

Temple Emanu-El religious school (TERS) - Rachel O'Brien

It was once again a joy to gather with our religious school families during the First Friday Family Share Shabbat on Friday, February 3rd. **We hope to see you all again at our next Share Shabbat on Friday, March 3rd at 6:30 p.m.** Parts of the service will be available to choose two weeks prior to every First Friday Family Shabbat. Please check your email or reach out to myself or Rabbi Marc for the link, marcekstrand@gmail.com.

On February 5th, TERS had a wonderful Tu BiShvat celebration. The Denison Pequot Nature Center led an interesting program on trees that was fun, engaging and very informative and a great way to celebrate this day of ecological awareness.

On Saturday, February 25th, TERS had their second Havdalah in Pajamas. After a short but sweet Havdalah service families enjoyed a dinner followed by much needed down time as parents got to know each other better and students played their favorite board game with their classmates. **A BIG thank you to Mikayla O'Brien & Cam Marcus for helping make the evening successful for all the students!** Students had a great evening and our next Havdalah in Pajamas will be on April 29th.

What to look forward to...

On Sunday, March 5h, in lieu of regular class lessons, TERS will have our schoolwide Purim Celebration. Students are invited to wear costumes and participate in our traditional Purim costume parade and contest (categories: best Purim themed, funniest costume, most creative, best group, and most original). Students are also invited to bring their own groggers as they listen for Haman's name in a Purim spiel called "The Brave Queen Esther" presented by our own Faculty Assistants. Afterwards, students will compete in a grogger contest (categories: loudest/most obnoxious, and most creative). Prizes will be awarded at the end. We will wrap up the day's celebrations with Hamentashen from New York City and Mishloach Manot bags, **thank you to Barbara Senges-Murphy for coordinating this special treat on behalf of Temple Emanu-El Sisterhood.**

Mark your calendars, **Sunday Family Funday is March 12th at RoseGarden Ice Rink.** We had an AMAZING turnout last year with many TERS students and families hitting the ice and coming together in a private party room to connect and enjoy some hot chocolate and snacks. I am sure this year will be just as exciting and will be another great opportunity for our community to spend time together and have fun. **Our LAST Sunday Family Funday will tentatively be held on the last day of religious school May 21st.** Please keep an eye out for the details.

TERS is also leading a mitzvah project led by **Barbara Senges-Murphy, our Kitah Chet teacher.** Barbara is organizing all of our TERS students in creating Purim cards to be distributed to Jewish seniors of resident care facilities through JFEC's Friendly Visitors Program. The goal is to reach as many Jewish seniors as they can, in hopes of bringing a smile to their face during Purim.

Chag Purim Sameach,
Rachel