

## TERS Message - November 2020

It has been a very busy first two months of religious school as our families celebrated the High Holidays, Sukkot and Simchat Torah. This month, our youngest students will be learning about Todah, giving thanks and reinforcing their knowledge about observing Shabbat. Our older students will be focusing on the Jewish value of B'Tzelem Elohim -- honoring the image of G-d in ourselves: by focusing on celebrating the differences among each other (Gimmel), taking care of ourselves and others (Dalet), understanding diversity and differences (Hay), being aware of disability and pursuing inclusion (Vav), and how to act as G-d's partners on Earth (Zayin).

Parents already received their children's Shalom Learning portal logins. Please help or make sure your children are aware of their portal login so they may access any independent or make-up work that their teachers assign during the week. As you know, due to the pandemic, we have compressed lessons so as not to overwhelm our students with too much zoom time. Independent work is a good way to reinforce learning, especially if they have missed some classes.

We enjoyed spending time together at our Family Sukkot Activity on Friday, October 2, as teachers and students met on zoom to create each of our mini sukkah. We chatted and watched as each person's creation took form. Afterward, each person submitted a photo of their finished mini sukkah which we posted on the virtual sukkah on the religious school page on the Temple website. On Friday, October 16, we gathered at our first Fun Family Friday to share and chat about our pets or favorite animal. We talked about the mitzvah and responsibility of taking care of our pets and how it tied to Jewish values. Every month, usually on the third Friday evening, we will host a fun family night so the kids have a reason to socialize with their religious school friends. It will be an evening to play games and activities that will help the kids/families get to know each other better. **Save the date for our next Thanksgiving-themed family zoom social on November 20. More details to follow.**

Please join us on **Friday, November 6 at 6:45-7:30 P.M. for our First Friday Tot Shabbat & Tefillah Time with Rabbi Marc and Hazzan Sherry.** During the first 20 minutes, we will hold a special consecration ceremony for kindergarteners Gwentyth Arruda, Morgan Hicks and their families. It will be the first time in a while that our families with school age children will be able to tune in earlier for a Shabbat Service.

Every month, on the first Friday evening at 6:45 P.M., kids 6th grade and younger are encouraged to attend. The first 20 minutes will be a Tot Shabbat story time and activity (Kitah Gan, Alef and Bet) followed by the next 25 minutes of Tefillah Time for older grades (Kitah Gimmel through Vav), for an abridged service where Rabbi and Sherry discuss different aspects of the Shabbat service each month, like the prayer practice the kids normally did in assembly at religious school. Families of 6th and 7th graders are encouraged to stay on the zoom for the regular Shabbat service which begins at 7:30 P.M..

Later this month, on **Sunday, November 22**, parents and children will be invited to view a virtual Chanukah fair video featuring items which the Temple Emanu-El Sisterhood would typically have on display in the social hall. This is a heads up that students will be shown the brief video (they will make a wish list). Parents will also be able to view the video after class. Orders may be made online through the Virtual Temple gift shop through their page on the Temple website at [www.tewaterford.org](http://www.tewaterford.org).

L'hitraot,  
Armi and Jennifer