

It's hard to believe that we've already reached the halfway mark for this school year! We are enthusiastically diving into the second half of the year with lots of new things to learn and holidays to celebrate together.

January's First Friday Family Share Shabbat had a great turnout. It was amazing to see our students and their families come together and be part of our Shabbat service. Re-member if your family and/or student would like a part of our Family Share Shabbat, parts are made available a week or two in advance directly after religious school. You can also email the Rab-bi or myself to claim your part of the service. One of our goals at Religious School is to create a strong sense of Jewish community for all of our students. Attending Share Shabbat goes a long way in this endeavor. This month, we hope you will join us on the **First Friday of the month, February 7 at 6:30pm, for our next First Friday Family Share Shabbat followed by an Oneg sponsored by TERS.**

On February 5 TERS will celebrate Tu B'Shevat. At TERS we think of TuB'Shevat as a sort of Jewish Earth Day. The Torah teaches us not only to be good to each other but also to care for the environment that we were given. To help celebrate Tu B'Shevat, Temple Emanu-El Religious School will host a very special Tu B'Shevat program with the help of the Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center. Representatives from the center will come to TERS with a wonderful program on trees. This will be followed by a special program by Emissaries Omer and Uma and a very unique Ice Cream Tu B'Shevat Seder. **Special thanks to the Ruth Brody Fund for making this holiday celebration possible.**

Sunday, February 5 we also bid a farewell to Omer and Uma as they return to Israel for a few weeks to be with their families and friends. Please wish Omer and Uma safe travels if you see them around school. We will miss them both and can't wait for them to return in March!

Mark your calendar, February 25 will be our next Havdalah in Pajamas! Please join us for a short Havdalah service followed by dinner, BBYO of course. The theme this month is Game Night, and we ask students to bring their favorite board game to share with their classmates. Parents will have the opportunity for some adult schmoozing as we did for our last Havdalah in Pajamas. Please join us for another wonderful opportunity to connect to our TERS community.

Although spring is getting close, we're not there yet! Please remember that we will follow the inclement weather snow/ice closing schedule of the Waterford school district on Wednesdays. We will notify parents by 12:00 through a Remind app text regarding any exceptions. We would only keep school open if road conditions are deemed safe by school time. For Sunday closures, we will do our best to make a decision on Saturday night and will notify parents via the Remind app and email.

All the best,
Rachel