

# TEMPLE SINAI RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

## HIGHLIGHTS AND NEW INFORMATION

### FOR THE 2011-2012 RELIGIOUS SCHOOL YEAR

#### 1. FIRST DAY PARENT & STUDENT ORIENTATIONS: Sept. 11, 12, 14

- On Sunday, September 11 all parents accompany students for the full session, 8:30-10:30 and/or 11:00-1:00. Parents will meet with teachers in the Classroom.
- On Monday, September 12 grade 2 & 3 parents come to the temple at 5:15 PM to meet with their child's teacher.
- On Wednesday, September 14 grade 4, 5 & 7 students attend Hebrew School without their parent. GRADE 6 STUDENTS & PARENTS ATTEND A SPECIAL 5:30-5:30 B'MITZVOTAV ORIENTATION, in lieu of the regular session.

#### 2. NEW WORSHIP SERVICE ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENT, GRADE 6

Our grade 3-6 students must attend 7 Temple Sinai worship services, including 3 Shabbat worship services. New this year, our Grade 6 students' 3 Shabbat services must be the 8:30AM Saturday Sharing Shabbat service. To see the full list of worship service options, please refer to the Parent Handbook in the Religious School section of our website: [www.templestinainj.org](http://www.templestinainj.org).

#### 3. WEEKLY CLASSWORK/HOMEWORK E-MAIL REPORTS

Following every Sunday, Monday and Wednesday school session, you will receive a report from your child's teacher(s) via email. The report is sent so that every parent will know what was planned for classwork and what was assigned for homework. This will enable you to discuss class content with your child following each session and to guide your child to complete the homework, if any was assigned. In grades 3-6, Hebrew homework is assigned every Monday & Wednesday session. If your child is absent, s/he is required to complete the work missed in class, as well as to complete the assigned homework for that session. Please use this excellent tool to enrich your discussion of religious school with your child and to help your child to stay current in classwork and homework.

#### 4. HIGH HOLY DAY YOUTH PROGRAM, GRADES K-5

We plan an age-appropriate, meaningful and fun, interactive program for our Grades K&1, 2&3 and 4&5 children. Our Grade 6 & 7 students remain with their parents in the main sanctuary service for the High Holy Days. The youth programs are offered during the early service on Rosh Hashanah and on Yom Kippur, as follows:

- Rosh Hashanah, September 29: Our program begins promptly at 9AM in the Level One Religious School classrooms. Signs will direct you to the appropriate classroom for each grade. The youth will be brought to join the main sanctuary service at approximately 10:45AM, for the congregational Shofar Service. Parents will collect their child from the bimah at the conclusion of the main service.
- Yom Kippur, October 8: On Yom Kippur the children will start off in the main sanctuary to worship with you at 9:00AM. Rabbi Gershon will dismiss the children to the Youth Program at approximately 9:45AM. Their teachers and teens will meet them outside the sanctuary and will bring them to their first activity. When the congregational service is over (approximately 11:10AM) you will come to the Level One Religious School classrooms to pick up your child.

## **What to Wear for the High Holy Day Youth Programs**

*Many of our activities will take place outdoors, weather permitting. We will have outdoor relay races and snack, in addition to indoor age-appropriate worship services and art activities. These activities necessitate a more practical and informal dress code than we usually expect on the High Holy Days. This year it will be best for all K-5 children to wear pants and sneakers. Of course we want our children to dress respectfully for the Holy Days, but please think of the term "nice casual" as a guide.*

## **5. FALL INDEPENDENT STUDY PROGRAM, GRADES 5, 6 & 7**

If your grade 5, 6 or 7 child has a sport schedule that is in conflict with the appropriate Sunday religious school schedule, we have an optional, curricular-equivalent independent study program planned for your child's successful completion of Sunday classwork and homework, September – November. To apply, download the Independent Study Application Form provided in this Start of School packet.

## **6. GRADE 4-6 FAMILIES: Hurry! Register for the Temple Sinai Family Field**

**Trip, First-come, First-served!** Read about this fantastic memory-building learning opportunity for your family in this Start of School information packet. There is no fee for this field trip, for the first 55 people registered, thanks to the Lifelong Learning Jack Rossen Family Field Trip Grant.

## **7. JOIN THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Please contact Joanne Rosenberg, chairperson Religious School Committee ([joannegrosenberg@yahoo.com](mailto:joannegrosenberg@yahoo.com)) to find out more about our wonderful parent committee. We meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 1:00PM. Come join us to make a difference for our children, teachers and families.

## **8. LEARN HEBREW DURING SUNDAY EARLY SESSION**

We make it easy for our parents and grandparents to learn Hebrew! The Lifelong Learning Committee has organized an adult beginner and intermediate Hebrew class to coincide with Sunday Religious School class times for your convenience. You can read more about these and other courses in the Lifelong Learning Brochure on the Temple Sinai website: [www.templestinainj.org](http://www.templestinainj.org). Call/write Patti Kahn to register for a Hebrew and/or any Lifelong Learning course ([patti@templestinainj.org](mailto:patti@templestinainj.org)).

## **9. JEWISH CAMPERSHIP PROGRAM: \$1,000 Scholarship for new campers!**

Experience has shown that children who attend Religious School AND a Jewish summer camping program form a very strong Jewish identity and lifelong connection to the Jewish community. *If your child has not yet attended a Jewish sleep-away camp, UJC MetroWest is offering a \$1,000 Jewish "Campership" scholarship for the first-year camper.* Temple Sinai strongly recommends the Reform Movement's outstanding Camp Harlam. See the Temple Website for Jewish Campership information and watch for an announcement of Camp Harlam's visit to Temple Sinai.

## **10. PJ LIBRARY: FREE JEWISH BOOKS/MUSIC FOR AGE 6 mos. - 5 year CHILD**

Do you have a child, grandchild or relative with a child, infant to age 5.5 years? Visit Temple Sinai's website, [www.templestinainj.org](http://www.templestinainj.org), click on Religious School to follow the link for easy instructions to register a child to receive monthly age-appropriate books/music throughout the year.