

It's that time of year again, when I look back on the past school year and start planning for September.

In 2017 we instituted new programs and curriculum changes like third grade Hebrew, seventh grade tutoring, split instruction (Hebrew and religious studies during each class session), the 13 Mitzvot program, Lasagnas with Love and Torah Play, all of which have been successful and will continue into the coming school year.

The third grade students have taken to Hebrew instruction even better than we had hoped. They are excited about being able to read in another language and have risen to the occasion. They are very proud of their accomplishments and so are we.

Split instruction has allowed the students to move from one subject to the next rather than spend a full hour and a half block on Hebrew or religious studies alone.

Seventh grade tutoring has also worked out well, allowing each student to learn at his or her own pace with one-on-one instruction. The addition of the 13 Mitzvot program, our answer to the "mitzvah project," gives them structure and purpose as they prepare for bar/bat mitzvah and has been well received.

By the time you read this, the students of Temple Sinai's religious school will have made and donated approximately 60 lasagnas to Schoke Jewish Family Service. The students seem to enjoy it (one parent told me her child came home and made it for the family), and more than once I have been told how much JFS and its clients appreciate it. Thank you to all the families who graciously donated the ingredients.

We introduced Torah Play to our younger students this year and had amazing results. All the students who participated were engaged and we were pleased with the results. This coming school year we will be expanding the program in hopes of presenting one Torah play a month.

It is my hope that you found these initiatives to be positive experiences for your children and know that we will continue to research innovative teaching models and programs to bring to the Temple Sinai community. We have an amazing and creative teaching staff and they too are always looking for new ways to engage our students. Yes, there will be more surprises come September.

Please remember to register for the 2018-2019 school year. Knowing how many students we can expect helps us in planning and makes for a smooth start to the school year. Have a safe and healthy summer and I'll see you on September 23!

L'shalom,

*Morah Amy*