

Oct 29, 2009

Shalom. Our fifth grade Talmud Torah class has been really exciting. The students are all participating, either sharing on their own or when prompted. Our discussions during the parashat HaShavuot (weekly torah portion) are thought provoking and enlightening. During the Jewish ethics portion, where we read from the book Mah L'Asot, our students tend to "argue" (for lack of a better word) with each other, defending their answers to the end.

As far as Hebrew is concerned, we are moving along more quickly now, so I encourage you to make sure your child practices the prayers. Currently, we are reviewing the Shema, V'Ahavta, Avot, Gevurot, and Shalom Rav. Sometime this week, we will delve into the Kedushat Musaf, and probably at least one more prayer before 2009 ends.

Also, I am planning on starting to use the SmartBoard that we have in our computer lab, thanks to Janette. The students say that they know how to use it, and I want to use it in reference to learning about Israel (our class is working on some lessons).

If you have any questions, concerns, or comments, please feel free to call me or email me. Thanks for letting me teach your child, and learn from them. I am having a great time!!!

Jody

Shalom. Please remember to send your child to the chapel for tefillot at 4:15 on Wednesday, September 16.

At about 5:00 p.m., our class will continue our discussion of Yom Kippur, and will include Kapparot, a custom in which the sins of a person are symbolically transferred to a fowl and donating to tzedakah (we had an education day a few years ago and I discussed it during that time, demonstrating with a rubber chicken. Sorry, no rubber chicken this time, unless my son relinquishes his). I will also touch upon tzar Baalei Chaim (preventing cruelty to animals). You are more than welcome to join us. Jody

August 25, 2009

Shalom. WOW!!! What a wonderful class we have. I am really looking forward to a wonderful year with you child.

Please remember to have your child **bring a photo** of him/herself doing some a fun activity, preferably Jewish, this summer and talk about it with our class. We will do this on Sunday.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to email me. Thank you. Jody

August 17, 2009

Shalom. I hope you all had a wonderful summer, and you and your child are ready for an awesome fifth grade at Beth El. We will be learning a variety of subjects this year, starting immediately...on the first day. I would like your child to **bring a photo** of him/herself doing some Jewish activity this summer and talk about it with our class. I have found it to be a great segue into the new school year.

Also, I would like for you all to think about a **special Jewish item** in your **house** (you don't have to bring it with you) so we can "see it through your eyes" in your house (i.e. describe your house as you take us to where the item is).

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to email me. Please keep in mind I have a **very** active three year-old so I will try to get back to you as soon as possible. Thank you and I look forward to seeing you on Sunday. Jody Cohen Gordon