



Family connection to life in the sixth grade

## Beth El Congregation

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### Project Etgar Kickoff

Shalom, and welcome to **Keshar**, a newsletter for parents of Middle School Students in "Project Etgar" schools. Our synagogue's school was selected to participate in this new curriculum project that is currently under development by the Melton Research Center of the Jewish Theological Seminary and United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.

In Hebrew, the word "Keshar" has several meanings, including "link," "connection," and "knot." Through **Keshar** we will stay connected, and keep you informed about the substance and content of your child's studies. We hope to foster a partnership between your family, your home, the synagogue community, and religious school to provide the optimal environment for your child to grow and develop as a well-rounded, thoughtful, caring, and committed Jewish young adult. How ambitious! It is certainly easier said than done, but **Keshar** will help us work together toward the healthy development of your child's sense of purpose as a Jew in the world.

Judaism is passed "Le Dor Va'Dor," from generation to generation. While YOU teach your child family values, family history, and your family's unique attachment to Judaism, our school teaches your child "Jewish Literacy" - Torah, Hebrew, prayer, Jewish values, and Jewish history. By working together, we can nourish your child's emotional attachment to Judaism. **Keshar** is one of the ways to connect the school's curriculum to your own family's Jewish life.

Each issue of **Kesher** will provide some insight into what the sixth graders have been learning, so you will know what is happening in your child's classroom. In addition, some issues of **Kesher** will include discussion questions and activities that we'd like you to discuss at home (or in the car, or whatever location works for you!) with your child. Sometimes, your child's homework assignments will be to search for information that can't be found in books, but that only you can provide.

Our school will introduce the sixth graders to Project Etgar through a special two-hour kickoff called "**Yom Rishon At Hag-Worts**" on **August 30th** at 9:00 am. Through this spoof on Harry Potter's first day at Hogwarts, your child will be initiated into Project Etgar's special approach to Jewish Education. Since this special program takes the full two hours, please make sure your child arrives on time.

We hope that **Kesher** will help you stay informed about your child's Jewish education. Your feedback and input are always welcome.