Vav</u> Family Shabbat Dinner	<u>Hebrew High School & Madrichim</u> Family Shabbat Dinner	<u>Nitzanim, Gan & Alef</u> Shabbat B'Shamayim Family Shabbat Dinner
September 20, 2019 (6:30-8:30 p.m.)	October 25, 2019 (6:30-8:30 p.m.)	March 20, 2020 (6:30-8:30 p.m.)	May 1, 2020 (5:30-7:30 p.m.)

SHABBAT B'SHAMAYIM

Friday, May 1, 2020 5:30-7:30 p.m. – Nitzanim-Alef

Shabbat B'Shamayim Leaders – Rabbi Salzberg & Ana Turkienicz

Family-oriented *Kabbalat Shabbat* service designed especially for young children. Students and their parents will explore together how to invite *Shabbat* into their homes, play and learn the songs, stories and blessings that make *Shabbat* a special time in our week.

HOOKED ON HAVDALAH – Open to All Families

Saturday, January 25, 2020, 5:30-9:00 p.m.

Hooked on Havdalah Leaders – Rabbi Salzberg & Ana Turkienicz

Families meet at hosting homes for an early dinner (*seudat shlisht*), then join together to end *Shabbat* at the PJC for the blessings – called *Havdalah* – wine and dessert. Parents get to mingle, eat, drink and chat, while their children enjoy Jewish stories, songs or craft activities with an educator. A perfect opportunity to make new friends! Volunteers will be needed to organize this amazing event.

SOCIAL ACTION – TZEDAKKAH and TIKKUN OLAM

In the tradition of Judaism, we actively engage in *Tzedakkah* (Social Justice) and *Tikkun Olam* (Repairing the World) activities, following our ancestors' *mitzvot* (commandments) and teachings.

Ahavat Tzion (Love of Israel) – A Jewish National Fund (**JNF**) “blue box” is present in each classroom, and students are asked to bring contributions regularly. These donations are more meaningful if they come, at least partially, from the students' own pockets. Classes decide each year upon a *Tzedakkah* project of their own. Additionally, during the holiday *Tu Bishvat*, we devote time to learning about Israel's nature and fundraise for planting trees and conserving water in Israel.

“*Malbish Arumin*” (Clothing the Naked) – LC students and families participate with the PJC Social Action Committee in the **Midnight/Breakfast Run** project in New York City. **Parent drivers are needed.** This year's Midnight and Breakfast Run dates include:

Breakfast Run – Sunday, November 3rd, 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Midnight Run – Saturday, April 18th, 8:45 p.m.-12:15 a.m.

For details, please contact Rhonda Singer via email (rhondasinger@hotmail.com).

***Yom Hasho'ah* (Holocaust Day) Commemoration** – Tuesday, April 21, 2020, from 4:30-5:30 p.m. Willow Towers residents are invited to participate in the LC's *Yom Hasho'ah* Memorial Ceremony, which takes place in the PJC Sanctuary. Kitah Zayin students lead the Memorial Service for the victims of the Holocaust. **Parents are encouraged to attend.**

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

“Teach them thoroughly to your children” (Deuteronomy, 1:4)

Parents are encouraged to get involved with the Learning Center and assist their child’s educational development in diverse ways.

Participation in Class and School-wide Celebrations – Throughout the year, we celebrate learning in the LC in different ways. Parent participation in these events adds meaning to each of them. From holiday celebrations, student-generated research presentations, museum trips and exhibits, through school-wide ceremonies, all of these moments present a wonderful opportunity for parents to share and partake in their children’s joy of learning.

Please check your son/daughter’s class page and mark them in your calendars so you won’t miss them!

Insightful Conversations – Identify teachable moments as your child comes back from school, asking about what he/she learned that day. Use the Learning Center’s emails, newsletters and the PJC website as a starter to develop insightful conversations about Judaism.

Hebrew Phrases – Try to implement the use of common Hebrew phrases in your everyday life: *Shabbat Shalom*, *Boker Tov* (Good Morning), *Layla Tov* (Good Night), *Toda Raba* (Thank You) and *Shalom* (Hello, Goodbye, Peace) are some of them. Please see page 26 for some useful Hebrew words to practice at home.

Class Parents – From time to time, special activities in class require the help of volunteers. This assistance is particularly important in establishing a telephone network for emergency closings. If you wish to be your child’s class parent, please email the education director (edudir@thepjc.org).

The LC School Board – This Board serves as the PTA of the Learning Center, and is formed by members of the Pelham Jewish Center. Its purpose is to set school policies, advise and oversee the management and educational components of the school. You are welcome to volunteer to serve. Please contact our education director (edudir@thepjc.org) or Marjut Herzog via email at marjutherzog@gmail.com if you are interested in actively impacting the core of our educational program.

Volunteers – Parents are encouraged to volunteer for our year-round activities, holiday programs and field trips. Please check for Junior Congregation and Torah Time *Shabbat* parents’ chaperoning assignments on pages 9-10, as well as opportunities to provide rides to different off-site activities as needed. Please follow our *LC Weekly Announcements*, delivered every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. to your inbox, for additional opportunities for parent involvement.

Monitor Communications – Please keep track of our weekly emailed newsletters and the PJC website for more useful information on volunteering opportunities. Kindly email the education director (edudir@thepjc.org) to let her know your volunteer availability and/or event preferences.

Finally, the success of our school depends upon the effective partnership between all of us: Rabbi, education director, teachers, students and you – our LC parents. We, therefore, attach extreme importance to communication between home and school. Please feel free to call (914) 738-6008 (ext. 12), or email the education director (edudir@thepjc.org) with any questions, concerns, suggestions, etc.

“MEET AND GREET” & PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Meet and Greet

Come meet your child’s teacher and their classmates’ parents in an informal activity in your child’s classroom. This is an opportunity for reigniting old friendships or starting a new one. Teachers will be leading interactive class activities for students and parents to start following their new *kehillah* (community) for another great year at the PJC’s Learning Center. Be a part of it from the get-go!

Nitzanim-Gan (Pre-K & K): Tuesday, September 10th 4:15-4:45 p.m. in the Nitzanim-Gan Classroom

Meet and Greet session for parents with students in our Nitzanim-Gan class, as well as for new families seeking Jewish education for their children, ages 3-5.

Alef through Zayin (1st through 7th Grades): Tuesday, September 10th 5:30-6:00 p.m. in Classrooms

Meet and Greet sessions for parents with students in our *Kitot* Alef, Bet, Gimmel-Daled, Hei-Vav and Zayin, as well as for new families seeking Jewish education for their children, ages 6-12.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Tuesday, November 12th – Parent-Teacher Conferences for Alef-Zayin 4:00-6:00 p.m. in the Classrooms

Please look for email communications to schedule your individual meeting with your child’s teacher on Parent-Teacher Conference Day, or an alternative date if you are unable to attend on the scheduled date.

***Madrichim* will be onsite to chaperone children while parents and teachers meet.**

THE CURRICULUM

Using innovative techniques and creative resources, the PJC's Learning Center seeks to accomplish its mission by offering an extensive program that is responsive to the different strengths and developmental needs of our students. We believe that excellence is achieved through adherence to requirements and policies, and through a strong partnership between family and school.

Our program is divided into four levels: Early Childhood (Nitzanim-Gan); Elementary (Alef-Bet-Gimmel-Daled-Hei); Middle (Vav-Zayin) and Hebrew High School.

The curriculum is developed in four main areas of study: 1) Hebrew; 2) Prayer; 3) Jewish Holidays and Customs; and 4) Jewish History & Israel. At times, there might be some overlap between those subject matters. The courses are structured in a spiral way, whereas the Early Childhood years provide introduction, the Elementary and Middle School levels foster a foundation of contents and skills, and deepens the sources. The High School years provide an advance program in order to strengthen the Jewish identity and the personal connections to Judaism as a whole.

DESIRED OUTCOMES

By the time students reach the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* age, they should have:

- The ability to read, chant and understand key Hebrew prayers.
- Knowledge of the structure and meaning of religious services.
- Familiarity with the narrative content of the Bible.
- An understanding of and the skills to practice the *mitzvot*.
- An understanding of the Jewish approach to life-cycle events.
- An understanding of the observance and the importance of *Shabbat* and Jewish Holidays.
- Knowledge of ancient and contemporary Jewish history.
- Knowledge of the history, politics, geography and culture of modern Israel.
- Rudimentary skills in conversational Hebrew.

Students are provided with textbooks and workbooks. Teachers supplement lessons with visual aids, hands-on projects, class trips, special programs, discussion, music, drama, crafts and storytelling. Assessment is done on an ongoing basis, through teachers' observations, class quizzes and projects. Teachers maintain direct communication with parents, meet at parent-teacher conference days and provide report cards twice a year.

NITZANIM (Pre-K) – AGES 3-4

1 DAY A WEEK – Tuesdays, 4:00-5:30 p.m./Morah Jerusha Coltof (jerusha1c@gmail.com)

The Program

The Nitzanim program provides a basic introduction to Jewish Life Cycle, Jewish Holidays, traditions and Torah Stories. Children will learn through creative and stimulating activities, such as music, dance, storytelling, cooking, games and arts. Children will experience Jewish time and space and the Hebrew language through actively engaging in blessings, prayers and holidays in class activities. The learning will impact families to become empowered to realize their own skills and strengths as full partners in their children's Jewish Education, as the class comes together as a sacred community.

Key Competencies

Bible: Creation, Noah, Moses

Holidays: Rituals, Traditional Foods, Songs, Stories and Blessings

Prayers: Blessings for food, *Shabbat*, *Sh'ma*

Hebrew: Hebrew words and expressions related to:

- Daily Life: *shalom*, *lehitraot* (goodbye), *todah rabah* (thank you), *slichah* (sorry)
- Hebrew Alphabet: colors and numbers, children's own Hebrew names
- The Synagogue: *Torah*, *aron*, *bima*, etc.
- Holidays: *shofar*, *lulav*, *ner*, etc.
- Food

Special Activities

Tuesday, September 10th, at 4:00 p.m.: First Day of Class (Meet & Greet at 4:15 p.m.)

Tuesday, September 24th: Rosh Hashanah Celebration

Tuesday, December 17th: Hanukkah Celebration

Saturday, January 25th, at 5:30 p.m.: End of Shabbat Together/Hooked on Havdalah

Tuesday, February 11th: *Tu Bishvat* (Birthday of the Trees) Celebration

Tuesday, March 10th: Purim Celebration

Tuesday, March 31st: *Pesach* Celebration

Tuesday, April 28th: *Yom Ha'atzmaut* (Israeli Independence Day) Celebration

Friday, May 1st, at 5:30 p.m.: *Shabbat B'Shamayim* & Dinner

Tuesday, May 12th: *Lag B'Omer* Celebration

Tuesday, May 19th: Last Day of Class & End-of-Year *Siyyum*

Torah Time – Saturdays, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 Noon

9/14, 11/2, 11/23, 12/14, 1/11, 2/8, 3/14, 4/25, 5/2 & 5/16

Please refer to the LC Calendar at the back of this Handbook for all other events.

GAN (Kindergarten) – AGE 5

1 DAY A WEEK – Tuesdays, 4:00-5:30 p.m./Morah Jerusha Coltof (jerusha1c@gmail.com)

The Program

The Gan class meets once a week for 90 minutes, and is the start of formal religious school education. The Gan program builds upon the basic introduction to Jewish Life taught in the Nitzanim program. Children will experience more emphasis on the holidays, using compelling stories, crafts or role-playing activities. Students will also be introduced to *Shabbat* observance, to the Hebrew alphabet and keywords – both written and oral. Activities will include music, storytelling, dance, games and puppetry. The learning will impact families to become empowered to realize their own skills and strengths as full partners in their children's Jewish Education, as the class comes together as a sacred community.

Key Competencies

Bible: Stories from the Book of Genesis

Holidays: Rituals and Blessings, Biblical Figures

Prayers: Blessings for food, *Shabbat*, *Sh'ma*, *Modeh Ani*, *Adon Olam*

Hebrew: Introduction to the Hebrew alphabet and keywords in the Jewish calendar and Life Cycle

Special Activities

Tuesday, September 10th, at 4:00 p.m.: First Day of Class (Meet & Greet at 4:15 p.m.)

Tuesday, September 24th: Rosh Hashanah Celebration

Tuesday, December 17th: Hanukkah Celebration

Saturday, January 25th, at 5:30 p.m.: End of Shabbat Together/Hooked on Havdalah

Tuesday, February 11th: *Tu Bishvat* (Birthday of the Trees) Celebration

Tuesday, March 10th: Purim Celebration

Tuesday, March 31st: *Pesach* Celebration

Tuesday, April 28th: *Yom Ha'atzmaut* (Israeli Independence Day) Celebration

Friday, May 1st, at 5:30 p.m.: *Shabbat B'Shamayim* & Dinner

Tuesday, May 12th: *Lag B'Omer* Celebration

Tuesday, May 19th: Last Day of Class & End-of-Year *Siyyum*

Torah Time – Saturdays, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 Noon

9/14, 11/2, 11/23, 12/14, 1/11, 2/8, 3/14, 4/25, 5/2 & 5/16

Please refer to the LC Calendar at the back of this Handbook for all other events.

ALEF (1st Grade) – AGE 6

2 DAYS A WEEK – Tuesdays & Thursdays, 4:00-6:00 p.m./Morah Elise Goldenberg (elise.goldenberg95@gmail.com)

The Program

In Kitah Alef, students will begin their formal encounter with the Hebrew alphabet, learning all the Hebrew letters and reading Hebrew words with the vowel/ah/. There will be greater emphasis on mastering Hebrew decoding skills, as well as building a vocabulary of useful words. Students will delve into the narratives of Genesis from Creation to the Exodus stories. Students will begin a deeper exploration of the meaning of G-d in our lives; learn about Israel with the goal of making a personal connection; understand general concepts of prayer and its place in our living world and how *Tzedakkah* and *Tikkun Olam* are connected to our Torah.

Key Competencies

Bible: Stories from Genesis to Exodus

Holidays: Rituals, Customs and Blessings, Biblical Figures, Israel, *Tzedakkah*

Prayers: *Sh'ma*, *Oseh Shalom*, *Modeh Ani*, *Ma Tov*, *Ein Ke'eloheinu*, *Aleinu*, *Hatikvah*, *Shabbat Service*

Hebrew: All the Hebrew alphabet letters and /ah/ vowel; basic Hebrew vocabulary of 30 words; learning the students' Hebrew names and their meanings

Special Activities

Tuesday, September 10th, at 4:00 p.m.: First Day of Class (Meet & Greet at 5:30 p.m.)

Thursday, September 26th: Rosh Hashanah Celebration

Thursday, October 3rd: *Tashlich*

Thursday, October 17th: *Sukkot* Celebration

Tuesday, November 12th: Parent-Teacher Conferences – ***No Classes Held***

Tuesday, December 17th: Hanukkah Celebration

Thursday, December 19th: Hanukkah at Willow Towers

Saturday, January 25th, at 5:30 p.m.: End of Shabbat Together/Hooked on Havdalah

Tuesday, February 11th: *Tu Bishvat* (Birthday of the Trees) Celebration

Tuesday, March 10th: Purim Celebration

Thursday, April 2nd: *Pesach* Celebration

Tuesday, April 21st: *Yom Hasho'ah* Commemoration

Tuesday, April 28th: *Yom HaZikaron* Commemoration

Thursday, April 30th: *Yom Ha'atzmaut* (Israeli Independence Day) Celebration

Friday, May 1st, at 5:30 p.m.: *Shabbat B'Shamayim* & Dinner

Tuesday, May 12th: *Lag B'Omer* Celebration

Tuesday, May 19th: Last Day of Class & End-of-Year *Siyyum*

Torah Time – Saturdays, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 Noon

9/14, 11/2, 11/23, 12/14, 1/11, 2/8, 3/14, 4/25, 5/2 & 5/16

Please refer to the LC Calendar at the back of this Handbook for all other events.

BET (2nd Grade) – AGE 7

2 DAYS A WEEK – Tuesdays & Thursdays, 4:00-6:00 p.m./**Morah Sonia Levin** (slevlds@gmail.com)

The Program

In Kitah Bet, students will continue to deepen their knowledge of Jewish texts and to make connections to modern life, learning about our ancestral fathers and mothers and their families, from the Book of Genesis. Hebrew language study will include modern spoken vocabulary, as well as mastering specific *Tefillot* (prayers). Students will develop a relationship with the Israel by studying its history and recognizing Israel's centrality to Jewish life. Students will also explore their Jewish Identity by exploring their own families' Jewish narratives. Our goal is that our learning will empower families as full partners in their children's Jewish Education, as the class comes together as a sacred community.

Key Competencies

Bible: Becomes familiar with the narratives of the book of Genesis and learn to approach the text critically by asking questions and finding creative answers. Students will know main characters and events in the stories of B'reshit.

Holidays: Understand Jewish holidays and customs, know the origins, symbols, traditions and ritual foods associated with each holiday. Students will grasp how Jewish holidays make us feel connected to our families and to the traditions of Jews all over the world.

Prayers: *Oseh Shalom, Sh'ma and V'ahavta, Ashrei* (10 first lines), *Ein K'Eloheinu, Ma Tov, Aleinu, Kiddush for Shabbat evening, Hatikvah, Lecha Dodi*

Hebrew: Develop reading comprehension and an active oral vocabulary of 160 words

Israel: Locate Israel on a map, its main cities and borders. Differentiate between a *kibbutz* and a *moshav*. Identify main characters in the creation of the State of Israel; differentiate between the Land and the State of Israel. Identify commonalities and differences among diverse Jewish communities.

Special Activities

Tuesday, September 10th, at 4:00 p.m.: First Day of Class (Meet & Greet at 5:30 p.m.)

Thursday, September 26th: Rosh Hashanah Celebration

Thursday, October 3rd: *Tashlich*

Thursday, October 17th: *Sukkot* Celebration

Friday, October 25th, at 6:30 p.m.: Bet-Vav Shabbat Family Dinner

Tuesday, November 12th: Parent-Teacher Conferences – **No Classes Held**

Tuesday, December 17th: Hanukkah Celebration

Thursday, December 19th: Hanukkah at Willow Towers

Saturday, January 25th, at 5:30 p.m.: End of Shabbat Together/Hooked on Havdalah

Tuesday, February 11th: *Tu B'Shvat* (Birthday of the Trees) Celebration

Tuesday, March 10th: Purim Celebration

Thursday, April 2nd: *Pesach* Celebration

Tuesday, April 21st: *Yom Hasho'ah* Commemoration

Tuesday, April 28th: *Yom HaZikaron* Commemoration

Thursday, April 30th: *Yom Ha'atzmaut* (Israeli Independence Day) Celebration

Tuesday, May 12th: *Lag B'Omer* Celebration

Tuesday, May 19th: Last Day of Class & End-of-Year *Siyyum*

Junior Congregation – Saturdays, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 Noon

9/14, 11/2, 11/23, 12/14, 1/11, 2/8, 3/14, 4/25, 5/2 & 5/16

Shabbat Mishpachah – Saturdays, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 Noon – 11/2 & 5/16

Please refer to the LC Calendar at the back of this Handbook for all other events.

GIMMEL-DALED (3rd & 4th Grades) – AGES 8 & 9

2 DAYS A WEEK – Tuesdays & Thursdays, 4:00-6:00 p.m./**Morah Penina Weinberger** (penina67@gmail.com)

The Program

Students will study, create individual presentations, teach and discuss selected narratives from the Torah and Megillot Esther & Ruth. They will continue to study the prayers for the *Shabbat* service. Students will study about Israel's history, geography and people, connecting it to the Biblical stories they learn. With the goal of supporting students as they become lifelong Jewish learners, from time to time, students will be responsible for creating presentations on their individual learning to be taught to the rest of the class.

Key Competencies

Bible: Students will unpack meaning of Torah stories in the Books of *Bereshit*, *Sh'mot*, as well as *Megillot Esther & Ruth*. Students will be able to apply biblical text tools such as repeating words, theme words, echoes from other biblical stories in order to grapple with the narratives and find their deeper meaning.

Prayers: *Barchu*, *Yotzer Or*, *Sh'ma & V'ahavta*, *Mi Chamocha*, *Ashrei (until Yud) Ein K'Eloheinu*, *Tov L'hodot*, *Aleinu*, *Kiddush for Shabbat evening*; Students will reflect on the role of prayer in Jewish life and how it helps us connect to G-d, as well as be able to recite these prayers, recognize key words, prefixes and suffixes in Hebrew.

Hebrew: Expand on Hebrew decoding and apply it to Prayer and Torah text reading. Develop Hebrew conversational competency through daily life situations, applying Hebrew words to routine class management and Jewish ritual.

Jewish History & Israel: Learn about life in modern Israel. Differentiate between Kibbutz, Moshav and Cities in Israel; Locate Israel on the map, name its main cities and neighboring countries. Differentiate between Modern and Biblical Israel. Develop personal connections with our Shinshin (Israel emissary) through Israel education activities.

Holidays: Students will know the origin of holidays (*Midehoraita/Derabanan*, Modern/Biblical Jewish History), the names of the Jewish months and their respective holidays, as well as *mitzvot* connected to each holiday, the Hebrew name(s) of holidays and their meaning.

Special Activities

Tuesday, September 10th, at 4:00 p.m.: First Day of Class (Meet & Greet at 5:30 p.m.)

Thursday, September 26th: Rosh Hashanah Celebration

Thursday, October 3rd: *Tashlich*

Thursday, October 17th: *Sukkot* Celebration

Friday, October 25th, at 6:30 p.m.: Bet-Vav Shabbat Family Dinner

Tuesday, November 12th: Parent-Teacher Conferences – **No Classes Held**

Tuesday, December 17th: Hanukkah Celebration

Thursday, December 19th: Hanukkah at Willow Towers

Saturday, January 25th, at 5:30 p.m.: End of Shabbat Together/Hooked on Havdalah

Tuesday, February 11th: *Tu B'Shvat* (Birthday of the Trees) Celebration

Tuesday, March 10th: Purim Celebration

Thursday, April 2nd: *Pesach* Celebration

Tuesday, April 21st: *Yom Hasho'ah* Commemoration

Tuesday, April 28th: *Yom HaZikaron* Commemoration

Thursday, April 30th: *Yom Ha'atzmaut* (Israeli Independence Day) Celebration

Tuesday, May 12th: *Lag B'Omer* Celebration

Tuesday, May 19th: Last Day of Class & End-of-Year *Siyyum*

Junior Congregation – Saturdays, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 Noon

9/14, 11/2, 11/23, 12/14, 1/11, 2/8, 3/14, 4/25, 5/2 & 5/16

Shabbat Mishpachah – Saturdays, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 Noon – 11/2 & 5/16

Please refer to the LC Calendar at the back of this Handbook for all other events.

HEI-VAV (5th & 6th Grades) – AGES 10 & 11

2 DAYS A WEEK – Tuesdays & Thursdays, 4:00-6:00 p.m./Morah Toby Barg (tobybarg@gmail.com)

The Program

Kitah Hei-Vav's program is centered on the idea of *Hessed* (Love and Kindness) and its connections to all the learning subjects. Students will continue to develop their Hebrew language skills to deepen their understanding of Prayer, Holidays, Torah and Israel, as well as master the *Hallel* service and Friday evening's *Kiddush*. They will explore different ways of interpreting and comments the Weekly Torah Portion. Students will learn about the History of Jewish Life in America, discuss themes on Jewish Identity and reflect on how Judaism impacts our choices and actions.

Key Competencies

Bible: Students will learn how to engage deeply with Torah text as they delve into the Weekly Torah Portion and learn from different commentators. Students will be able to explain the connection between G-d and Am Israel as they become a *Kehillah Kedoshah* (sacred community). Students will search for the idea of Hessed in Biblical text. Students will learn to chant Haftarah.

Prayers: *Ahava Rabbah, Birkat Ha Mazon, Hallel, Kedushat Hayom, Birchot Hoda'ah, Lecha Dodi, Shalom Aleichem, Shalom Rav*. Students will lead the LC congregation in *Hallel* for *Rosh Hodesh* and *Chagim*, when needed, read and recite the learned prayers, recognize key Hebrew roots, prefixes and suffixes and explain how blessings and prayers connect us to G-d.

Hebrew: Use daily Hebrew for class management. Use the appropriate words for ritual objects and practices. Apply appropriate Hebrew words and concepts to address holidays, traditions and *TaNakh* stories.

Jewish History: American Jewish History from the 20th century and beyond; students will be able to identify historical trends and developments in American Jewish History. Know and understand their own Family Journey as it relates to main events in American Jewish History. Discuss and participate in making ethical choices using Jewish values as a lens.

Holidays: Student will know the blessings for the different holidays; *dinim uminhagim* for the different holidays and their evolution with time; the difference between a Torah-based holiday and a contemporary holiday.

Special Activities

Tuesday, September 10th, at 4:00 p.m.: First Day of Class (Meet & Greet at 5:30 p.m.)

Thursday, September 26th: Rosh Hashanah Celebration

Thursday, October 3rd: *Tashlich*

Thursday, October 17th: *Sukkot* Celebration

Friday, October 25th, at 6:30 p.m.: Bet-Vav Shabbat Family Dinner

Tuesday, November 12th: Parent-Teacher Conferences – ***No Classes Held***

Tuesday, December 17th: Hanukkah Celebration

Thursday, December 19th: Hanukkah at Willow Towers

Saturday, January 25th, at 5:30 p.m.: End of Shabbat Together/Hooked on Havdalah

Tuesday, February 11th: *Tu Bishvat* (Birthday of the Trees) Celebration

Tuesday, March 10th: Purim Celebration

Thursday, April 2nd: *Pesach* Celebration

Tuesday, April 21st: *Yom Hasho'ah* Commemoration

Tuesday, April 28th: *Yom HaZikaron* Commemoration

Thursday, April 30th: *Yom Ha'atzmaut* (Israeli Independence Day) Celebration

Tuesday, May 12th: *Lag B'Omer* Celebration

Tuesday, May 19th: Last Day of Class & End-of-Year *Siyyum*

Junior Congregation – Saturdays, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 Noon

9/14, 11/2, 11/23, 12/14, 1/11, 2/8, 3/14, 4/25, 5/2 & 5/16

Shabbat Mishpachah – Saturdays, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 Noon – 11/2 & 5/16

Please refer to the LC Calendar at the back of this Handbook for all other events.

ZAYIN (7th Grade) – AGE 12

1 DAY A WEEK – Tuesdays, 4:00-6:00 p.m./Morah Havi Pessa (havipesso@gmail.com)

The Program

Students will continue to develop their Hebrew language skills as they master the Torah and *Shabbat* services. They will learn about *Mishnah* (Pirkei Avot) and *midrash* in order to understand how the Torah inspired the development of commentary and related literature. Students will discuss modern day life decisions and will debate the Jewish Law perspective on them, with the use of text study. Students will learn about Jewish History based on their own personal family history. Zayin class students will learn about Jewish communities around the world and in Israel throughout history. Students will engage in discussions on the theme of Jewish Identity, as well as reflect on how Judaism can inform one's daily choices and actions. Students will learn about Torah commentary, through Rashi, and then learn to craft their own commentary on a given Torah text.

Key Competencies

Torah/Mishnah: Examine their own lives and seek personal meaning in Torah and Pirkei Avot and related text. Define the meaning of living Jewishly, related to acts of *Tzedakah* (righteous Giving) and *Tikkun Olam* (repairing the world). Find meaning through different exegesis tools. Write and present a *D'var Torah*.

Prayers: Demonstrate mastery of the *Tefillot* (prayers) and *B'rachot* (blessings) for Torah and *Shabbat* services, including their purpose, meanings and origins. Lead *Kiddush* in *Kabbalat Shabbat* and the Torah Service.

Hebrew: Continue the study of Hebrew language, both as a modern means of expression and as a vehicle for prayer. Explore how Hebrew roots, suffixes and prefixes to find meaning in Jewish text and prayers. Understand the importance of Hebrew in Jewish Life.

Jewish History/Israel: Learn the History of Sephardic and Ashkenazi Jewish Communities, the Haskalah, and the Birth of the Modern State of Israel; reflect on how Judaism has evolved over time. Discuss and participate in making ethical choices using Jewish values as a lens. Actively participate in *Shabbat* morning services, reflecting on how Jewish History and our diverse traditions impact our lives today.

Special Activities

Tuesday, September 10th, at 4:00 p.m.: First Day of Class (Meet & Greet at 5:30 p.m.)

Friday, September 20th, at 6:30 p.m.: *B'nei Mitzvah* Shabbat Family Dinner

Tuesday, September 24th: Rosh Hashanah Celebration

Tuesday, November 12th: Parent-Teacher Conferences – **No Classes Held**

Tuesday, December 17th: Hanukkah Celebration

Saturday, January 25th, at 5:30 p.m.: End of Shabbat Together/Hooked on Havdalah

Tuesday, February 11th: *Tu B'shvat* (Birthday of the Trees) Celebration

Tuesday, March 10th: Purim Celebration

Tuesday, March 31st: *Pesach* Celebration

Tuesday, April 21st: *Yom Hasho'ah* Commemoration

Tuesday, April 28th: *Yom HaZikaron* Commemoration

Tuesday, April 28th: *Yom Ha'atzmaut* (Israeli Independence Day) Celebration

Tuesday, May 12th: *Lag B'Omer* Celebration

Tuesday, May 19th: Last Day of Class & End-of-Year *Siyyum*

Junior Congregation – Saturdays, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 Noon

9/14, 11/2, 11/23, 12/14, 1/11, 2/8, 3/14, 4/25, 5/2 & 5/16

Shabbat Mishpachah – Saturdays, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 Noon – 11/2 & 5/16

Please refer to the LC Calendar at the back of this Handbook for all other events.

HIGH SCHOOL (8th-12th Grades) – AGES 13-18

1 DAY A WEEK – Tuesdays, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Rabbi Alex Salzberg (rabbi.salzberg@thepjc.org)

“Cook a Meal Together with the Rabbi”

Morah Marni Heller (marniheller@gmail.com)

“Modern Israel, Social Action & Jewish Leadership Skills”

Shimon HaTzaddik was from the remnants of the Great Assembly. He used to say: “On three things the world stands. On Torah, on service [of God], and on acts of human kindness.” – Pirkei Avot, 1:2

The Program

The *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* is not the end of the Jewish Learning journey; it is just the beginning. As our *B'nei Mitzvah* affirm – publicly – that they are part of the conversation, our community responds: “YES! We believe that you have something important to say, and we are ready to hear you.” At the Learning Center, we continue to engage teens in Jewish Learning (*Limmud*) and Practice (*Ma'aseh*); we strive to actively support our learners' exploration and development of their Jewish identity, offering different avenues for them to become leaders and role models in the community. Our goal is for our high school students to become critical consumers of media, as well as able to advocate for them in order to become active and vital members of the Jewish world and the society at large. As the three pillars described by our sages – *Torah*, *Avodah* and *Gemilut Hasadim* – we offer our teens opportunities to learn to lead and perform acts of kindness.

Students will meet with Rabbi Alex Salzberg once a month. These sessions will generally take place outside of the PJC, either in his home or in the home of one of the participants. Rather than ordering pizza, the students will cook a meal for themselves. Over dinner, they will discuss Jewish values and community, current events and whatever else might be on their minds – always through a Jewish lens.

Madrichim Program

Our *madrichim* program allows for teens to volunteer as teacher aides in the LC classrooms, gaining leadership and interpersonal skills, as well as becoming the best Jewish role models for our younger students. Our *madrichim* develop warm and long-lasting relationships with our teachers and students, and have the opportunity to engage with our students in real learning settings to develop their own teaching skills, as well as continue to develop their own Jewish Identity. Students receive Community Service credit for the hours they have worked.

New Youth Group Program: Geshher

Additionally, this year the PJC will start a pilot Youth Group program, called *Geshher*. In Hebrew, *Geshher* means “bridge”. The *Geshher* program is a joint venture of two synagogues, the PJC and Shaarei Tikvah in Scarsdale. Students in grades 8-12 from both synagogues will meet one Sunday a month for brunch, learn and perform a social action activity with a Youth advisor. The goal of the *Geshher* program is to provide meaningful experiences relevant to teens, to both provide a sense of belonging and to inspire them to find paths to engagement as they grow into Jewish young adults. The program will focus on service learning and leadership building, incorporating social action initiatives, as well as an opportunity for teens to ask questions and seek answers regarding their own Jewish Identity and the role of Judaism in their lives and in the betterment of the world. The program will be led by Sarah Parkes, and will also include a service trip to Puerto Rico (over the February mid-winter break), which will probably be open to teens from other Westchester synagogues in our area. Teens will be encouraged to elect a Youth Board that will create and deliver meaningful activities for the group and encourage outreach to unaffiliated Jewish teens in our area, as well as youth in our own community that did not enroll in our Hebrew School, but would like to participate in a Youth Group. See next page for detailed calendar.

HEBREW HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM DATES & TIMES

Hebrew High School meets on Tuesdays, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

MODERN ISRAEL & JEWISH LEADERSHIP SKILLS – Morah Marni Heller

9/10, 9/24, 10/29, 11/12, 11/19, 12/10, 1/14, 1/21, 2/11, 2/25, 3/10, 3/17, 4/28 & 5/12

COOK A MEAL TOGETHER WITH THE RABBI – Rabbi Alex Salzberg

11/5, 12/3, 1/7, 2/4, 3/3, 3/31 & 5/5

MADRICHIM MEETINGS WITH MORAH ANA

11/26, 12/17, 1/28, 3/24, 4/21 & 5/19

GESHER BRUNCH MEETINGS: 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Barnes and Noble – 680 White Plains Road, Scarsdale, NY 10583

Sundays: 9/15, 10/13, 12/08, 01/12, 03/15, 04/21 & 05/31

Puerto Rico Service Trip

Friday, February 14, 2020 – Tuesday, February 18, 2020

MIDNIGHT/BREAKFAST RUN DATES

Breakfast Run – Sunday, November 3rd, from 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Midnight Run – Saturday, April 18th, from 8:45 p.m.-12:15 a.m.

ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT DATES FOR MADRICHIM CURRICULUM

Thursday, September 5th, at 5:30 p.m. – *Madrichim* “Meet & Greet” with Learning Center Teachers

Shabbat Mishpachah – 11/2 & 5/16

Friday, March 20th, at 6:30 p.m. – Hebrew High School Shabbat Family Dinner

Tuesday, May 19th, at 5:00 p.m. – Learning Center *Siyyum* Assembly & *Madrichim* Appreciation

SUPPORT FUNCTIONS

WESTCHESTER ASSOCIATION OF HEBREW SCHOOLS (WAHS)

Operating under the Jewish Education Project, the WAHS is an organization for professional and lay leaders that sponsors county-wide teacher-in-service programs, special sessions for principals and administrators, the *Zimrayah* – a Hebrew singing festival for students of Daled and Hei grades – and the Principal’s Council, which meets monthly.

THE JEWISH EDUCATION PROJECT (<http://thejewisheducationproject.org>)

This is the umbrella organization that accredits the PJC’s Learning Center. In addition, it sponsors a Teacher’s Resource Center in White Plains, providing many resources for faculty, students and parents. The Jewish Education Project helps congregations create new models of learning to enhance children’s and families’ ability to construct meaningful and purposeful lives rooted in Jewish practice and community. Our networks bring professionals and lay leaders from different congregations together to collaborate and support each other, and our educational consultants identify strategies to enable congregations to reach their goals. By connecting innovators and supporting bold approaches, The Jewish Education Project strengthens congregations’ abilities to create impactful and inspiring models of Jewish learning.

USEFUL HEBREW WORDS TO PRACTICE AT HOME

HEBREW	TRANSLITERATION	TRANSLATION
שלום	<i>Shalom</i>	Hi, Peace, Good-bye
בקר טוב	<i>Boker Tov</i>	Good morning
לילה טוב	<i>Layla Tov</i>	Good night
תודה רבה	<i>Toda Raba</i>	Thank you
סליחה	<i>Selicha</i>	Excuse me, Sorry
מה שלומך?	<i>Ma shlomcha?</i>	How are you? (masculine)
מה שלומך?	<i>Ma Shlomech?</i>	How are you? (feminine)
טוב מאד	<i>Tov M'eod</i>	Very good
בסדר	<i>Be seder</i>	O.K.
שבת שלום	<i>Shabbat Shalom</i>	Have a peaceful <i>Shabbat</i>
שבוע טוב	<i>Shavu'a Tov</i>	Have a good week
חם	<i>Ham</i>	Hot
קר	<i>Kar</i>	Cold
אחת	<i>Achat</i>	One
שתיים	<i>Shtayim</i>	Two
שלוש	<i>Shalosh</i>	Three
ארבע	<i>Arba</i>	Four
חמש	<i>Hamesh</i>	Five
שש	<i>Shesh</i>	Six
שבע	<i>Shev'a</i>	Seven
שמונה	<i>Shmone</i>	Eight
תשע	<i>Tesh'a</i>	Nine
עשר	<i>E'sser</i>	Ten
עשרים	<i>E'ssrim</i>	Twenty
שלשים	<i>Sheloshim</i>	Thirty
ארבעים	<i>Arba'im</i>	Forty
חמישים	<i>Hamishim</i>	Fifty
שישים	<i>Shishim</i>	Sixty
שבעים	<i>Shiv'yim</i>	Seventy
שמונים	<i>Shmonim</i>	Eighty
תשעים	<i>Tish'yim</i>	Ninety
מאה	<i>Me'a</i>	One Hundred
כן	<i>Ken</i>	Yes
לא	<i>Lo</i>	No
סבאבא	<i>Sababa</i>	Great! Cool! (slang)
כיף	<i>Keff</i>	Fun! (slang)

LEARNING CENTER FACULTY & CLASS TIMES 2019-20/5780

Class	Teacher/Email Contact	Day(s)	Time
Nitzanim	Jerusha Coltof jerusha1c@gmail.com	Tuesdays	4:00-5:30 p.m.
Gan	Jerusha Coltof jerusha1c@gmail.com	Tuesdays	4:00-5:30 p.m.
Alef	Elise Goldenberg elise.goldenberg95@gmail.com	Tuesdays & Thursdays	4:00-6:00 p.m.
Bet	Sonia Levin slevlds@gmail.com	Tuesdays & Thursdays	4:00-6:00 p.m.
Gimmel-Daled	Penina Weinberger penina67@gmail.com	Tuesdays & Thursdays	4:00-6:00 p.m.
Hei-Vav	Toby Barg tobybarg@gmail.com	Tuesdays & Thursdays	4:00-6:00 p.m.
Zayin	Havi Pessa havipessa@gmail.com	Tuesdays	4:00-6:00 p.m.
High School	Marni Heller marniheller@gmail.com Rabbi Alex Salzberg rabbi.salzberg@thepjc.org	Tuesdays	6:30-8:00 p.m.
Madrichim Support	Ana Turkienicz edudir@thepjc.org	Tuesdays & Thursdays	6:00-6:30 p.m.
Junior Congregation	Arielle Kaden akaden94@gmail.com	Saturdays	10:30 a.m.- 12:00 Noon
Torah Time	Sandi Daniels sandracarendaniels@gmail.com	Saturdays	11:00 a.m.- 12:00 Noon

SCHOOL POLICIES

“Derekch Eretz kadma leTorah”

Respectful behavior precedes Torah study (*Yalkut Shimo'ni - Bereshit Remez 34*)

Attendance and Lateness

We are People of the Book, the learning people. Frequent absences seriously interfere with a student's progress. Therefore, we request that parents strongly discourage absences.

Most classes start at 4:00 p.m. and conclude at 6:00 p.m. Please see that your child arrives at least five minutes early so that class can begin promptly. Please refrain from disrupting classes by late arrivals or early dismissals.

If you expect your child to be absent, will arrive late or will need to leave early, please call to notify the Learning Center at (914) 738-6008, or send a written note with your child. This requirement is for the safety and protection of our students. **A maximum of eight absences during the school year is allowed.**

If for any reason your child will not be in class for a long period of time, please contact the teacher and the education director to ensure that he/she will receive the homework for missed classes. ***The student is required to complete these assignments.***

Homework

Teachers will give homework assignments that are relevant to the curriculum on a regular basis. Students are required to complete their homework assignments as instructed by their teacher.

Discipline

Discipline problems disrupt learning and affect all of our children. The following procedures will take place in the case of disruptive behavior:

- The teacher will contact the parents to discuss the problem.
- If the behavior is repeated, the teacher will send the student with a written assignment to the education director's office, and parents will be contacted each time.
- If the problem persists, the parents, teacher and education director will meet to discuss the child's issues. Parents are required to attend this meeting.

Educational Performance and Evaluation

The classroom teacher is constantly evaluating student achievement. In cases in which the student is not keeping up with the level of the class, the teacher – together with the education director – shall recommend to parents remedial help, and may advise the parents to obtain a tutor. Report cards will be emailed to parents twice each year.

Dismissal and Carpool Procedures

For the safety of all of our students, PLEASE adhere to the following procedures for picking up your child/children from the Learning Center:

- Students may be dismissed either from the back door to their waiting carpool or picked up from the lobby and escorted out through the front door.
- If you choose to pick up from the back door, please come inside to pick up your child(ren) from the main lobby.
- If you choose to pick your child(ren) up from the lobby, park your car in the front of the building – and after dismissal – escort your child(ren) to the car via the front door.

Departure from the school building and grounds before dismissal time must be arranged through the school office. ***An adult must come to the school office for any student who must leave school early and sign the Early Dismissal book.***

Walkers: Children walking home without an adult will need written permission from the parent. In this case, students must exit by the front door. **Children will not be allowed to go home with anyone not specified in the student's Emergency/Dismissal Form.** The Nitzanim-Gan class will be dismissed from the lobby, following the procedures specified above. We ask parents and/or babysitters to wait in the lobby until the students are brought downstairs at dismissal time.

Inclement Weather/School Closings

Generally, ***if Pelham public schools are dismissed early or closed for inclement weather, the Learning Center will be closed.*** However, if in doubt, please call the Learning Center office at (914) 738-6008. Information will also be available on the PJC website and sent to parents through email. If you are uncertain whether or not classes are being held, please do not drop off your child and leave. ***Ensure that classes are taking place!***

Kashrut

Snack time is the only time when eating is allowed in the classroom. The school provides snack for all students. Individual students are not allowed to bring any outside food into the classroom. The classes break for a snack period at approximately 5:00 p.m.

G'milut Hasadim/Righteous Acts of Giving

Helping others is an essential Jewish value. Each class has its own *Tzedakkah* box and students are asked to contribute from their own money each day. Each class develops its own *Tzedakkah* project, with students deciding where to allocate their *Tzedakkah* money.

Policy on Teasing

In Judaism, we believe that we were all created in G-d's image. We honor and respect others, as we would like to be honored and respected. We pursue righteousness and perform acts of caring. ***The Learning Center has a Zero-Tolerance Policy on teasing and/or disrespectful behavior (bullying).*** In the event of teasing and/or disrespectful behavior towards another student, the offending student will be suspended from school for one day, and we will talk to his/her parents. We trust parents to be cooperative with this policy, and we are sure that we all agree that we want our Learning Center to be a safe, respectful and welcoming environment to learn and to experience our wonderful Jewish tradition.

Policy on Sexual Harassment and Abuse

The Learning Center will act to promptly investigate all complaints, formal or informal, verbal or written, of sexual harassment or any kind of harassment. For this purpose, we define sexual harassment as "unwelcome and unsolicited sexual advances or comments." The Learning Center will promptly take appropriate action.

This policy does not preclude legitimate and appropriate physical contact, such as a teacher's consoling hug or pat on the back, or – if necessary – restraining a child who may harm himself or others. By law, the administration and staff are required to report all suspicions of abuse.

First Aid

If a child receives a minor cut while at school, it will be cleansed with soap and an antiseptic and bandaged. In the case of serious injury, the parent will be notified immediately. If there is an emergency and the parent cannot be reached, we will contact the emergency contact on file.

PARENTS SHOULD NOTIFY THE SCHOOL OFFICE OF ANY ALLERGIES, AND ANY MEDICATIONS BEING TAKEN OR MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE STUDENT.

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Preparation

Students in the 7th Grade/Kitah Zayin class begin study that is more intensive in order to prepare for their *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* ceremonies. They are expected to attend regular *Shabbat* Services and special family programming in preparation for their *Bar/Bat Mitzvah*. Consult the *PJC Bar/Bat Mitzvah Handbook* for more specific information.

POLICY ON THE ADMISSION TO THE LC OF NON-JEWISH CHILDREN

Background

The PJC has a deserved reputation for openness and inclusiveness, particularly for interfaith couples, and welcomes congregants from varying backgrounds and with different experiences in Jewish education.

The PJC is institutionally committed to honoring and upholding the principles of the Conservative Movement of Judaism, which has an unambiguous definition of “who is a Jew” prescribed by *Halacha*, the Jewish legal tradition. Membership in the Jewish People is determined, in the first instance, by whether – at the time of the person's birth – his or her mother was Jewish. A person whose mother was not Jewish can, nonetheless, become a Jew, but only if he or she completes a course of conversion with a rabbi.

The non-Jewish children of our member families are welcome to attend synagogue. However, they cannot participate in the rites of *bar/bat mitzvah* unless they undergo a *halachic* conversion (conversion according to Jewish law).

Enrollment in the PJC's Learning Center

The Learning Center of the PJC is a religious school that teaches children about their Jewish heritage, language and culture, and trains them in Torah study and Jewish living. The PJC recognizes that member families with non-Jewish children may wish to provide their children with a Jewish education by enrolling them in the Learning Center. The PJC will be pleased to enroll these children if:

- The parent(s) commit that the child will be raised solely as Jewish and follow through on that pledge.
- The parent(s) meet periodically with the Rabbi to help them with the unique challenges of this situation.

Conversion of Children

Jewish law has strict requirements for conversion. Adults wishing to become Jews must pursue a rigorous course of study with a rabbi, who determines whether they are sincerely committed to adopting a Jewish life. Although a child is not yet mature enough to make such a commitment, children may be converted to give them a Jewish identity that coincides with their Jewish upbringing.

Jewish law gives rabbis sole authority to decide whether and when a child may be accepted for conversion. In responding to parents' requests that a child be converted, rabbis consider the particular circumstances presented. The most common instances in which children convert to Judaism are when (a) Jewish parents seek conversion of their adopted child whose biological parents are not Jewish or (b) parents seek the conversion of their child at the same time, or soon after, the child's mother converts to Judaism.

Conversions in these and all other circumstances are done at the discretion of the Rabbi. Rabbi Salzberg is committed to working closely with families who want to consider conversion for their children. Please do not hesitate to contact him in order to begin the conversation.