

TERS Message

January 2020

Happy 2020!

Our holiday break continues until we **return to religious school on Sunday, January 5**. However, please plan to attend the **first Friday Shabbat potluck dinner and service this coming Friday, January 3** as the 6th grade students and their teachers will be participating in the service.

We are just about at the halfway point during our school year. Parents just received their children's school reports. Teachers have indicated what material their classes have been learning and where their students are with their individual progress. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns about these.

On Sunday, December 15, students at Temple Emanu-El Religious School enjoyed our annual schoolwide Chanukah celebration with festive food, fantastic friends, and fabulous fun! Each class rotated through various stations, including Chanukah line-dancing with Marcia Reinhard; menorah making with Young Emissaries Tal and Roi; and Chanukah singing with Armi Rowe. In addition, the 8th grade class led the younger grades in playing the dreidel game and 'Chanukah Candle' bowling. Students also made holiday cards that will be mailed to U.S. Troops stationed abroad and, with their families, brought in toys and games to donate to Toys for Tots. The children capped off the morning with delicious Chanukah treats of potato latkes with applesauce, sufganiyot, and Chanukah cookies, shared with parents.

We would like to give special thanks to the many volunteers who helped make this morning so engaging and memorable for our students. In addition to Marcia, Roi, and Tal, we offer special thanks to Josh Friedman for generously providing materials and spending many hours working with Roi to construct the Chanukiyot. Many thanks also to Steven Novick, Jenna Cohen, Renee Weinstein, Rachel O'Brien, and Barbara Senges-Murphy for baking cookies and providing sufganiyot. We also thank the Temple Sisterhood for their generous support, as well as Edee Smith and Barbara & Peter Kallan for coordinating the mitzvah projects. And, as always, thank you to our wonderful teachers and faculty assistants for making the day so great for our student

We have several more people to thank for their help with recent school activities. We very much appreciate Caryn Novick, Rabbi Marc Ekstrand, our 8th grade Jewish History teacher Liam Feldman and our young Israeli emissaries Roi and Tal for chaperoning our 8th graders on their Nov. 24 field trip to the Touro Synagogue in Newport, Rhode Island. It was ideal team learning and bonding time. Thanks again to Rachel Sherman for coordinating a fantastic potluck Shabbat dinner on Dec. 6. It was very well attended and a welcomed time for families to mingle. Congrats again to Max Frischling who became a bar mitzvah the following day.

SAVE THE DATE for our **Hot Chocolate Havdalah on Saturday, January 18**. More details to follow.

Please remember that we will typically follow the inclement weather snow/ice closing schedule of the Waterford school district. We will notify parents by 12:00 pm through a Remind app text regarding any exceptions. We would only keep school open if road conditions are deemed safe by school time.

Happy Secular New Year,

Armi and Jennifer