

TERS Message - January 2021

Happy Secular New Year! May 2021 bring us renewed hope and resilience as we look forward to everyone finally receiving the COVID-19 vaccine and having our day-to-day happenings return to normal. We hope everyone had a restful holiday break. **We look forward to welcoming our students back to classes on Wednesday, January 6 (grades 3-7) and Sunday, January 10 (grades K-7).**

Looking back just a few weeks, we are reminded of the wonderful ways in which we were able to celebrate Chanukah together. Thank you very much to Temple Emanu-El Sisterhood, for donating a bag of gelt, dreidel and a box of Chanukah candles for each student. The school included a cute box of sufganiyot and a dreidel origami magnet activity kit. Thanks also to our Temple for distributing a delicious recipe for Latkes and a wonderful Chanukah greeting. We believe that it is through simple gestures like these, which physically reach our students and their families that we are able to stay connected during this challenging time.

We loved seeing many of our religious school students, families and staff tuned into our Chanukah celebration. Together, students pieced together a silly story, a mad libs version of "The Mighty Maccabees." The students split up into two breakout rooms to gather their Chanukah scavenger hunt items and then we came back together to compare items. We had a wonderful time making our dreidel origami magnets together and then enjoyed singing Chanukah songs and lighting candles on our chanukiyot with Rabbi Marc and Hazzan Sherry.

Thank you to everyone who participated in our December Tzedakah Project by donating hats, gloves and socks to people in need this winter. Special thanks to Rabbi Marc for delivering them to the New London Homeless Hospitality Center.

We would also like to show our appreciation for our teachers and faculty assistants who work tirelessly each month not just to bring engaging virtual lessons on Sundays but also taking the time to create and deliver the beautiful craft and activity kits for the children so they can still enjoy hands-on learning. Take a look at some of the beautiful Chanukah crafts which they put together during virtual class (pictures below).

Our families gathered for First Friday Family Shabbat on Friday, Dec 4. **We hope to see you all again at our next First Friday Family Shabbat on Friday, January 8, 2021 at 6:45 p.m.**

On Friday, January 22, we will host special Tu B'Shevat activities at our Fun Family Friday event beginning at 6:00 p.m. More details to follow. Please save the date.

Cheers,
Armi and Jennifer