

## 2017 - 2018 TEMPLE EMANU-EL RELIGIOUS SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT

Submitted by Debra L. Levasseur, Religious School Director

36 students (24 families) were registered – (13 students registered in our high school program!)  
Faculty: 8 Faculty members, 9 Madrichim and our Administrative Assistant. We had 2 student who become a Bat Mitzvah during this calendar year, four students will be confirmed and four will graduate on May 18<sup>th</sup>

Teachers and students in the religious school are again sharing their classrooms with teachers and students from the Bradford Christian Academy. It has all worked out very well for everyone involved.

Here are some of the activities, which went on in our religious school this year to help enhance and enrich the education of our children:

### **On-going Family Programs:**

- TAPT program for ages 2 and 3-year
- Torah Together – Family Program for students in grades PreK through grade 2 and their parents
- The Stella Kurland Wise Family Education Program –for students in grades 3 & 4 and their parents, plus other interested adults in the community
- Family Shabbat Services (some with Share-a-Shabbat dinners) lead by our students

### **Holiday Celebrations:**

- High Holy Day Children's Services lead by students and alumni of the religious school
- Students decorated, had snack in the Sukkah, participated in a Sukkot service and had a special sukkot hot dog dinner
- A Chanukah program for students in grades pre-K through grade 2
- Tu B'Shevat celebrations in various grades
- Bring-a-Friend to School Day
- Purim Carnival with parents, faculty and students manning booths
- Passover Seders/programs at appropriate age levels for students and guests
- Tot Shabbat services were offered 4 times this year
- Yom HaShoah Service with a processional of the children in grades 3 and up
- Shavuot – Confirmation for students in grade 9, High School Graduation and Religious School Awards
- HEFTY/High School Creative Service and Faculty Appreciation

### **School Programs:**

- "Breakfast with the interim Rabbi" – grades TAPT through 7
- "Breakfast with the Cantor" – grades TAPT through 7
- Grades Pre-K - grade 7 participated in music each week led by Cantor Vera
- Sunday morning services in the Sanctuary
- High School students volunteered as Madrichim to assist teachers and students
- Tutoring program continued
- Bar/Bat Mitzvah Students participated in the B'Mitzvotav Program
- Chugim (extracurricular activities) grades 3-7
- Prayer Goals Program for grades PreK through grade 7
- Hayom HaSefer, grade 3 students receive a Mishkan T'Fillah with their names engraved in gold lettering at their class service
- Grades 6 & 7 and some of our high school students participated in various Adult Education programs

- Annual High School Alumni Reunion

#### **Field Trips:**

- Grade 7 delivered food collected during Sukkot to Emmaus House and learned about its purpose in our community
- Grades 3 & 4 went to Magic Brush to create beautiful Seder Plates

**Theme Celebration:** Our School Wide Theme this year was: Jewish Literature. Students and faculty listened to books of Jewish themes or by Jewish authors. Students were also given time with Paula Breger in HaSifriyah (library) to pick out their own books to borrow.

#### **Religious School Committee and PTO:**

- Andi Hannula is our Religious School Committee chair
- We have eight dedicated members on the Religious School Committee
- We also have a wonderful and very active PTO lead by Polly Fisher

#### **Fund Raisers:**

- Purim Carnival
- Paint Night
- Donations to the Adeline B. Watnick Religious School Children's Fund

#### **Awards:**

- Religious School Awards for students in grades 3 through 12 with special Hebrew certificates for students in all grades

#### **Upcoming for 2018-2019:**

- Working with a new clergy member
- Faculty Dinner on the Sukkah
- Breakfast with new clergy for all students in grades TAPT through 7
- New programs planned by the PTO

#### **T'Kun Olam – Repairing the Earth:**

- \$18 to help with relief efforts after the hurricane in Puerto Rico
- Students donated money to various charities in Israel, the United States and other countries
- Our 9<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation class collected money through a bake sale for MSPCA and ST. Jude

#### **Morah Devorah:**

- I remain an active member of the Merrimack Valley Jewish Education Directors Group. This fall we will once again host a workshop for teachers in the Merrimack Valley
- I continue to participate in leading Tot Shabbat services along with Rabbi Korinow.
- I prepare the annual Religious School budget to present to the budget committee and Board for approval, write monthly reports for the Board and School Committee and articles for the temple Bulletin.
- I work with our faculty to create enriching and challenging curriculum for our children
- I participate in school related Webinars, seminars, security programs and updates and other programs which will benefit the school.
- I am a member of the new interfaith committee which will have their first interfaith dinner on May 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Thank You:**

Thank you to those who helped make this a successful year: Rabbi Bogosian for all her guidance and help; Nancy LaFleur for the many things she does for us; Cheryl Hill for keeping the school running smoothly; Don Kumis for helping wherever and whenever needed; Larry and David Jacobs for coordinating the Purim Carnival; Cantor Vera for helping with our class services and teaching music to our students; Larry Cann for support and advice; Andi Hannula and the school committee for all their support and guidance; Polly Fisher for chairing the PTO and all the wonderful things they do to plan events and help raise money for our school, Paula Breger for her work with our faculty and students in HaSifriyah, Karen Newborn for inviting our older students to attend Adult Education Programs and all of the parents, students and board and members of the temple for their continuing support.

We are always looking for new members to join our religious school committee and PTO, please call if you are interested. Thanks for another great year!