

## September TERS Bulletin Message

L'Shanah Tovah! Year 5782 is upon us. We hope that you and your families enjoyed your summer vacation time together. Welcome to all our new and returning teachers and faculty assistants! We thank you for dedicating your time toward the mitzvah of passing down knowledge and stories from Torah and the Jewish People to the next generation of learners. We look forward to embracing tradition while being open to creativity as we collectively provide for our students an engaging and fun-filled calendar of Hebrew and Judaic lessons, group activities and celebrations.

We have been busy all summer cleaning and revitalizing our school and making plans for our students' safe return to the religious school building. Special thanks to all those families who graciously volunteered their time this past month supporting the restoration efforts. Our time is so precious, yet many TERS families came out to help support us...you will be shocked by the school's transformation! I also want to thank Amy Orce who has stepped up to help assist me in making this coming school year another fabulous experience. Her support and dedication to TERS is greatly appreciated.

Our plan for the 2021/2022 school year is to have our children back in the building for full in-person learning. With this said, my mission is to ensure that our children are learning in a comfortable, safe environment. As the upcoming school year begins, we will continue to focus on keeping students safe. Since the beginning of this pandemic, new information has emerged to guide safe in-person learning. The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has assured schools that opening their doors to in-person learning generally does not significantly increase community transmission, particularly when the guidance they have outlined is adhered to.

What that means for TERS families is that masks will be required to be worn when inside the building and physical distancing will be instituted to the greatest extent possible. We will also have sanitizing stations in place and the classrooms will be disinfected at the end of every school day, and we will also use the windows as much as possible to aid in ventilation. Please send your child dressed appropriately with this in mind. Layers are always best with a light sweater, sweatshirt or jacket on top.

Temple Emanu-El Religious School begins as a Sunday session on September 12 at 9:30 am to 12:00 pm for grades K-7. The first Wednesday session for grades 3-7 begins Wednesday, September 22 at 4:30 pm to 5:45 pm. The first religious school day for Pre-K students is Sunday, September 19 at 10:30 am to 12:00 pm.

**If you haven't already done so, please fill out your Temple pledge form and register your children for religious school as soon as possible.**

This year, our school will continue to use Shalom Learning's values-based curriculum and Hebrew program in grades K-7. This award-winning program was developed by a team of Jewish and secular educators and curriculum developers. Our school is among

120 partner synagogues making Jewish education more engaging and relevant for our students. The Shalom Learning values-based curriculum explores seven Jewish values and their relevance in our everyday lives. Students will learn to use Jewish culture, holidays, text, history, and traditions to make responsible decisions and build positive relationships. Using the Shalom Learning Hebrew program, we will teach your children to read Hebrew, chant prayers, and understand their meaning. This programing was a huge success last year in a remote-learning environment and since it was originally developed for in-person classroom learning, we are expecting even greater success with the curriculum this year.

For more information about Shalom Learning, go to [www.shalomlearning.org](http://www.shalomlearning.org). If you have questions about how our school is implementing the program please contact us at [religiousschool@tewaterford.org](mailto:religiousschool@tewaterford.org). We look forward to a wonderful new school year and a productive partnership with Shalom Learning.

Looking ahead...

Please note on your calendar that we will be having Picnic in the Sukkah on Sunday, September 19th. On Friday, October 1st please join us as our youngest learners in Kitah Gan/Aleph (Kindergarten/1st Grade) class are welcomed formally into their religious school education as Consecration celebrants during the Shir Shabbat service at 7:00 pm.

We appreciate everyone's patience and support over this past year. Once more please submit your child's registration as soon as possible.

Shana tovah u'metukah,

Rachel