



Official newsletter



## Our Hearts Are With Israel

Shalom! Our students have continued to discuss the unfolding and disheartening situation in Israel. In all grades, classes are discussing our connection to the land of Israel and on how we as Americans can show support. Students participated in a campaign to send letters of support and MJC congregants, Michael and Beth Kohler, will be bringing these letters directly to kids and families from Kibbutz Erez this coming week!

Our "Am Yisrael Chai" hands is displayed in the main lobby to show support. Our 6th and 7th Grade students created a "Peace Quilt" as a reminder of our biggest goal.

All students gather together each week for community prayer time - we have added the Mi Shebeirach prayer to send our voices, prayers, and hope for those in pain and in need of healing during this difficult time.

### Upcoming Events:

6th Grade Family Shabbat Dinner -  
Friday, October 27 at 6pm

MJC Security Meeting -  
Thursday, November 2 at 7 pm

Gesher meets -  
Sunday, November 5 from 9-11am

Community Blood Drive -  
Tuesday, November 7 from  
11:45am-7:45pm

Teacher In-Service - NO RS  
Tuesday, November 7



## Kindergarten Update

Morah Alyssa Silberman

In Kindergarten, we've been learning that the Torah is like a book and each parsha is like a chapter. Last week, we unrolled the mini Torah and saw what it looks like, where each individual story (parsha) starts and stops, and how long it really is. This week, we focused on the portion, Lech Lecha. We recounted Avram's journey to Israel (Lech Lecha) and how Hashem told him to pack up and move without warning. We read the story Alexander, Who's Not (Do You Hear Me? I Mean It!) Going to Move by Judith Viorst to get us thinking about what it means to move to a new place. Many of us felt conflicted about what we would do if we were in Avram's position and thought of the things we would have to pack – it's important to listen to Hashem, but moving can also be really scary at first! We concluded that he must have been a very brave man! Our Kindergarten students also decorated kippot to use in future classes.

## 1st Grade Update

Morah Lori Bookspan  
Morah Michelle Kettner

Our First Grade classes have been learning so much in the classroom.

This past Sunday, we learned the Hebrew letter Tet. This Hebrew letter makes a "t" sound and begins the Hebrew words Tallit (prayershawl) and Tov (good).

We are moving through the Jewish Torah stories. This past week, we learned about the story of Noah, the Great Flood, and the special ark he created. In this story, God saw that the people living on earth were not treating each other nicely. But Noah was a righteous man. So God chose Noah to build an ark and take two of each animal on it. God then created a great flood. Noah and his family and all of the animals were safe. Our First Grade students made their own Noah's Ark story book.





## 2nd Grade Update

Morah Melissa Barry and Morah Haviva Samuels  
Morah Jessica Meltzer and Morah Caroline  
Danziger

Our 2nd Grade are moving through their Torah Unit, the story of Noah. Students learned that God spoke to Noah and told him that people were not behaving nicely. God would send a storm and Noah must create a special ark that would be able to hold pairs of all animals. It rained for 40 days and 40 nights. Once the rain finally stopped, a rainbow was seen in the sky. This rainbow is a promise from God to remind everyone that a storm has ended and will not happen again. From this story, we discussed the theme of promises. Students discussed promises that they could make and follow.

In Hebrew, students are continuing to learn the Hebrew letters and vowels. This past week, we continued to review letters Bet and Shin and Tav - ת, ש & כ - We ask students to practice reading at home – the more practice, the better!

## 3rd Grade Update

Morah Melissa Barry and Morah Haviva Samuels  
Morah Jessica Meltzer and Morah Caroline  
Danziger

Our 3rd grade students have continued to move through the Israel curriculum. This week our students are touring through the different cities in Israel. We looked at the map of Israel to learn about the physical look of the land and to see how small, but diverse the country is. Our Tuesday students got to learn with our Shinshin, Itay, about the special country he grew up in.

This past week in Hebrew, we continued to review letter and vowel word combinations using the Hebrew letters Shin, Sin, Tav, Bet, Resh and Dalet: ש, ש, ת, ת, ר, ד, ב - Students can now read words like Shabbat. שבת ! We ask students to practice reading at home – you can use page 17 & 18 in your book. The more practice, the better!



## 4th Grade and 5th Grade Judaics Update

Morah Ellen Marcus

Morah Stefanie Rovinsky and Morah Rebecca Slavsky

\*Please note: due to curriculum changes, the 4th and 5th Grade curriculum is the same to ensure that students have the foundation to move forward in future years.

Our 4th and 5th Grade students are diving into our Chai Curriculum which explores the community of Am Yisrael as seen through the last two books of the Torah: Numbers/BaMidbar and Deuteronomy/Devarim. Students are learning how to explore our Chumash, the special book used that holds every Torah reading and commentary. Students are learning how to find specific portions by the Book of the Torah, Chapter and Verse. In our curriculum, we are focusing on how the 12 tribes of Israel lived together and created a community, Am Yisrael - the nation of Israel. Students in both of our programs will be meeting with "Moses" to receive the Torah and will eventually explore how these 12 tribes learned to live and work together. (Our Sunday/Tuesday students just met with Moses this past week!

## 4th Grade Hebrew Update

Morah Ally Tash

Cila Klingher

In Hebrew, students are continuing to review their Hebrew knowledge and understanding of certain prayers. Our S/T students have mastered the Hebrew months. Students are moving into the more formal part of the Hebrew curriculum with our Hineini through Prayer program with the Barchu.

## 5th Grade Hebrew Update

Morah Ally Tash

Cila Klingher

In Hebrew, students have completed their review and are now moving forward in their Hebrew learning with the Amidah prayer and the Avot/Imahot. Students have been working on their Hebrew reading competence and fluency of reading these prayers.





## 6th Grade Update

Morah Lori Bookspan and Tali Medwed  
Morah Miriam Hertzson

Our 6th Grade students' curriculum explores the third component of the Hebrew Bible, the Book of Writings/Ketuvim. The goal is to explore how this section of the Hebrew Bible uses artistic expression to make sense of the world. To fully delve into this section, we realize that our students need to build a stronger understanding of the entire Hebrew Bible: Torah (the 5 books), Prophets, and then move on to Writings.

Students will be continuing with the theme of artistic expression to create their own Hebrew Bible. We hope to begin this unit next week. This will ultimately help our students begin to see where their Bnai Mitzvah portion falls in the Jewish story and how to navigate the Hebrew Bible.

## 7th Grade Update

Morah Chari Nacson  
Mr. Marty Hirschfield

Our 7th Grade students have continued to discuss the on-going situation in Israel and focus more on action - how can we, as individuals, families, and a community, come together to take action and respond to the war in Israel? How do we use our voices, hands and hearts to raise money, funds, and supplies for our friends in Israel?

Students have been grappling with these themes in their Jewish ethics sessions with Mr. H. With Chari, students were able to see Israeli army soldiers response to letters and pictures that so many of their friends from the USA sent (including us at MJC!). Students have also continued to learn how to use conversational Hebrew with Hebrew vocab. This past Wednesday, students created their own Challah to show support to our friends in Israel.



## Tichon: Hebrew High School Update

Rabbi Joel Levenson, Leora Cohen, and Tali Medwed

Our older students had an intense and in-depth conversation with our Shinshin, Itay Benzikrey, to discuss the situation in Israel. Students shared their discomfort with discussing the situation in school and with friends of different faith. We want students to understand that all of us are struggling right now and that focusing on peace and conversation is encouraged.

With Rabbi Joel, students looked at this week's Torah Portion, Lech Lecha. A midrash explains that an important story happened *before* God selects Avram. First Avram notices that there is a kind of "fire" in the world and wonders who is looking after it. Only then does God respond to Avram and choose him for his mission. Students discussed the meaning of the word "fire" and their interpretation of the text. They connected this text study with the current situation in Israel.