YEP! Menschenings

Upcoming 2019 YEP! sessions: Feb 3 & 24, March 10 & 24, April 14 & 28 and May 5 & 19

Kindergarten – 3rd graders with Morah Stephanie & Morah Alex: During our first session, K-3 learned about Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. We read the story and colored pictures, and tie-dyed our own dream coats. During our second session, we learned about *Tu B'Shevat*. We talked about how to keep the Earth clean and healthy, and we planted parsley that should be grown by Passover (just remember to water them each day and keep them in the sunlight)!

4th & 5th grade Judaica with Morah Debbie: The last two sessions have been very hands on with projects that are enhancing our Synagogue while learning the meaning behind it. We recently planted seeds for *Tu B'Shevat* in our garden and added our Value rocks that we made last year. This week we learned about the *Aron Hakodesh* (Holy Ark) and the *Ner Tamid* (Eternal Light).   After visiting our sanctuary, we watched a video on how to open the ark and properly carry a Torah. The students learned about the Eternal Light & how the ark was once carried as a box. Our class made/decorated our own Ark & *Ner Tamid*, which can be seen in our classroom. We will soon make a Torah to fit inside.

4th & 5th grade Hebrew with Moreh Bob: 4th Grade: 1/13 - We did a review of the letters we learned in the fall. 1/27 - We learned two new letters - *fey* & *pey* - and we reviewed the five vowels we've learned so far.

5th Grade: 1/13 - We did review worksheets. 1/27 - We learned the *Mi Chamocha*, and how it related to the Jews' crossing the Red Sea. (Ask your student whether or not they think that everything written in the Bible is true word-for-word, and are they any "less Jewish" if they believe it's not?)

6th - 8th grades with Moreh Jared & Morah Scarlett: The middle school had a productive couple of weeks! For our first session of the semester, we learned about several different fruits and plants that make up a *Tu B'Shevat* Seder, trying out figs, dates, grapes, and dragon fruit! Last week, we started discussing *Beresheet,* better known as the creation story. For each day, we went over what G-d created and some Hebrew vocabulary. The students also had an opportunity to draw or write their own book depicting days 1-5. We're looking forward to picking back up with day 6 on Sunday!

6th grade Hebrew: We have been reviewing basic word structure and vowels, and reading aloud from prayers. The students are doing a tremendous job reading! After reading and reviewing the kids initiated a game with the Hebrew letters and played that for about 5 minutes when class ended. Please continue to review vowels and the lessons on Google Drive. I can see the difference already in their familiarity and confidence!

7th & 8th grade Hebrew: In Hebrew we worked on different components of the Amidah (including the main prayer, *Yismechu*, and *Yihyu L'Ratzon*), as well as *V'Shamru* (a song about Shabbat's place at the end of the week).

Music w/Morah Erica & Mareh Jared: For the first session we sang about trees - plants (Debbie Friedman's *Tu B'Shevat* song, *David Melech Yisrael* with different fruits and parts of trees; and *Artik Menta* for a few fruit flavors), our family trees (using the Hebrew words for members of our family), and the Tree of Life (the Torah) in honor of *Tu B'Shevat*, the new year or birthday of the trees. This past session we learned five prayers/songs we sing in morning *Tefillah* (services), their meaning, and special facts about each one! We sang *Ma Tovu*, *Mi Chamocha*, *Ad-nai Sftai*, Tree of Life, and *Oseh Shalom*. We are learning pieces from all parts of the service (beginning, middle, and end). We learned the Torah stories behind *Ma Tovu* and *Mi Chamocha*, the special choreography for *Ad-nai Sftai*, learned about our *Aron HaKodesh* (ark) and *Ner Tamid* (eternal light) before Tree of Life, and had a discussion about what we pray for (a few: health, family, love, food, basic necessities, freedom, being thankful, and peace) before singing *Oseh Shalom*.