

2018 - 2019 TEMPLE EMANU-EL RELIGIOUS SCHOOL ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

28 students (20 families) were registered – (6 students registered in our high school program)
Faculty: 7 Faculty members, 7 Madrichim and our Administrative Assistant. We had 1 student who become a Bar Mitzvah during this calendar year, 1 student will be confirmed and 1 will graduate on May 17th

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 two and three
- Torah Together – a Family Program for students in grades PreK through grade 2 and their parents
- Family Shabbat Services with Share-a-Shabbat dinners, led by our students by grade level
- Tot Shabbat services were changed to Family Shabbat Services for children of all ages, offered 4 times this year

Holiday Celebrations:

- Selichot Services with participation from some of the religious school children
- 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
- Our Annual Chanukah Party (PTO)
- Lighting the Kenneth Salk Memorial Chanukiah and singing with the students on the portico
- Tu B'Shevat celebrations in various grades
- Purim Carnival with parents, faculty and students manning booths
- Passover programs and a special Passover Experience for grades 5-7
- 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
- High School Creative Service and Faculty Appreciation

School Programs:

- "Snack with the Rav Mona" – grades TAPT through 7
- Grades Pre-K - grade 7 participated in music each week led by Cantor Vera
- Sunday morning services in the Sanctuary and Chapel lead by Cantor Vera
- High School students volunteered as Madrichim to assist teachers and students
- Bar/Bat Mitzvah Students participated in the B'Mitzvotav Program
- Chugim (extracurricular activities) grades 3-7
- Hayom HaSefer, grade 3 student received his own Mishkan T'Fillah
- Grades 6 & 7 and some of our high school students participated in various Adult Education programs
- Annual High School Alumni Reunion
- Team Spirit Day and Bring - a - Friend to School Day
- New Hebrew Program, Hineni for grades 3 – 7

Field Trips:

- Grade 7 delivered food collected during Sukkot to Emmaus House and learned about its purpose in our community and about the Haverhill Food Pantry
- Grades 3 – 7 did a Jewish Detective Hunt on Harvard Street in Brookline
- Grades 3 – 7 went to tour a Jewish cemetery in Woburn and learned about the traditions from the Jewish Cemetery Association of Massachusetts
- Our High School students went to the BCA Coffee House

Theme Celebration and Collaboration:

- Our theme for this year was Jewish Music
- Morah Devorah taught the history of a special type of Jewish music each month
- Cantor Vera taught the students a song(s) in the style of that Jewish music
- The culmination was having Ellen Allard work with and do a Sunday morning service with the students

Religious School Committee and PTO:

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

Fund Raisers:

- Purim Carnival (PTO)
- Mishkan T'Fillah name plates (PTO)
- Donations to the Adeline B. Watnick Religious School Children's Fund

Upcoming for 2019-2020:

- Breakfast with the clergy for all students in grades TAPT through 7
- New programs planned by the PTO
- A field trip to The Magic Brush to make Tzedekah boxes
- Possible field trip to Mayyim Hayyim or Vilna Shul

T'Kun Olam – Repairing the Earth:

- Students donated money to various charities in Israel, the United States and other countries
- Students in the school sang for the Christmas party at the Haverhill Shelter
- Students from our religious school and BCA helped with the Emmaus House Christmas Party here at the temple
- Students in grades 5-7 made fleece scarfs for the children at Emmaus House
- Students in grades 9 – 12 made fleece blankets for the Foster Children of the Merrimack Valley

Morah Devorah:

- I remain an active member of the Merrimack Valley Jewish Education Directors Group.
- I continue to coordinate the High Holy Days Children's Services
- I help lead the Family Shabbat (formerly Tot Shabbat) services along with Cantor Vera
- I prepare with the help of the Religious School Committee the annual Religious School budget
- I write monthly reports for the Board, School Committee and temple Bulletin.
- I attend weekly staff meetings with Nancy and Cantor Vera
- 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 Interfaith committee of Haverhill

Thank You:

Thank you to those who helped make this a successful year: Cantor Vera for helping with our class services, teaching music to our students and so much more that she does for the religious school and for all her guidance and help, rabbinic intern, Rav Mona for teaching Hebrew classes on Sunday morning and the 9th grade on Monday evenings, 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 Jacobs for coordinating the Purim Carnival; Loren Goldstein for support and advice, Andi Hannula and the school committee for all their support and guidance; Lisa Desberg 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 and for making our flyers and form look great, Karen Newborn for inviting our older students to attend Adult Education Programs and all of the faculty, parents, students, board and members of the temple for their continuing support.

A personal thank you for all the friendship and support of this community after the passing of my husband.

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!

Submitted by Debra L. Levasseur, Religious School Director