

## This Week...

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# OTRS Fifth Grade News

1/24/10

Dear Families,

We have spent this week working on the closing portions of the Torah service. Children should know how to chant as well as read the prayers on pages 153-154 in the siddur. Children who have mastered these prayers should try to learn Anim Zemiroth if they do not already know it. Anim Zemiroth is a hymn sung in the main Sanctuary at the end of the Shabbat Musaf service. It is led by a child between fourth grade and age 13 and chanted responsively with the congregation. The text is on pages 185-186 of the siddur and chanting help can be found at <http://www.olamtikvah.org/prayer.html>. We look forward to seeing your children lead the congregation! Please contact one of us if you have any questions.

We've also continued with our Torah studies and history. We reviewed Abraham's experiences until the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, and learned about the Akedah (binding of Isaac). We considered the changes the Jewish people went through as their community grew in Babylonia and Islam spread throughout the Middle East and Mediterranean areas.

We do have religious school next weekend, in spite of the FCPS 4-day weekend. We'll celebrate Tu B'Shevat on Sunday (nut-free!), in addition to the synagogue-wide Tu B'Shevat seder on Shabbat, January 30, following services.

Shalom,

[Andrea Gross](#) and [Shula Friedman](#)

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**Email the Teachers**

[Andrea Gross](#)  
[Shula Friedman](#)

**Links**

[Contact the](#)

## Over the Last Week....

- In Hebrew we continued practicing "Y'hallelu" and Mizmor l'David (page 153 in the siddur) and "Etz Chaim" (page 154). Students who have mastered these prayers are encouraged to work on Anim Zemiroth and Ashrei. Students also worked on Hineni workbook pages 50-53, considering how the Torah is like a tree.
- In History, we learned vocabulary and answered questions about Chapter 6, Babylonia. We compared changes in how the Jews governed themselves, and what influenced the culture as Islam spread.
- We learned about the development of the Talmud. We saw a few volumes of the Talmud and compared the Talmud's structure, style, and content to the Tanakh's.
- Students wrote "journal entries" or "letters home" from Abraham or Sarah, describing their lives since Abraham was told to "go forth." We learned about the Akedah (binding of Isaac) first through MattBar's Bible Raps (we rapped the story!) and then through the text of the Tanach.
- We learned the word "Hineni" which is used over and over in the Torah (and it is the name of our Hebrew textbook!). Ask your child what Hineni means! We examined what the Akedah may have done to Abraham's relationships with Sarah and Isaac.

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## Over the Next Few Weeks We Will....

- Celebrate Tu B'Shevat in class on Sunday, January 31. (This is a good time to think about the Torah/Tree connection!)
- Practice trop with Cantor Ackerman.  
Continue to work on mastering the concluding prayers of the Torah service.
- Learn more about Isaac.
- Consider the development of the Sephardic and Ashkenazi communities.

## Homework

- Practice your Hebrew reading at least three times a week!
- Review past prayers as well as practicing new ones.
- Read chapter 7 in the history textbook for Sunday, 1/31.

## Things to Remember

Bring tzedakah, and support our food and clothing drives, too!

The prayers for the conclusion of the Torah Service, including Ashrei, have been uploaded to the OT website at <http://www.olamtikvah.org/prayer.html>.

Dress in layers because the classroom can go from very chilly to extremely warm, especially if the doors are shut during Sunday morning minyan.

## Special Information about Summer Opportunites

Looking for a way to enhance your Jewish fun?

**Camp Ramah, the official camp of the Conservative Movement**, offers great sports, creative arts, exciting outdoor adventures, expert instruction in a wide range of activities and just plain off-the-wall fun, wrapped into an experience of Jewish living that is relevant and real. It offers two week sessions for children currently in grades 2-3 and four or eight week sessions for children currently in grades 3-10.

**On Wednesday, January 27, at 7:30pm, there will be an informational meeting at the Kalenders** to hear more about camp from the Assistant Director, ask questions and get to meet some current campers who will share their experiences with your child.

**This year there are \$1,000 incentive grants that reduce tuition for new campers from the Greater DC Area.** Additionally, Ramah is committed to helping find financial aid for all families; please do not allow finances to stop you from thinking about the experience of a lifetime for your child.

**Please contact the NOVA Ramah Liaison**, Talya Kalender at [talyak@campramahne.org](mailto:talyak@campramahne.org) for more information and to rsvp for January 27.

For more information about new camper incentive grants, click here: [Foundation for Jewish Camp](#)