

★ Temple Israel ★  
**B'ivrit**

בְּעִבְרִית  
Religious Education in Hebrew

**Parent Handbook**

**2018-19**

**5779**

**Dear Parents,**

*I am very happy and excited to welcome you to the B'ivrit program at Temple Israel. "B'ivrit" simply means, "in Hebrew." In B'ivrit, each child will feel connected to Judaism, preparing to become a lifelong participant in Jewish communal life. We will provide opportunities for Jewish learning, fostering a love of Jewish tradition and community to each student.*

*Children learn best when they enjoy their active learning. Our teachers will make that happen every session! Throughout the school year, students will participate in play, art, music and movement -- within immersive Hebrew experiences. They will become familiar with the Hebrew language, as well as Jewish values, traditions and rituals.*

*We look forward to sharing with you and your children a rich, Jewish experience and to creating meaningful memories that will last a lifetime!*

*Sincerely,*

*Shirly Tsur Magen*

*Director/Head Teacher, B'ivrit Religious Education Program*

**While everyone in this program respects all religions, the B'ivrit curriculum is solely focused on Judaism. We do not teach comparative religions, and we discourage conversations regarding religions other than Judaism during program hours. We do not allow conversations that proselytize other religions. A priority of B'ivrit is to strengthen our students' Jewish foundations, in order to help them understand other religions as they get older.**

## **CLASS SCHEDULE**

Every Tuesday class follows a similar rhythm and schedule that includes the following:

- Hebrew learning games
- Jewish themed story/discussion
- Jewish themed art activity
- Dinner time (will include appropriate brachot)
- Singing & movement activities

Our monthly Friday class will be different and will include the following activities (as allowed within Shabbat observance):

- Challah baking
- Shabbat crafts
- Hebrew learning games
- Shabbat story/discussion
- Shabbat songs
- Kabbalat Shabbat -- setting will vary with opportunities to join our clergy and minyan

In addition to the above, students and families will also attend monthly special events, in which we join together as a community to celebrate Jewish holidays and milestones.

# **CURRICULUM**

**Our current curriculum targets mastery by the end of Grade 1, but expectations will be individualized for ability- and age-appropriateness. Enrichment and remediation opportunities will be embedded within class activities.**

## **T'fillah - By the end of Grade 1, the student will:**

1. Recite the initial formula of brachot (Baruch atah adonai eloheinu melech ha'olam), with the following endings:
  - borey p'ri hagafen.
  - shehakol ne'heya bidvaro.
  - ha'motzi lechem min ha'aretz.
  - l'hadlik ner shel Shabbat/Chanukah.
  - la'asok b'divrey Torah.
2. Sing and have learned the meaning/timing of the Kabbalat Shabbat prayers of: L'Chu N'ranena, Yismechu Ha'Shamayim, Romemu, Sh'ma.
3. Have possibly been exposed to: the chorus of L'cha Dodi and the first line of V'Shamru.
4. Recite and have learned the meaning/timing of Sh'ma, Modeh Ani L'fanecah, and the first line of Ma Tovu.
5. Recite and have learned the meaning/timing of the first of the Four Questions (Ma Nishtana).

## **Synagogue Skills - By the end of Grade 1, the student will:**

1. Have discussed the concept of communication with God as a tool for an individual's expressions of gratitude and hope.
2. Identify the following parts of the sanctuary: Bimah, Aron Kodesh, Ner Tamid, Siddur, and Kipah.

## **Hebrew Language - By the end of Grade 1, the student will:**

1. Recognize and articulate a consonant + vowel combination presented to them in print.
2. Recognize and verbally spell his/her first name in Hebrew print.
3. Initiate scanning text right to left.
4. Respond appropriately to the following classroom directions: wash

hands, time to eat, let's say the blessing, let's go to the bathroom, let's sit on the rug, let's sit at the table, let's go, outside/inside/upstairs/downstairs, sing, dance, jump, walk, run, stand up, sit down, clap your hands.

5. Understand and use words in Hebrew such as: please, thank you, hello, goodbye.
6. Become familiar with the following receptive vocabulary: soap, plate, cup, fork, other utensils (in case we'll use them during snack), water, scissors, glue, crayon, pencil, paper, paint, music, dance, song, cold, hot, snow, rain, sun, different colors, different body parts, family members. Students will be expected to understand those words, the teacher will encourage them to use those words.
7. Become familiar with the Hebrew names of Jewish holidays.

**Torah - By the end of Grade 1, the student will:**

1. Have discussed the stories of the Creation of the World, Adam & Eve, and Moses/Exodus.

**Jewish History - By the end of Grade 1, the student will:**

1. Have discussed the basic lives and characteristics of Adam & Eve, and Moses.

**Jewish Life Cycle, values, symbols, and religious objects - By the end of Grade 1, the student will:**

1. Identify and define the purposes of the following for Shabbat: Candles, Wine, 2 Challot, Challah cover, and Kos Kiddush (cup).
2. Have discussed the concept of God as Creator.
3. Identify ways that demonstrate his/her connection to God as a "friend" or "helper."
4. Demonstrate basic knowledge (timing and meaning) of the Jewish holiday cycle, including: Shabbat, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Simchat Torah, Chanukah, Tu B'Shevat, Purim, Pesach, and Shavuot.

**Israel - By the end of Grade 1, the student will:**

1. Have discussed the concept of Israel as the "Home of All Jewish People," even if we don't live there.

## **DROP-OFF/PICK-UP SCHEDULE**

**ARRIVAL:** Children attending B'ivrit are expected to arrive at **4:00 p.m.** All children must be accompanied by a parent or an adult and brought into the classroom. Please do not leave your child earlier than 4:00 p.m.

**DEPARTURE:** B'ivrit departure is at **6:00 P.M.** No child will be allowed to leave the class unless s/he is accompanied by a grown up. All children must be supervised by an adult at all times when in the Temple Israel building, parking lot and grounds.

**RELEASE OF CHILD TO A DIFFERENT CARETAKER:** If appropriate, please provide a list of adults (including parents of other students) to whom we may release your child. No child will be permitted to leave the program premises unless a parent or an adult who is listed on this approved pick up list accompanies him/her. No child will be allowed to go home with another adult unless **WRITTEN PERMISSION** has been granted by the child's parent. Please ask anyone who is picking up your child to bring a form of ID with him/her so that we can ensure your child's safety.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER:** It is important that we have a current phone number for both parents, as well as an emergency contact person at all times. If your phone number or address changes over the course of the year, please provide us with an updated number as quickly as possible.

## **BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS**

In order to provide a safe and effective learning environment, B'ivrit prioritizes respect for all students and staff. If an individual issue arises, our staff, with our Director's guidance, will follow these steps:

1. Attempt to manage within the classroom.
2. Discuss an individualized plan of action with parent/s.
3. If the issue continues, the student may be asked to leave B'ivrit for a specified duration, without refund.

## **HEALTH**

**ILLNESS:** If your child has a fever, diarrhea, or shows any signs of illness within 24 hours prior to class, please do not send him/her to class.

If your child becomes sick while at B'ivrit, our staff will contact you directly. Depending on the intensity of the illness, your child's discomfort, and/or the duration of time before dismissal, we may request that you or another adult to come pick up your child.

**CONTAGIOUS CONDITIONS:** A child with a contagious condition will not be allowed to remain in B'ivrit. If your child should contract a contagious disease, the program requires **immediate notification** so that other parents may be watchful of symptoms, thus keeping the spread of illness as minimal as possible. Some contagious conditions include but are not limited to strep throat, chicken pox, RSV, and head lice.

**HEAD LICE:** If your child is diagnosed with head lice, s/he needs to be treated and completely free of nits and lice before returning to B'ivrit.

**MINOR ACCIDENTS AND INJURIES:** Our staff will administer first-aid for minor injuries such as abrasions, slight cuts, bumps and bruises. An accident report will be filed with Temple Israel at our Director's discretion. Parents will be given a copy of the accident report and will be asked to sign it for our records. We follow universal precautions and guidelines regarding contact with any blood or bodily fluids.

**MEDICAL EMERGENCIES:** In the event of a medical emergency, your child will be taken to the Emergency Room at St. Peter's Hospital and you will be contacted immediately. If you'd like, please provide the name and phone number of a designated Emergency Contact to speak on your behalf in the event that you are unable to be reached.

**FOOD ALLERGIES:** Please indicate if your child has any allergies to foods or environmental allergens on the "Tell Us About Your Child" form. Every child is different, and so is every allergy; please give us as much specific

information about your child's allergy as you can. **It is vitally important that you update the B'ivrit Director and staff if an allergy should develop for your child throughout the course of the school year.**

## **SCHOOL POLICIES REGARDING FOOD**

**KASHRUT:** All food items that we provide to our students are kosher, and we request that you adhere to these guidelines as you send in food. Rabbi Eligberg determines which Kosher symbols we accept in Temple Israel, and a list of accepted symbols can be provided upon request

**FOOD ALLERGIES:** If a student or staff member is endangered by exposure to a specific allergen, B'ivrit staff will share this information with other families. Please help us maintain a safe environment by restricting use of these allergens as requested. Please note that we will attempt to reduce exposure during our monthly special events, but more strenuous parental guidance and supervision may be required.

**MEALS AND SNACKS:** Please refer to our **Eat B'ivrit** handout/registration form for complete information regarding this topic.

## **SAFETY**

**ADULT SUPERVISION:** Your child must be accompanied by an adult in the Temple Israel building, grounds and parking lot at all times. Additionally, a parent or otherwise designated adult may be requested to accompany your child during monthly special events.

**BUILDING EVACUATION:** In the event of an emergency building evacuation, our staff will accompany children to the Cusack Auditorium at St. Peter's Hospital. Should we be unable to safely get to St Peter's Hospital, we will walk to The Bach Library on New Scotland Avenue instead and gather in the community room. If you are in the building during a fire drill, you need to leave the building and also meet us. Staff will release each child to the designated adult, who will sign him/her out. We will

make you aware if there is an emergency through Remind, as well as personalized phone calls if possible.

**PARKING:** Please park your cars in the designated parking lot spaces and not in the walkway, fire lane, or handicapped spaces.

## **PAYMENT POLICIES**

- **Tuition Fee:** There is no registration charge for full members of Temple Israel. A one-time \$500 fee is required per student for Affiliated, Associate, or Non-Members of Temple Israel.
- **Full tuition fee is due upon registration.** A child is not considered registered until this tuition paid in full.
- **A 5% sibling discount will apply to the sum of all children's registration fees.**
- You may pay tuition by check or charged to your credit card. **Credit card payments will be assessed a 3% fee.** All checks should be made payable to **Temple Israel with "B'ivrit" on the memo line.**
- **Please contact Temple Israel's Main Office with inquiries regarding becoming a full member of Temple Israel (including special financial considerations).**

## **WITHDRAWAL**

We recognize that for various unforeseen reasons, a student may need to withdraw from B'ivrit. It is required that you put in writing the student's name and the date of withdrawal. Prior to January 1, 2019, pro-rated tuition is refundable, based on monthly rates. Tuition is nonrefundable after January 1, 2019. However, under special circumstances, a larger portion of payment may be refunded at B'ivrit's Director's discretion.

## **PARENT/STAFF COMMUNICATION**

**Communication between teachers and parents is extremely important.**

You can always be in touch with us if you have any questions, concerns or positive stories to share.

You will receive at least one email each month that tells you of our most recent and upcoming sessions, as well as about our upcoming monthly event. We will send you links of Hebrew YouTube videos of songs we've been learning in class. If you do not receive an email, please contact our Director to ensure inclusion in our email list.

**The school year calendar includes all dates of Tuesdays' and Fridays' classes.** You'll also see the specific dates of days on which we are closed due to major holidays, school vacations, and religious observances. **Our monthly events are not included yet in the calendar.** Due to the collaborative nature of these events, we will share these dates with you as they are finalized.

**Please contact your student's teacher or our director with any questions or concerns.** It is important that we hear any and all feedback so that we can continue to improve our program!

**EMERGENCY PHONE CALLS:** In the event of an emergency, if you are unable to reach the Director or a B'ivrit staff person, please dial ext. 136 for our classroom. In order to reduce interruptions to class activities, please limit classroom phone calls to emergencies only.

**School closings/Inclement weather:** B'ivrit will use the REMIND app to disperse time-sensitive information, including delays or closings. If you have not already joined the REMIND app, please do so. To sign up for REMIND, download the REMIND app and use the code **@bivr** .

Our director, Shirly Tsur Magen, is available via email at [Shirly.bivrit@gmail.com](mailto:Shirly.bivrit@gmail.com) or by leaving a message at Temple Israel's main office at 518-438-7858.