**Aleph**

Our goal in Aleph is for every student to experience the joys of Jewish learning. It is a year of firsts:

1. First time reading Hebrew letters and vowels
2. First time mastering specific prayers
3. First time reading full Hebrew words
4. Focus on individual achievements

**Hebrew**: Using *Aleph Bet Quest*, our focus is to develop comfort with Hebrew letters and vowels in both book reading and writing. The goal is to establish reading proficiency and fluency to enable our students to decode any Hebrew text.

**Jewish Texts:** This year begins with learning and understanding the wonderful stories of the bible. Using the text *A Child’s Bible*, students become familiar with the Torah as well as the key figures and stories that are the foundation of the people. The emphasis is on “Genesis”.

**Jewish Law:** Our theme is *Gemilut Hasadim*, helping through deeds of loving kindness.

**Holidays:** Many of our students have a basic understanding of the holidays. Our primary method of teaching about the holidays is doing – having apples and honey, blowing the shofar in class, eating in the Sukkah, etc. The information is in *The Jewish Holiday Treasure Trail* provided in class.

**Tefillah (Prayer)**: *Shalom Aleikhem, Lekhu Neranena, Yismekhu, Or Zaru’a, Romemu, Lekha Dodi, Shema, Barukh, Adon Olam*.

**Israel:** Students are introduced to the State of Israel by means of bible stories, art and music. Our Shinshin helps to reinforce their understanding of the country.

**Bet**

**Hebrew:** The goal in Bet is for our students to strengthen their reading and understanding. The book *New Siddur I* reinforces the student’s Hebrew reading and builds skills in recognizing basic sight words.

**Jewish Law and Texts**: The theme is “*tzaar baalei hayim*”, “caring for all animals”.

**Holidays:** *The Book of Jewish Holidays* explores the beauty and traditions of the holidays. The students focus on the different foods and traditions of the holiday.

**Tefillah (Prayer):** *Lekha Dodi, Tsadik Katamar, Barekhu, VeAhavta, Mi Khamokha, VeShameru, Kiddush, Birkat HaMazon.*

**Israel:** In the book *Welcome to Israel*, the students are introduced to the wonders of Eretz Yisrael. Some of the areas discussed are the Dead Sea, the Kotel, Masada, Ramon Crater, the Sea of Galilee, the Negev Desert. Bet focuses on learning about Samuel, King David I, and King Saul. They also work with our Shinshin.

**Gimel**

**Hebrew:** Hebrew reading, prayer and basic sight words are our focus.

**Jewish Law:** Our students theme is “*Bal Taschit*”, “do not destroy or waste”. The children learn to have respect for the environment.

**Jewish Texts and History:** The students study the book of B’reishit, focusing on genealogy of the 12 tribes. They study the Midrash (rich Rabbinic interpretation) which has guided the Jewish people for centuries.

**Holidays:** Students learn the history and significance of each holiday.

**Tefillah (Prayer):** *HaMa’ariv, Ahavat Olam, Ohev Amo, VeShameru, Aleinu, Shehu Note, VeNe’emar, Ein Keloheinu, Aleinu.*

**Israel**: The students focus on the following cities in Israel: Beersheba, Eilat, Haifa, Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.

They also work with the Shinshin.

**Dalet**

**Hebrew:** The students continue their learning using *New Siddur 3* to reinforce previously learned skills. Individual levels are assessed throughout the year by formal and informal assessments. Games, stories, and cooking help bring the Hebrew language to life.

**Jewish Law:** The theme in Dalet is “*V’ahavta L’reicha Khamokha*”, “Loving your neighbor as yourself”. We reach out to needy families in the local area (The INN, The Bristal House, etc.)

**Jewish Life:** Students explore important events in their own life and in the life of their families. They examine all the Jewish ceremonies surrounding birth: *Pidyon Haben, Brit Meliah, Simchat Bat, Shalom Zochar*.

**Jewish Texts and History:** Students explore the Book of Shemot (Exodus) and beyond. They study our slavery in Egypt and years during and after our wandering in the desert. The students also learn how we got from the desert to modern times.

**Holidays:** They examine each holiday using the original text:

1. Rosh Hashanah – *Mahazor* and the Book of Jonah
2. Purim – *Megillah*
3. Passover – *Haggadah*

We discuss the historical influence of each holiday on our lives and how we respond to these influences.

**Tefillah (Prayer):** *Mizmor L’David, Yigdal, Ein Kamokha, Vay’hi Binso’a, Beh Ana Rahetz, Shema- Gad’lu, Le’kha Adonai, Romemu,* Torah blessings, Haftarah blessings before, Haftarah blessings after, *Y’hal’lu, Hodo Al Eretz, Mizmor L’David, U’venuho Yomar, Etz Hayim*

**Israel:** The students study Israel focusing on the Arts and Culture. The also connect with the Shinshin, reinforcing the above.

**Hey**

**Hebrew:** Our Hebrew language is used through prayer and related vocabulary in the Jewish tradition. Students become comfortable with the Hebrew words which involve prayer around Jewish events, Life Cycles and holidays.

**Jewish Law:** The students study Life Cycle events in the Jewish tradition. They focus on the milestone of Bar and Bat Mitzvah, the experience of both weddings and deaths. Mitzvot and ethics are an essential part of Jewish life. *Kashrut* is also taught. We explore the biblical and modern reasoning of *Kashrut*.

**Jewish History:** We bring history to life by comparing modern events and situations to which the students can relate. Holocaust studies are integrated in the current events discussion. Jewish concerns in the United States, Israel and around the world are emphasized. The students can also relate their own experiences with those of Jewish people in various communities near and far.

**Tefillah (Prayer):** The focus is on increasing the knowledge and familiarity of the students with the Friday evening, Saturday morning, Weekday and Holiday Services. Students also become increasingly competent with the prayers which they will lead for their Bar and Bat Mitzvah services. Literacy of Tefillah should also include various melodies for prayer.

**Israel:** We want our students to develop a deeper understanding of, and connections to Israel. We explore Israel’s people, its history, its technological, environmental and medical advances. They also work with the ShinShin to help make Israel come alive.

Mitzvah Project: Hey students, along with the Principal, create and execute a Mitzvah Project to focus on a topic in which they are interested.