

BETH  
**RADOM**  
CONGREGATION  
Hebrew School



# Parent Handbook 2018-2019



18 REINER ROAD | TORONTO | ONTARIO | M3H 2K9  
416.636.3451 WWW.BETHRADOM.COM  
CINDY KOZIEROK JOSEPH, PRINCIPAL cindy@bethradom.com



# Shalom! Welcome to Beth Radom Congregation Hebrew School 2018-2019!

---

Whether you are a new or returning family, we welcome you to a great year of learning and joyful Jewish experiences! We have put together this handbook as a guide to some of the important information for the coming year. We hope you find it useful! Please keep this copy in a handy place, and you will also find it posted online with all the other information you need. Don't be shy—if there is anything you wish to suggest, please let us know!

## a little about Cindy

Cindy Kozierek is entering her 6th year as Rosh (Principal) of Beth Radom's Hebrew School. As a full time teacher in the Toronto District School Board, she brings over 25 years of experience to our school. Cindy uses her love of Jewish heritage to model positive Jewish living for our students. A mother of three teenaged boys, she knows how important it is to bring Judaism into the home and has many ideas for making Judaism a part of every day life for busy parents. This September, Cindy will continue pursuing her Doctorate in Jewish Education through the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York. Cindy is always available to families and can be reached at 416-636-6302 or [cindy@bethradom.com](mailto:cindy@bethradom.com). Best times for phone calls are between 4 and 6 on weekdays. Or come and see Cindy on Shabbat morning, acting as Gabbai on the bima in Shul!



## A little about Chazzan (Cantor) Jeremy



Our students are very lucky to have Chazzan Jeremy Burko to guide them through this very exciting year of their lives. Musically gifted, and an enthusiastic teacher, our students are provided with a full and complete education in reading Torah and/or Haftarah. Chazzan Jeremy's teaching technique provides the highest quality learning possible and prepares students with the skills to continue their participation in services for years to come. He is patient and readily adapts to the child's personal style and special needs. If you have any questions or just want to reach out, you can contact Chazzan Jeremy at 416-636-3451 or [cantorj@bethradom.com](mailto:cantorj@bethradom.com)

# Communication Tools

## Remind App for Your Phone **\*REQUIRED\***



Cindy will be communicating important updates using the Remind app. Using text messages, Remind allows for quick communication to provide updates and important information for inclement weather or in case of an emergency.

You will be receiving an email with instructions on how to join Remind and sign up for your campus's specific updates, but here are the links to join for your reference:

- ⇒ Bar/Bat Mitzvah: <https://www.remind.com/join/barbatmit>
- ⇒ Beth Radom: <https://www.remind.com/join/hebradom>
- ⇒ Waldorf: <https://www.remind.com/join/hebwaldorf>

## Resources Section on [www.BethRadom.com](http://www.BethRadom.com)

We have a page on our website where we post resources for you to use at home with your families. Supporting content that we teach on Sunday mornings will be posted there, so that you can ask questions and learn along with your child. We will also post wonderful links that will educate and entertain.

Please visit: <http://www.bethradom.com/learning-resources.html>



## Facebook and Instagram

Be sure to follow us on Instagram @BRCHebrewSchool and Like us on Facebook! In addition to our Beth Radom Hebrew School Page, we have a group on Facebook called "**Parents of Beth Radom Hebrew School**". It is a SECRET group and only open to currently registered parents. Cindy will be moderating the group to ensure its privacy. How do you join? Find @BethRadomSchool on Facebook and like our page, then Cindy will invite you to join our group.



## Email

Email is our primary means of communication with families. If you are not receiving regular emails from Cindy, please let her know as there must be an error in our system.

# Bar/Bat Mitzvah Program

---

Our Bar/Bat Mitzvah program has been growing and growing!

We have two parts to our program:

1. Private 30 minute lessons that prepare each child individually for his/her service.
2. Once per month Sunday class

## **\*\*New Sunday Bar/Bat Mitzvah Club\*\***

We are always evolving at Beth Radom and we are thrilled to be introducing a **brand new Sunday program** this year that focuses on teaching our youth to give back. **Shelby Ungerman**, one of our talented educators, will be leading our students both in the program and throughout the month in learning how to be contributing members of the Jewish community and develop personal and group leadership skills.

We are very proud to be partnering with Ve'ahavta, the Jewish humanitarian organization responding to poverty in the GTA. Age-appropriate programming and learning by doing will be our focus this year.

**Sunday hours: 9:30am-12:00pm at BETH RADOM only**

## **Attendance**

The Sunday club meets only once per month, so it is very important that all students attend, even after their Bar/Bat Mitzvah date has passed. Being part of a community and giving back is the central component of the program and this is exemplified by showing up!

## **Bar/Bat Mitzvah Club Sunday Dates**

September 23, October 14, November 11, December 9, January 13, February 10, March 3, April 14, May Celebration (Date to be determined)

## **Bar/Bat Mitzvah Private Lessons**

These are private lessons at the synagogue or at the Promenade Mall and will be arranged with Chazzan Jeremy: [cantorj@bethradom.com](mailto:cantorj@bethradom.com) or 416-636-3451.

**IN THE WINTER, WE WILL HAVE AN INFORMATION SESSION FOR ALL STUDENTS IN GRADES 4+ TO HELP YOU DECIDE ON WHAT KIND OF BAR/BAT MITZVAH IS RIGHT FOR YOUR FAMILY.**

# Sunday Morning Program Information (JK-Grade 6)

All students, from Junior Kindergarten to pre-Bar/Bat Mitzvah, attend a Sunday morning program. In Grade 2, students add on Hebrew Tutorials to begin learning to read and write in Hebrew.

## **New! UPDATED** Sunday morning Grade 4-6 Program

This year, we are proud to be updating our Sunday program for our older students to add in a focus on *tefillah* (prayer). Utilizing a new program called **Hebrew in Harmony**, our students will learn the meaning behind important prayers as well as practising the prayers themselves. Hebrew in Harmony has an online component and each family will be given access to it for home practise. We know you will love it!

## Sunday morning hours: 9:30am - 12:00 pm

Usual Routine (varies according to the week's plans):

9:30-9:45 **Mifkad**—coming together for **Hatikvah** and opening **Kehillah**/community

9:45-10:30 **Limmud v'Chug** / Learn and Activity: Period 1

10:30-10:45 **Shabbat Ochel** / Snack

10:45-11:45 **Limmud v'Chug** / Learn and Activity: Period 2

11:45-12:00 **Mifkad**—coming together to say **Shalom** and closing **Kehillah**/community

## Drop off/Pick Up:

- Please try to be **on time** for 9:30 as we have a lot to fit in to a short period of time!
- For safety reasons, check in/out with the person who is holding the attendance clipboard.
- **Waldorf**: Drop off and pick up in the upper foyer.
- **Beth Radom**: Drop off and pick up in the main sanctuary.

## Attendance

The Sunday morning program is an essential component of Hebrew School (and it's tons of fun!). If your child needs to miss a session, please let us know as he/she is welcome to attend the corresponding session at the other location if it suits your schedule.

## Snack and Allergies

We provide a beautiful Shabbat style *ochel*/snack every week. After blessing the candles, we bless and enjoy grape juice and challah. Special dietary needs are always accommodated; please let us know what they are. Occasionally, we supplement our snack with holiday-related treats. We have several children with life threatening allergies so we maintain a nut free environment for snack. Both the synagogue and Waldorf school are **not** purely nut free, but we make every effort to eat and enjoy snack in a safe environment.

## What to Bring?

- Boys will be asked to wear a Kippah. It is best if you bring your own for sanitary reasons.
- A bag to bring home activities
- A smile and a great attitude!

# Sunday Morning Program Dates

---

There are never classes on Sundays of long weekends or before/after school breaks. This may mean that sometimes there will be more than 2 weeks between classes.

## North York (Beth Radom: 18 Reiner Road):

Sept. 9, 23; Oct. 14, 28; Nov. 11, 25; Dec. 9; Jan. 13, 27; Feb. 10; Mar 3, 31; Apr 14; May 5

## Thornhill (Waldorf: 9100 Bathurst Street):

Sept. 16, 30; Oct. 21; Nov. 4, 18; Dec. 2, 16; Jan. 20; Feb. 3, 24; Mar. 24; Apr 7, 28; May 12

**THE LAST CLASS IN MAY WILL BE AN END-OF-YEAR CELEBRATION AND PERFORMANCE HELD AT BETH RADOM. SAVE THE DATE!**

## Hebrew Language Tutorials (Gr. 2-6 only)

---

Tutorials occur on a weekly basis at a time that is convenient for families and tutors. You will receive a link via email to choose a day and time that is most convenient for you. Cindy will create the schedule and confirm with you and your tutor via email.

### Tutorial Dates:

For 2018-2019, tutorials will occur from October 15th to May 6th, except for the following:

**There are NO tutorials on the WEEKS beginning with:**

December 17, 24, & 31 (Winter Break)

February 18 (Family Day Week) | March 11 (March Break)

April 15 & 22 (Passover Break)

### Missed Tutorials

Tutors will make every effort to accommodate an occasional change in schedule due to illness or special circumstance, though at times one child may miss a tutorial session so that the rest of the group can continue as usual. Parents who are not home at the scheduled time, cancel late or frequently may forfeit some tutorial lessons. If the tutor must cancel the class, he/she will make it up during a non-tutorial week during the year, in consultation with the parents. Please speak directly with your tutor regarding such situations.

### Report Cards

A tutorial report is sent home twice per year to communicate your child's progress in Hebrew. Regular communication between tutors and parents is an essential part of our program and tutors are expected to contact parents frequently.

# Tutorials (Continued)

---

## Homework

We do not have a formal homework program, because we know that children are already very busy with many commitments. However, it is true that all children progress more quickly when they practise their skills between tutorial sessions.

## Materials and Setting

It is helpful if you provide a storage place for your child's folder in the home so that it can be easily accessed on tutorial days as well as a small container of school supplies such as pencils, erasers, highlighters, etc. A quiet space in the home is ideal, where children and the tutor can sit and learn together comfortably. Please encourage your children to finish all snacks prior to the tutorial.

## Online Tutoring

Cindy is our online tutor this year and she will be in contact with each family to explain the process. Essentially, it is a one-one teaching environment facilitated by a Skype-like online platform. Your child will be provided with a set of printed materials for his/her use while also working in the online environment.

## Synagogue Attendance

Parents are highly encouraged to attend Shul services with their children at least once per month. The learning that happens in Hebrew School can only be truly effective if practised! Several times per year, the Young Families committee at Beth Radom hosts special Shabbat programs (Sukkot, Chanukah, etc.) and we would love to have the opportunity to see your family enjoying the warm and loving Shul environment (and delicious kiddush lunch!).

## Special Needs

We welcome all children into our Hebrew School and will accommodate our program to meet their needs. In your registration package, all parents have the opportunity to explain special needs that their children may have. If anything develops or changes throughout the year, please be in regular communication so that we can adapt our program appropriately.

## Inter-Faith Families

Many of our students have a parent or grandparent who was born into a different faith than Judaism. At Beth Radom, we welcome the experiences of all children and encourage them to share their family's traditions in an open and inclusive environment. If there is a particularly sensitive topic or issue, please speak with Cindy so that she can ensure that it is handled respectfully.