

***MAH HADASH – “What’s New”?***  
**The New Parent Update from TBE School**  
NOVEMBER 25, 2008 – CHESHVAN 5769 -- Volume One, Number two

Please note: Headings for new material are presented in bold. Thank you

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**Holiday School Closures:**

Happy “Yom Hodayah. Y’all.” (that’s southern Hebrew for happy thanksgiving). I hope all of you enjoy a happy safe, holiday with family and friends. TBE school will closed on Wednesday November 26<sup>th</sup> at noon. We will reopen on Monday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, at 9am. **There is no school on Wednesday November 26<sup>th</sup> or Sunday, November 30<sup>th</sup>.**

**Upcoming Field Trips:**

The 7<sup>th</sup> grade will travel to The VA Holocaust Museum on Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please contact Mrs. Melody Imburg at [mimburg@orchardhouse.org](mailto:mimburg@orchardhouse.org) to confirm arrangements. This is a very special opportunity, as our tour will be led by Rena Berlin, Director of Education for the Museum.

The fifth grade will be travelling to Beth Sholom to bring some Chanukah cheer to the residents of the Gardens on Wednesday December 10<sup>th</sup>. Carpools will leave from TBE school as close to 4pm as possible. We will return to TBE school for regular dismissal.

**Permission slips for both trips will come under separate cover. If your child is not travelling with you on the trip, they MUST turn in a signed permission slip to their teacher.**

## **Updates By Grade:**

### **Pre-K:**

Next sessions are on December 7 and 14. Enrollment is also open for the second half of the year. If your child has any little friends who would be good additions to our happy group, please encourage their parents to get in touch with me. We will be sending a flier through the JCC Preschool in early December.

**K:** The class had a wonderful time going to the Teddy Bear Clinic at St. Mary's. It was so nice for them to have the opportunity to do a mitzvah, and donate stuffed animals for children who come to the St. Mary's ER. Thank you to all of the parents who helped make this trip a success.

### **K-2: Shorashim:**

This past Sunday, I had the joy of spending 30 minutes in each class to teach your child about Shorashim, the service for students in grades K, 1, and 2. Shorashim takes place once a month, on Shabbat (Saturday) mornings at 10:30 in the Kiddush room. On Sunday, each child received their very own Shorashim siddur. We learned about two of the opening prayers in our service, and the children had the opportunity to put their Hebrew name on the cover and decorate their siddur. Each siddur is unique, and will be waiting for your child at Temple when he comes to Shorashim. We hope you can join us at the next Shorashim on December 6.

### **Second Grade:**

On Wednesday, December 10, at 5:40 pm, parents are invited to join the class and speak with Mrs. Hampton. Please RSVP directly to Mrs. Hampton at 784-4523 or via e mail at [michelehampton@yahoo.com](mailto:michelehampton@yahoo.com).

### **Grade 3-4:**

On Wednesday, December 17, parents are invited to join their children for a special Chanukah celebration in the 3-4 class, beginning at 4:45. Stay tuned for more information and a special invitation form your child. Please be sure to RSVP for this event so that Mrs. Klein can prepare appropriately.

### **Grade 5:**

Did an amazing job leading the Torah Service at this past week's Junior Congregation. Kol Hakavod to the students of 5<sup>th</sup> grade, and many thanks to their teacher, Morah Fern Kaufman for conveying both her knowledge and enthusiasm to them.

**Grade Six:**

Had a very fulfilling and fun trip to Beth Sholom Gardens where they helped residents decorate fall themed picture frames for their rooms. Thanks to the parents who helped make this trip a success, and good job students, on doing such an important mitzvah!

**Bar/Bat Mitzvah test update:**

As many of you may know, by this point in the year children have already received the study guide for the Bar/Bat Mitzvah test. I am writing to let you know that a different type of test (which will involve less rote memorization) is in the works. Children will have ample time to prepare and complete the requirement, so please rest assured. I expect this learning experience to be a meaningful and hopefully stress-free one.

**8/9:**

High-School Shabbat is rapidly approaching (Saturday morning 12/ 13). Please have your child review his/her part at home and bring their materials to the next class on 12/7.

On Sunday morning, December 14, **AHA** (American Hebrew Academy) will be visiting High School brunch to tell our students about the program. AHA is the premiere Jewish educational experience for High-Schoolers in our region, and is a one-of-a-kind prep school. Recent graduates from our area include Rachel Beck-Berman. Daniele Maizels is currently enrolled at AHA. I hope you can join your child for this informative opportunity to meet the admissions staff from AHA.

**Upcoming events of interest at the JCC:**

On Saturday evening, December 6<sup>th</sup>, the JCC with screen **Praying with Lior**, a moving and thought-provoking film about a boy with Downe's Syndrome preparing for his Bar-Mitzvah.

On Sunday December 7<sup>th</sup>, at 1pm, the JCC will host **Shlock Rock**. Great Jewish humor in music that all kid will love!

JCC Bookfair: TBE school will participate in the wish-list program again this year. We hope you can make it over to shop and enjoy the special events there. From November 30 through December 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Hebrew Review at Home:**

5-10 minutes a day or every-other-day of Hebrew review at home can go a long way. To assist you in learning with your child, check out the Behrman House website, at [behrmanhouse.com](http://behrmanhouse.com). Click on the family education tab at the top, and follow the prompts.

**Kadima:**

Had an amazing time bowling! Plan on coming to future events:

Sunday December 14 – Hanukah fundraiser – donut sale: Noon at TBE/ 12:30 pm at COA

Sunday December 21 – Kadima goes to DC for Seaboard Kadima day. Want to know more about Kadima? Contact advisor Jeff Mathern, at: 512-4481 or [mathernejm@gmail.com](mailto:mathernejm@gmail.com). Kadima is open to all Jewish youth in grades 6-8.

**Chanukah Tzedakah Initiative: CARITAS**

This year, Temple Beth-El will host 33 men, from December 13<sup>th</sup> – December 19<sup>th</sup>.

The following items can be brought to the religious school as donations:

Empty backpacks

New or gently used sweaters, sweatshirts, coats, gloves, hats and scarves

New underwear

Travel size hygiene items

Brown lunch bags, Individually wrapped packs of crackers, Granola bars, Juice boxes, single-size apple sauce cups.

In addition to collections, volunteers are needed to serve dinners and make lunches. If you are able to assist, please contact Mr. Neal Menkes at 750-1886, or [nmenkes@yahoo.com](mailto:nmenkes@yahoo.com).

**Phone Trees and Directories:**

Updated phone trees and directories are ready! If you do not have one, or never received one, please email me, and I will send an electronic copy to you.

**Volunteers Needed:**

The religious school is in need of volunteers to staff the front office on Sunday mornings. If you are able to do this in the coming term (after winter break), please email Becky Halpern, at [be511@aol.com](mailto:be511@aol.com). There are also volunteer opportunities for special events at the school. If you are interested in helping out for one of them, please call or email.

**Calendar Changes/Updates**

On December 14th, we will not have a parent learning day. It will be a regular day of school, and parents will not be required to be at school on this day. Students will be doing special Chanukah activities in their classrooms as well as be treated to latkes, courtesy of the Men's Club.

The spring siddur party and service, involving students in grades 2-4 has been moved from Friday April 3<sup>rd</sup>, to Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup>.

Please note: Youth events and Shabbat morning youth services are all indicated on the school calendar. Tot Shabbat is coded as “**T**”, Shorashim, as “**S**”, and Junior Congregation as “**JC**.”

**Weather Related School Closings:**

In the event that the school needs to close due to weather, please be aware of the following procedures:

On a Sunday, we will make a decision by 6:30am. Phone Trees will be activated, so please have yours handy.

On a Wednesday, the decision will be made by 1pm. Notification will go out by email.

On both Sundays and Wednesdays: You can tune in to NBC12 TV to watch for school closing information.

**School Committee Subgroups Begin Work:**

Initial meetings of the subgroups have begun. If you are interested in signing up for a sub-group or would like more information, please email Judy Gary, at [jsgary@vcu.edu](mailto:jsgary@vcu.edu).

**Tech-Help Still Needed:**

If you know how to make this newsletter more tech-savvy, by assisting me in the creation of hyper-links, please call or email to let me know when you might be available to assist.