

How lovely to have our third graders participating at our Shir Shabbat service on Friday, March 1. Thank you to all the families who contributed to the oneg. Shabbat dinner and service every first Friday of the month is a wonderful way for the children to see what they are learning at Tefillah assemblies on Sundays come to life at Shabbat.

On Wednesdays, our emphasis has been Hebrew reading practice with the students, whether it's going over aleph bet and vowel sounds or encountering new words by sight reading each syllable or practicing key words or lines of Hebrew prayers. We are also building on conversational words and expressions introduced by our emissaries Liron and Roy. Sometimes these words are incorporated into games, movement or food, like the day Roy and the students learned the words for the vegetables in the salad that they made together.

We are pleased to report that since the beginning of the school year, we have welcomed 8 new students. This reflects about a 14% increase in our school registrations. Class sizes are larger in the younger grades, hopefully signaling a growth trend for our community. It is a pleasure for us to see the kids getting along so well with each other when they are with us. Positive connections inspire budding friendships to blossom.

On Sunday March 17 we invite all families to join our school during our Purim celebration during school from 9:30-12:00 noon. We encourage all to come dressed in costume. Feel free to bring in a unique grogger from home. We also need volunteer hamantaschen bakers to help us make sure that we have enough for all in attendance. Please be on the lookout for a message from your child's classroom parent.

Last week the children brought home Miss Chocolate Passover order packets. This is a fundraiser that benefits religious school's programming efforts. Thank you to Thea Johnson for coordinating this effort. Orders are due by March 24.

Throughout the month of March we will also begin to collect raffle basket donations for the end of year Basket Bonanza family event on May 5. Students will vote on the theme of their classroom basket. Donations are due by March 31. To make this event extra special for the kids, we are planning a special sockhop type dance party as part of this afternoon event. More details to follow. Please let us know if you can help serve as part of the planning committee.

Warm regards,

Armi and Jennifer
Co-Administrators
Temple Emanu-El Religious School