

2011-2013

BEIT SEFER CHAYIM



ונעשה



נלמד



תפלה



עץ חיים

ETZ CHAYIM

PROGRESSIVE SYNAGOGUE

BEIT SEFER CHAYIM

GOALS OF THE PROGRAM

- ▶ To provide an inclusive school environment that is warm, nurturing and fun.
- ▶ To enhance the students' knowledge, understanding and passion for Judaism.
- ▶ To celebrate individuality and encourage personal growth and development.
- ▶ To foster an appreciation of peoplehood and to deepen a sense of personal belonging.

STRUCTURE OF THE PROGRAM

Our Beit Sefer Chayim program is actually two programs in one. Each program has been designed with our students and their families in mind.

SHORASHIM PROGRAM

Our **Shorashim** (Roots) Program is an after school program for students from Prep through Year 5. The classes are held on Thursday afternoons between 4 and 5 pm and take place in our bright, open, purpose built classrooms. Each session is 55 minutes in length. Our classes are small (capped between 4 and 8 students) and are streamed according to both age and ability. With that said, we want to make our program as accessible as possible and are happy to add or change a class, subject to interest and enrolment.

The **Shorashim** (Roots) Program has been built around the fundamental building blocks of Jewish life and learning:

- ▶ T'fillah and Avodah (Prayer and Worship)
- ▶ Luach (The Festive Calendar)
- ▶ Kehilah (Community)

Designed to instil a love of the Hebrew language and a passion for Jewish culture in our youngest learners, a typical Shorashim class is filled with songs, games, arts and craft.

These classes will lead directly into our Bnei Mitzvah Program which will run concurrently from 4:30 – 6:00pm and include a 30 minute session each week with either the Rabbi or Cantor.

While we don't expect that all students in our Shorashim program will be members of our congregation, we take great pleasure in inviting them to join in our festive celebrations and popular communal events.

B'NEI MITZVAH PROGRAM

Our B'nei Mitzvah Program has been designed as a two year process that incorporates

- ▶ Collaborative learning
- ▶ Personal study
- ▶ Family exploration
- ▶ Community Service

While the program is both broad and comprehensive, it is not meant to be onerous. Each student will work with the B'nei Mitzvah Coordinator to develop a personal study program that is both reasonable and achievable.

COLLABORATIVE LEARNING

The Thursday afternoon program is our primary collaborative learning opportunity and therefore provides an invaluable chance to not only create community but also explore concepts and bring learning to life.

Each session will consist of three main learning areas:

1. **T'fillah:** A short service modelled on the Saturday morning service, so that students become familiar with the process. This will be reinforced in the one-on-one tutoring sessions and regular attendance at Saturday morning services.
2. **Nilmad:** A chance to delve deeper into the learning of the topics outlined below.
3. **Na'aseh:** An activity to enhance that day's learning. These can include arts and crafts activities, incursions, excursions, etc.

In developing the scope and sequence of our Nilmad v'Na'aseh program we sought to create a program where we would be able to welcome new students at any time. As such, we created a two year rotation that lays the foundation for what we believe are the fundamental elements of Jewish life and learning:

1. History
2. People
3. Life
4. Values

Each week will have a different learning outcome that connects to the overall terms curriculum.

YEAR	TERM	TOPIC
2011	3	Life Cycles
	4	Mitzvot and Middot
2012	1	People of the Book
	2	Land of Israel
	3	Rituals and Practice
	4	Heroes and Role Models
2013	1	Crash Course in Jewish History
	2	People of Israel

Throughout the program these fundamental building blocks of Jewish life and learning will be supplemented with a series of experiential opportunities to enhance participants understanding of both Jewish life and the journey toward B'nei Mitzvah:

- T'fillah and Avodah (Prayer and Worship)
- Luach (Jewish Calendar)
- Kehilah (Community)

PERSONAL STUDY

In addition to the two year rolling curriculum, each student is required to undertake one-on-one tutoring for one year to prepare them for their B'nei Mitzvah.

GOALS OF EACH SESSION:

- ▶ To create a safe and comfortable setting, which provides students with the opportunity to ask questions and feel comfortable to discuss uncertainties.

The one-on-one sessions enhance opportunities for deeper learning and allow for better time utilisation. By the end of the year, students will have learnt numerous Hebrew blessings, their Parashah, their Haftarah and in conjunction with the Rabbi, written a Drash.

It is crucial to emphasise that this is an individual process. Each child learns at a different pace, therefore no two Bar or Bat Mitzvahs look the same. Each student will be given challenging yet achievable goals so that they can reach their full potential.

TUTORING PROCESS:

Each student will be provided with a folder including a T'fillah Tutor (required blessings), a CD (for practice!) and a portion booklet.

The majority of the time will revolve around learning required blessings and their Parashah. Depending on individual ability, and if time permits, additional blessings and other service extras, can be learnt.

During the two year program, each student will be required to undertake two projects that must be completed at home. In addition, students are expected to attend two to three Saturday morning services per month.

FAMILY EXPLORATION

Dorot Project: This homework assignment is a prerequisite for all B'nei Mitzvah students. It is a 'generation' project that explores each individual student's family history and most importantly, explores the age old question: Who Am I? The project allows for a deeper connection to self and their Jewish roots.

Assistance will be offered and given when needed, however, it is up to each student to complete the projects in their own time; prior to the completion of their Bar or Bat Mitzvah.

COMMUNITY PROJECT

Kehilah Project: This project is essentially to take the focus away from the hectic Bar or Bat Mitzvah schedule and allows energy to be focused on the community. A fundamental part of Jewish life is being a part of the community-our big family. This project invites students to explore the idea of community service, whilst putting their learned B'nei Mitzvah theory into practice. Some examples may include: assisting with fundraising at the synagogue, volunteering at local charities, or simply giving your time to the community to help with projects, such as working bees.

ETZ CHAYIM PROGRESSIVE SYNAGOGUE

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praying

learning

doing

CONTACT DETAILS

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OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday:
10.30am - 2.30 pm

Thursday:
2.30 pm - 6.30 pm