

This Week...

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OTRS Fifth Grade News

10/18/09

Dear Families,

We had a wonderful class today! This is just a taste of what we've been covering. Please be sure to ask your children for more information.

Shalom,

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

Email the Teachers

[Andrea Gross](#)

[Shula Friedman](#)

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Over the Last Week....

- Before Sukkot, we examined a seasonal fruit, the pomegranate and compared it to a Torah crown. Both are called a "rimon" in Hebrew (רמון). We applied our Hebrew skills to figure out the plural (rimonim). Then we took an "indoor field trip" to the bimah to replace the Torah crown. Students asked lots of questions about our Aron Kodesh (ark) and the Torahs inside it.
- We went out to the Sukkah where Rabbi Kalender taught the students how to hold and shake the lulav and etrog and how to say the blessing. We ate and sat in the Sukkah, fulfilling a mitzvah.
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In Hebrew, some of the students are working on the Shema, while others are still on Av Harachamim and some on Vayehi binsoah. Students who have not mastered Av Harachamim should try to practice 10 minutes a day with our online audio files. We are also doing the workbook exercises that go with the prayers.

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We learned about the Jewish calendar and the terms BC/BCE and AD/CE.

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We began studying Creation in Bereishit. In class we used the Tanakh to look at what was created.

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We began studying early Jewish history. We read about Devorah in the Tanakh as well as in our History text. We listened to and sang Debbie Friedman's "Devorah's Song," which is based on the song Devorah and Barak sang in Judges, Chapter 5.

Over the Next Few Weeks We Will....

During the next week (through 10/25): We will continue with our Hebrew (practice lots!) and Holiday studies. We will continue studying Creation and Gan Eden, and move ahead with our study of ancient Israel.

Homework

- Come prepared with paper, pen/pencil, textbooks.
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Practice your Hebrew reading at least three times a week. The goal is for students to be able to read and chant prayers through page 30. Do not move ahead until you master the previous prayer.

- **Due Sunday, 10/25:** Finish the Creation

worksheet if not done in class. All our worksheets can be found on the class web page (see sidebar for link).

- **Due Sunday, 10/25:** Read History, Chapter 1. Know the vocabulary: secular, BC/AD, BCE/CE, monotheism, "key words" from History Chapter 1.

Things to Remember

Students will get stickers for practicing at home if they report to Mrs. Friedman how much they have practiced. (Honor system, but Mrs. Friedman will also evaluate improvement.) They will also get stickers for passing skill-level reviews. Mrs. Gross will give out stickers for completed homework, etc. Students who get 25 stickers can pick a prize from our prize box.

Please help your child come prepared to class. Make sure all their materials are in a bag and ready to go before Tuesday afternoons and Sunday mornings. Children who show up without pencils, papers, or books take time away from lessons, distract those who come prepared, and are unable to complete workbook assignments.

Please do NOT send in snacks containing nuts or sesame (including Chex mix) due to teacher and student allergies