

EDUCATION

“That was fun!” “Why can’t we do that all the time!” “When do we do that again?” are comments I regularly hear at dismissal once a month! As parents (and educators) with busy, limited schedules, it’s easy for us to build a routine, make decisions and then impose those decisions on our children. We all want the best for our children and, oftentimes, we believe our choices are what’s best.

However, the power of choice, even a small one, can go a long way. Proverbs 22:6 teaches us, “Train a child according to his way and even when he grows old, he will not turn away from it.” The choice can be simple and infrequent, but the key is to provide our children with choices that empower them while minimizing the impact on our goal and routine.

After my experience of speaking to articulate and creative youngsters, Temple Sinai Religious School now offers monthly chug electives. Our students look forward to the change in our schedule, the fun alternatives to the routine, and the power of choice – their choice. The offerings are Ulpan/conversational Hebrew phrases, drama, Hebrew games, Israeli dance, and Hebrew hip hop. There are no bad choices and children are encouraged to decide, empowering their Temple Sinai education. By building small (30 minute) choices into the routine, we teach children to be an active part of the decision-making process. When grownups make every decision for our children, we don’t allow them the opportunity to use their creativity and develop abstract thinking. Let’s face it, as adults we are often rigid and not nearly as creative as our kids. We want to foster their creative thinking and empower their interest in their Jewish education.

Please mark your calendar for May 1 when our Religious School students will proudly present the activities and learning they chose.

All the best – Kol Tuv,
Morah Judy

EDUCATION DATES TO REMEMBER:

Jan 1	No Religious School
Jan 5	Religious School classes resume Schiff Tichon Sinai
Jan 8	6 th Grade speaks to Cantor Micah
Jan 11	Shabbat School
Jan 12	7 th Grade speaks to Cantor Micah 5 th Grade assembles lasagna
Jan 19 – 22	No Religious School
Jan 25	Shabbat School
Jan 26	Kindergarten and 1 st Grade Family Ed Programs
Jan 24 -28	Chug/Elective
Feb 2	Schiff Tichon Sinai Bob Schechter Memorial Pancake Breakfast 5 th Grade speaks to Cantor Micah

Feb 8	Shabbat School
Feb 9	Tu B'Shvat Seder school wide
Feb 16 – 19	No Religious School
Feb 23	4 th Grade assembles lasagna 5 th Grade Israel adventure RuJu rehearsal
Feb 24 -26	Chug / Elective