

# THE COMMUNITY SYNAGOGUE ECC

## WHAT MAKES OUR SCHOOL DAY JEWISH?

- ★ Children learn core Jewish values such as **תיקון עולם** *tikkun olam* (mending the world) and **צדקה** *tzedakah* (charitable giving), and concepts like **רחמנות** *rachmanut* (compassion) and **רעות** *reyut* (friendship). Above all, we believe in honoring all individuals in our community, **כיבוד הבריות** *kavod ha'brivot*.
- ★ We use Hebrew words and songs in context to introduce the Hebrew language to the children, i.e. traditional greetings, counting, Shabbat blessings and songs, and singing "Happy Birthday" in Hebrew.
- ★ Children say **ברכות** *brachot* (blessings) before lunch and snack time.
- ★ Shabbat is celebrated every Friday in school. We sing songs, light candles and say blessings. We love visiting the main sanctuary to celebrate with our Shabbat children and their families.
- ★ We explain what it means to do a **מצוה** *mitzvah* and how we practice this important Jewish value. We invite all of our ECC families to participate in our "Mitzvah of the Month" program and to take advantage of the many opportunities we offer to do good deeds in our community.
- ★ The hallways and bulletins boards are decorated for each Jewish holiday with children's artwork, photographs and relevant information.
- ★ We love having our Hebrew specialist join us in our classroom to teach us Hebrew. **ילדים** *Yeladim* (children) learn the Hebrew words for numbers, colors, family members, and more. Hebrew letters and labels are present in the classrooms on the walls, in books and on ritual objects. Children of all ages listen to Hebrew music.
- ★ We teach the traditions and rituals of each Jewish holiday, including songs, blessings, special foods, and ritual objects.
- ★ A presence of Israel is visible in the school. The Israeli flag is in every classroom, the children are shown maps of Israel, and each classroom library contains books about Israel. **יום הצמעות** *Yom Ha'Atzmaut*, Israeli Independence Day, is a much-anticipated school-wide celebration.

