

TEMPLE ISRAEL RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

TIRS
Parent
Handbook
2018 - 2019

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We're on Facebook www.facebook.com/TIRSottawa

**Please note that TIRS is a Kosher style, nut free environment.
Several students have life-threatening allergies.**

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK 5779

Welcome to a new year at Temple Israel Religious School My vision for TIRS is to create Ottawa's premier center for Jewish learning from birth through Grade 12. Your children will be a part of a positive and interactive learning environment as we partner to create the best possible Jewish education we can offer, using the most up-to-date resources for student-centered lessons and experiences. We provide a strong Jewish identity through Jewish values and ethics, Torah and Prophets, T'fillah (prayer), Holidays, Music and Hebrew.

We continue to benefit from Jewish Federation of Ottawa's P2G and Gesher Chai programs. In July, I attended the biennial Eitzbah Hagalil P2G Educators' Conference in Israel for the second time. Principals and teachers from Ottawa, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver along with our colleagues from our twin schools in the Upper Galilee came together to both learn and develop curriculum.

At this year's conference, I was able to get to know the principal and teacher of Einat Hagalil (our partner school). Anat, Nomi and I worked to develop a plan for the coming year, making some positive changes and additions beyond being pen pals. This year, "Friends Across the Sea" curriculum will come alive using Google Docs/Google Classroom, videos and more! This program focuses on Jewish Identity and Klal Yisrael (all of the Jewish people) and issues that Jewish children face all over the world. TIRS is the only supplementary school involved in this partnership program which speaks to the level of education we provide and is a great source of pride for us.

We welcome our new "Shinshin," Liam, an Israeli teen between high school and the army on "Shnat Sherut" (a year volunteer service). From September to June, Liam will be working at TIRS on Sundays and Mondays and will also be attending services on Shabbat mornings at Temple Israel.

As we've done in the few years, each grade will be active participants in one Kabbalat Shabbat or Shabbat morning service. Younger students will have opportunities to learn and interact with older students (i.e. on Simchat Torah).

Family programming at TIRS continues this school year with Jewish holiday and Tikkun Olam themes. We also invite families with children under the age of 6 to TOTally Shabbat (4th Friday of each month), JBaby Shabbat Play Group (2nd Shabbat morning of each month) and JBaby Oneg Shabbat at Hillel Lodge (1st Friday of each month). For children in Grades 1-8, we will have a new junior choir. For more information, please feel free to approach me any time.

This year, we will continue to offer classes for Grade 11 - Adult in Conversational Hebrew. This class will help to improve reading skills so that, if you are a parent, you will be better equipped to nurture your child's Jewish education or just have fun!

"All Youth" events are again scheduled for kids in Grades 6-12 whether they are students at TIRS, in FROSTY (Senior Youth Group) or JYG (Junior Youth Group) or just want to join us for a great program!

With all the great things going on in our school, it is no surprise that our enrollment continues to grow. At the end of the last school year we had over 90 students including Pre-K. We are anticipating a preschool program on Sunday mornings for 2- and 3-year-olds in the near future. Please let me know if you are interested!

I am always open to receive feedback as we work together to ensure success for our children in a safe, inviting, inclusive, and engaging school.

Sue Potechin,
TIRS Principal

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Grade	Day	Arrival and Dismissal
JK – Grade 6	Sundays	9:30 am – 12:30 pm
Grades 7 – Adult	Mondays	6:30 – 8:30 pm
Grades 2 - 6	Wednesdays	4:30 – 6:00 pm

Introducing our 5779 team of teachers:

Karli Speevak	Gan Yeladim (Pre-K, JK, SK - Sun)	karlispervak@gmail.com
Ranit Braun	Gr. 1 & 2 (Sun/Wed) & Gr. 8 (Mon)	ranitb@hotmail.com
Joshua Bradbury-Klyman	Gr. 3 & 4 (Sun/Wed)	jobrakly@gmail.com
Maya Ruckenstein	Junior Teacher Gr. 3 & 4 (Sun/Wed)	ruckenstein.maya@gmail.com
Marian Leimovici-Morrill	Gr 5 (Sun/Wed) & Conversational Hebrew (Mon)	Marian.Leimovici@gmail.com
Jenny Burns	Grades 6 (Sun/Wed) & 7 (Mon)	jltburns@hotmail.com
Michael Parkin	Grades 9 & 10 (Mon)	parkin.michael@gmail.com
Larry Tarof	Music (Sun)	pianoman@dr-l-music.com

And our TA's:

Dario Chaquin, Alexa Leitman, Nissa McKean, Kaitlyn Morrill, Gregory Peng, Belle Riley Thompson, Jeremiah Rodrigues, Morgan Shusterman, and Sarah Stern

Arrival & Dismissal

All students and parents should enter and exit the school through the back door, off the Temple parking lot. For safety's sake, we request that parents accompany their children to and from school. All classes begin promptly at their scheduled times. Students are expected to be on time for class. Please notify your child's teacher at the beginning of class if there is to be an early departure.

TIRS – ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: JK – GRADE 6

Students enjoy preparing for holidays, learning about Israel and the Hebrew language, engaging in biblical stories and the weekly Torah portion, and practicing their t'fillot (prayers). Music is a highlight of Sunday mornings. Each class will participate in a Friday evening service, which links students to community and their TIRS family and puts their learning into action regardless of the family's affiliation.

Consecration September 30, 2018: (All new TIRS students up to Grade 4)

Your child's formal welcome to TIRS and the beginning of his or her Jewish education is celebrated during the Simchat Torah evening service at Temple Israel. Our tradition is to invite all new students to participate in Consecration. Each child will receive a consecration certificate and their own little Torah. All TIRS students and their families are invited to join the celebration of Simchat Torah and Consecration.

Textbook and Curriculum Information for Grades 1 – 6:

TIRS uses a variety of resources for teaching Hebrew, T'fillot (Prayers), Torah, Prophets, Jewish History, Israel, Jewish Ethics and Values, Lifecycle, Jewish Holidays, etc. The following are some of our textbooks and resources. Your child's teacher may use additional resources. We will be introducing several new texts and resources this year in keeping with our promise to have the most up-to-date materials for our students, teachers and parents.

Aleph Bet Quest with CD-Rom	Rediscovering the Jewish Holidays
Shalom Aleph Bet Pre-Primer	Jewish Holidays Jewish Values
Shalom Ivrit – Welcome to Modern Hebrew (1, 2 & 3)	Living Jewish Values (Volumes 1-4)
Hebrew In Harmony	Friends Across the Sea Curriculum
Let's Talk Now! Hebrew for Teens	The Book of Jewish Life
Hineini Hebrew Through Prayer (1 & 2)	Israel Repairing the World
Kol Israel – Prayers of Our People (1, 2 & 3 w/CD)	Our Place in the Universe
Making T'fillah	Our Land of Israel
The Jewish Holiday Treasure Trail	Min Ha'aretz – Making Meaning from our Food
Jewish Holiday Pak for JK – Grade 3	Parasha Plays
Jewish Holiday Pak for Grades 4 – 6	The Explorer's Bible (Books 1 & 2)
Parashat Hashavua - Reading Genesis	Parashat Hashavua - Exodus to Deuteronomy

In addition, we use the Union for Reform Judaism's CHAI Curriculum and MITKADEM Hebrew Program. The CHAI Curriculum is designed to facilitate lifelong Jewish learning in Reform congregations. It is designed for Religious School

students in Grades 2 – 7 with a focus on Gemilut Chasadim (acts of loving kindness). Chai curriculum lessons aim to nurture “enduring understandings,” and values that have lifetime meaning for all Jews.

TIRS – HIGH SCHOOL GRADES 7 - 12

Grade 7 B’nai Mitzvah Year: “Me, My Judaism, My Community”

Our year will be broken up into 3 focus areas of study:

1. Bar/Bat Mitzvah Boot Camp: A great opportunity for students to sharpen their understanding of the deeper meaning of the synagogue service.
2. Holocaust: An in-depth study of the Holocaust.
3. Jewish Identity - Seventh grade is often a time of searching for self-understanding. We will explore what becoming a Jewish adult really means.

In addition, the curriculum includes life cycle events, understanding the greater Jewish community through tzedakah (charity) and tikkun olam (repairing the world) projects and field trips to places like the Ottawa Kosher Food Bank and “In From the Cold.”

Grades 8 for 5779:

The Grade 8 program is designed to be interactive and engaging, providing many Jewish experiences. Students will participate in project-based units on Jews of the Diaspora, Jewish life and Jewish role models, Historical Jewish Ottawa, Modern Jewish History and the Shoa, as well as being part of Temple Israel’s Caring Community. The students will participate in field trips to a variety of locations in the Ottawa area and will participate in tzedakah / tikun olam (charity and repairing the world) programs.

Grade 9 and Confirmation (Gr. 10):

Being a 9th/10th Grader at Temple Israel brings with it the opportunity to participate in our Confirmation Program. This year will be an incredible opportunity you will not want to miss! We promise a very special year of Jewish experience and learning. This year’s book review will be [The Complete Maus](#) (Volumes 1 and 2).

Students will have the opportunity to explore issues that are important to them in search of their Jewish Identity. Insights from Jewish tradition will be explored and examined and ideas will be freely exchanged on topics of ethics, social media, relationships and so much more!

Starting in January, the class will split by grade for part of each session as the Grade 10 students begin to develop the Confirmation Service (Friday, June 7, 2019). They will work with Rabbi Morais and Sue Potechin on introspection and religious identity, speeches and their Torah readings.

GENERAL INFORMATION (continued):

Teacher - Parent Contact

Teachers will provide your child with contact information (phone numbers and/or email). Teachers will periodically contact parents during the school year to discuss student progress. Parents are encouraged to contact their child’s teachers first if they have any concerns or questions. Should issues persist, please feel contact the Principal.

“Hafsakah” (Recess):

Please send an adequate and nutritious snack to school with your children especially on Sundays. It is a long morning and our little students do get hungry. Recess is a time to snack and socialize. Weather permitting, outdoor recess will be scheduled.

Homework:

Homework will be assigned for the purpose of reinforcing skills learned and for reviewing information. No new work will be assigned as homework unless a student has missed classes. TIRS students are always encouraged to practice their reading skills at home 10 – 15 minutes per day. When absent, teachers will send homework by email.

Attendance:

We request parental cooperation in ensuring that all of our students arrive punctually and attend classes regularly. We have only a few precious hours to impart an entire heritage as well as another language. We, at TIRS, do our best to provide a stimulating Jewish curriculum to capture your child’s interest and encourage his/her involvement in Jewish life. Please make sure that your child arrives on time.

TIRS Library:

We have a large selection of picture and chapter books on a wide range of topics from Jewish folktales to stories about Jewish History. “Special Guest” readers from the Temple Israel community are invited to read to the students.

Respect for our surroundings:

We ask parents to ensure that students demonstrate their respect for learning in a religious school in their manner of dress and overall behaviour. This is especially important when they enter the sanctuary. We expect all students to demonstrate 'kavod' (honour) for their surroundings, themselves, and each other through their actions. Temple Israel belongs to all of us. It is our religious home, and we hope that students will develop a strong connection to it through their experiences here.

In case of Multiple Absences:

When a student misses 2 or more classes, the teacher will provide homework. In the Bar/Bat Mitzvah year, the student should not miss more than 10 classes = 1/3 of the year unless a private tutor is being used.

Snow Day Cancellation Procedure:

It has been the practice that when OCDSB school buses are cancelled we cancel TIRS. However on Sundays or when there is a snowfall after school begins we will use the following procedure:

1. If there is a snowfall overnight from Saturday to Sunday we commit to cancelling school by 7:00 am.
2. For Mondays and Wednesdays we will make a decision by 1:00 pm.
3. A notice of school cancellation will be sent out by email to all families.
4. School cancellation announcements will be placed on the TIRS Facebook page and Temple Israel website.

In Case of Fire:

When the fire bell sounds, teachers and students line up in an orderly fashion, and close windows, doors and proceed quickly to the assigned exits.

JK/SK - Main stairs

Grade 6 - Main stairs

Grade 1 - Back door to parking lot

Grade 2 - Back door to parking lot

Grade 5 - Back door to parking lot

Grade 3 - Back stairs to kitchen

Grade 4 - Back stairs to kitchen

Lockdown:

To prevent harm of our students, the inner doors to each of the 3 stairwells will be locked from the outside during school hours. That will allow us to get out efficiently in case of fire but will prevent an unwanted interloper from entering the school space. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cost, but we must consider our students safety first at all times.

Please make sure that your child has shoes or slippers at school during the winter months. We ask that boots be left on the carpets provided. In case of fire, all students and staff must be wearing footwear.

GOALS OF REFORM JEWISH EDUCATION

The goal of Jewish education in the Reform Movement is to deepen the Jewish experience and knowledge for all liberal Jews, in order to strengthen faith in G-d, love of Torah, and identification with the Jewish people, through involvement in the synagogue and participation in Jewish life. We believe that Judaism contains answers to the challenges and questions confronting the human spirit, and that only a knowledgeable Jew can successfully discover these answers.

The Commission on Jewish Education, therefore, calls upon every synagogue to provide a program of Jewish education, which will enable children, youth, and adults to become:

1. Jews who affirm their Jewish identity and bind themselves inseparably to their people by word and deed;
2. Jews who bear witness to the *brit* (the covenant between God and the Jewish people) by embracing Torah through the study and observance of *mitzvot* (commandments) as interpreted in the light of historic development and contemporary liberal thought;
3. Jews who affirm their historic bond to *Eretz Yisrael*, the Land of Israel;
4. Jews who cherish and study Hebrew, the language of the Jewish people;
5. Jews who value and practice *t'fillah* (prayer);
6. Jews who further the causes of justice, freedom and peace by pursuing *tzedekah* (righteousness), *mishpat* (justice) and *chesed* (loving deeds);
7. Jews who celebrate Shabbat/Festivals and observe Jewish ceremonies that mark significant occasions in their lives;
8. Jews who esteem their own person and the person of others; their own family and the family of others; their own community and the community of others;
9. Jews who express their kinship with *K'lal Yisrael* by actively seeking welfare of Jews throughout the world; and
10. Jews who support and participate in the life of the synagogue.

Such Jews will strengthen the fabric of Jewish life, ensure the future of Judaism, and the Jewish people, and approach the realization of their divine potential.