

## **Aleph (1<sup>st</sup>)**

### ***Grade Focus***

The goal of the Gan (K)/Aleph (1<sup>st</sup>) grade is to build a foundation for Jewish education and to provide a rich variety of experiences in Jewish observance: holiday hands-on-experiences, the joy of Shabbat, and special days, through songs, games, artwork, stories, tefillah (prayers) and crafts. We will join the entire school in celebrating the holidays such as: performing the mitzvah of *leyahev sukkah* by visiting a sukkah, the fun of Hanukkah, Tu B'Shevat seder, the exchange of *Mishloach Manot* for Purim, a Pesach model seder, and Lag B'Omer sports day and family picnic. We hope to help each child find a source of significance and enrichment in Jewish living through Jewish values: the practice of Tzedakah and Mitzvot, and a love for Israel. Children and families are strongly encouraged to participate in the Israeli Birthday Celebration – Yom HaAtzma'ut!

### ***Specific Goals***

- Teach Jewish Holidays through stories, observances, customs and appropriate blessings and prayers.
- Do arts and craft projects related to each specific holiday.
- Discuss the moral lesson derived during Bible story telling time.
- Introduce the Hebrew vocabulary through playing games.

### ***Prayer Goals***

- Each class is started with the *Shema*.
- Shabbat Blessings (*Lhadlik Ner* - Candles, *Hamotzi* – Challah, *Borei Pri Hagafen* – Wine)
- *Oseh Shalom* (A Prayer for Peace, including hand movements)
- Barchu
- Adon Olam
- Ma Tovu
- 1<sup>st</sup> Hanukkah Blessing
- Modeh Ani
- Appropriate blessings are recited before every snack.

## **BET (2<sup>nd</sup> Grade)**

### ***Grade Focus***

The goal of Kitah Bet (2<sup>nd</sup> Grade) is to continue to reinforce the foundation of Jewish education and to provide a rich variety of experiences in Jewish observance: stories, dance, computers, songs, games, artwork, and crafts. We will join the entire school in celebrating the holidays as: performing the mitzvah of *leshev b'sukkah* by visiting a sukkah, the fun of Hanukkah, Tu B'Shevat seder, the exchange of mishloach manot for Purim, a Pesach model seder, and Lag B'Omer sports day and family picnic. We hope to help each child find a source of significance and enrichment in Jewish living through Jewish values: the practice of Tzedakah and Mitzvot, and a love for Israel.

### ***Specific Goals***

- Lead parts of the Friday night Kabbalat Shabbat service at their Consecration Shabbat service
- Identify and decode all Hebrew letters and vowels in print
- Identify with synagogue, with local Jewish community
- Identify Israel on a map and learn about Israeli culture and geography
- See the home as the foundation of Jewish community through making of *mezuzot* and other sacred home Judaic objects

### ***Prayer Goals***

- Ain Keloheiyenu
- Passover Blessings and Texts, including
  - Order of the Seder song
  - Ma Nishtanah* (The Four Questions)
- Sections of the Haggadah
- Seder melodies, Order of the Seder
- Shabbat participation in Shabbaton services
- Comprehension of the meaning of prayers
- Friday Night *Kiddush*
- Lecha Dodi (1<sup>st</sup> two stanzas, last two stanzas)
- Shalom Aleichem
- Tzadik Katamar
- Prayers “spiraled up” from Kitah Aleph: Adon Olam, Ma Tov, 1<sup>st</sup> Hanukkah Blessing, Modeh Ani, Shema, Shabbat Blessings, Oseh Shalom, Barchu, Appropriate blessings are recited before every snack

## **GIMMEL (3<sup>rd</sup> Grade)**

### ***Grade Focus***

The goal of Kitah Gimmel (3<sup>rd</sup> Grade) is to expand the children's knowledge of Hebrew in three key areas: language skills, reading skills, and writing skills. We use a specific curricular text that allows us to teach the writing of Hebrew in an effective and fun way. We continue to work on prayers that we *daven* during weekday and Shabbat services and reinforce learning from previous years. Bible stories that focus on Jewish ethics and Jewish law are also covered in detail in age-appropriate ways. Study of holidays will emphasize specific vocabulary.

### ***Specific Goals***

- Decode Hebrew confidently with vowels
- Write with ease in block and script
- Read familiar prayers and blessings from the Siddur
- Identify with and feel proud of our collective heritage
- Understand that Judaism is a religion of ethics and morality, based on traditions and texts.

### ***Prayer Goals***

- V'ahavtah
- Aleinu
- V'Shamru
- Prayers "spiraled up" from Kitah Bet: Ain Keloheiyenu, Blessings during the Seder on Passover, including *Ma Nishtanah* (The Four Questions), Order of the Seder tune, Shabbat participation in Shabbaton services, Comprehension of the meaning of prayers, Adon Olam, Ma Tovu, 1<sup>st</sup> Hanukkah Blessing, Modeh Ani, Shema, Shabbat Blessings, Oseh Shalom, Barchu, Appropriate blessings are recited before every snack

## DALET (4<sup>th</sup> Grade)

### ***Grade Focus***

The goal of Kitah Dalet (4<sup>th</sup> Grade) is to begin seeing the Torah as a guiding text, one that teaches through key Torah portions how we can live our lives as ethical beings. The solid foundation of Hebrew developed in earlier grades allows children in Kitah Dalet to expand their knowledge into new areas, including reading contemporary Hebrew comic books (with still prayer-based words), the leading of *tefillot* (prayers), and more. Increased decoding abilities allows the children to learn new *tefillot*.

### ***Specific Goals***

- Discussion of major events, issues, and laws in key Torah Portions and the reinforcement of key Hebrew words or phrases in the portion
- Decode Hebrew easily with vowels
- Read familiar prayers and blessings from the Siddur, adding to those studied in earlier grades
- Encourage oral expression as well as reading fluency through lessons in narratives and dialogues

### ***Prayer***

- Ashrei
- Birkhot HaShahar
- First two Brachot of the Amidah
- Portions of Hallel – *B'steit Yisrael*
- 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph of Birkat Hamazon
- Prayers “spiraled up” from Kitah Gimmel: Misheberach – Prayer for Healing (Debbie Friedman melody), V'ahavtah, Shalom Aleichem, Aleinu (1<sup>st</sup> part), L'cha Dodi, Mah Tov, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph of the Shema, V'Shamru, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph of Birkat Hamazon, Tzadik Katamar, Baruch Sh'amar, Ain Keloheiyenu, Blessings during the Seder on Passover, including *Ma Nishtanah* (The Four Questions), Sections of the Haggadah, Seder melodies, Order of the Seder, Shabbat participation in Shabbaton services, Comprehension of the meaning of prayers, Adon Olam, Ma Tov, 1<sup>st</sup> Hanukkah Blessings, Modeh Ani, Shema, Shabbat Blessings, Oseh Shalom, Barchu, Appropriate blessings are recited before every snack

## **HEY (5<sup>th</sup> Grade)**

### ***Grade Focus***

The goal of Kitah Hey (5<sup>th</sup> Grade) is to make Judaism increasingly relevant to their daily lives, to strengthen decoding, and to teach how our collective history, from ancient to turn-of-the-century (20<sup>th</sup> Century!) America is congruent with our need to stay connected as a People. The Shabbat Morning service is a major focus and we focus in Kitah Hey on the Torah Service, *aliyot*, and additional prayers that focus on Shabbat morning.

### ***Specific Goals***

- Be able to lead a Shabbat morning Torah service and the concluding prayers
- Decode Hebrew easily with vowels
- Read familiar prayers and blessings from the Siddur, adding to those studied in earlier grades
- Be able to perform home ritual observances, i.e. Passover Seder, Shabbat dinner meal, Kiddush, Havdalah
- Jewish history in America – Immigration, family stories, European Jewish history

### ***Prayer***

- Lead Parts or All of Passover Seder
- Lead Havdalah
- Lead Blessings over Shabbat meal (Candles, Kiddush, Hand Washing, & Challah)

Prayers “spiraled up” from Kitah Dalet: Ashrei, Birkot HaShahar, First part of Amidah, Portions of Hallel – B’steit Yisrael, 1<sup>st</sup> Paragraph of Birkat Hamazon, Misheberach – Prayer for Healing (Debbie Friedman melody), V’ahavtah, Shalom Aleichem, Aleinu (1<sup>st</sup> part), L’cha Dodi, Mah Tov, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph of the Shema, V’Shamru, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph of Birkat Hamazon, Tzadik Katamar, Baruch Sh’amar, Ain Keloheynu, Blessings during the Seder on Passover, including *Ma Nishtanah* (The Four Questions), Sections of the Haggadah, Seder melodies, Order of the Seder, Shabbat participation in Shabbaton services, Comprehension of the meaning of prayers, Adon Olam, Ma Tov, 1<sup>st</sup> Hanukkah Blessings, Modeh Ani, Shema, Shabbat Blessings, Oseh Shalom, Barchu, Appropriate blessings are recited before every snack

## **VAV (6<sup>th</sup> Grade)**

### ***Grade Focus***

The goal of Kitah Vav (6<sup>th</sup> Grade) is to round out each child's primary grade Jewish education by focusing on learning remaining prayers in the Shabbat and weekday *tefillot* (prayers), to continue to strengthen growing friendships, to continue making Judaism relevant to their daily lives, and to continue to show that Judaism is not just a religion of our past but a faith that guides our moral actions and thoughts. Kitah Vav youth lead many services in our Hebrew School, work with our youngest learners during *tefillah* to help them follow along, and access our highest forms of learning hardware and software, preparing them for their Hebrew School Graduation Shabbat experience. Their Hebrew skills are now both Biblical and conversational and they model their knowledge through activities, through play and sport, and through Holiday programming. With great efforts being placed towards maximum preparation for their B'nai Mitzvah, before working for a year with a tutor, Kitah Vav youth learn together things they will all have to know for their "big day", including Torah and Haftarah trope, blessings, and *nusach* (melodies).

### ***Specific Goals***

- Decode Hebrew easily with vowels
- Know Haftarah trope (taught by the Hazzan)
- Will be able to explain the significance of each Jewish holiday

### ***Prayer***

- Ability to lead entire Junior Congregation service and Kabbalat Shabbat service
- Haftarah Blessings

Prayers "spiraled up" from Kitah Hey: Lead Parts or All of Passover Seder, Lead Havdalah, Lead Blessings over Shabbat meal, Ashrei, Birkot HaShahar, First part of Amidah, Portions of Hallel – B'steit Yisrael, 1<sup>st</sup> Paragraph of Birkat Hamazon, Misheberach – Prayer for Healing (Debbie Friedman melody), V'ahavtah, Shalom Aleichem, Aleinu (1<sup>st</sup> part), L'cha Dodi, Mah Tov, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph of the Shema, V'Shamru, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph of Birkat Hamazon, Tzadik Katamar, Baruch Sh'amar, Ain Keloheiynu, Blessings during the Seder on Passover, including *Ma Nishtanah* (The Four Questions), Sections of the Haggadah, Seder melodies, Order of the Seder, Shabbat participation in Shabbaton services, Comprehension of the meaning of prayers, Adon Olam, Ma Tov, 1<sup>st</sup> Hanukkah Blessings, Modeh Ani, Shema, Shabbat Blessings, Oseh Shalom, Barchu, Appropriate blessings are recited before every snack

## **ZAYIN (7<sup>th</sup> Grade)**

### ***Grades Focus***

Kehillah means Community. Kehillah is our hope to bridge the gap between B'nai Mitzvah and continued learning. We believe that Jewish Education is a life-long endeavor and we are committed to creating positive learning experiences for learners of all ages and abilities.

### ***Specific Goals***

- To have B'nai Mitzvah and post-B'nai Mitzvah youth see Jewish learning as not stopping at B'nai Mitzvah but rather continuing on as a life-long endeavor
- To create relationships between our 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade youth and the clergy of our synagogue and community
- To continue to show that Hebrew is a living language, one spoken by millions of people, one that can be found in a variety of mediums, including popular Israeli music, leading to stronger vocabularies and stronger relationships between our youth and Hebrew
- To harness the power of the Internet as a tool for teaching about Israel, Jewish History, famous Jewish icons, and Hebrew
- To use music, specifically the teaching of guitar, to create connections between our youth, Jewish music, and Judaism