



מה חדש Ma Chadash?

A newsletter from Talmud Torah to the parents & students

January 21
6 Shevat

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Another Successful National Jewish Book Month!

By Librarian Cathi Orkin Oskow

Talmud Torah students read 674 books during our National Jewish Book Month celebration this year. (Chapter books count as four picture books.) Assemblies celebrating the conclusion of Jewish Book Month were held on Wednesday, January 12 and Thursday, January 13 for grades Mekhina through Dalet.

Our Jewish Book Month theme this year was “Jews in the Arts and Athletics.” Students read books by Jewish authors or on Jewish topics, and they earned extra points for reading about Jewish athletes, artists, musicians, entertainers, etc. Each time a student read a Jewish book and recorded it on a book log, s/he added a sticker to a display theme board that Bonnie Wexler created. The student also entered a raffle at that time. Students earned special bookmarks for every two chapter or four picture books read.

Every student who participated in Jewish Book Month is a winner, because they have been enriched by reading Jewish books! The top readers this year were announced at the assemblies: Sam Herman in Gimel 2, taught by Mary Baumgarten and Carmella Chazin read the equivalent of 34 books, including seven Hebrew picture books. There was a tie for #2 reader overall, between Shoshana Lefkow and Kelsey Bailey, both in Gimel 3, also taught by Baumgarten and Chazin, each of whom read 25 books. The #3 reader overall, with 21 books read, was Jake Klaiman, also from Gimel 3. The #1 reader for Monday/Wednesday classes was Bailey Yablonsky in Alef 1, taught by Nechamit Yaari.

On Tuesday, Isaac Gittleman won the raffle drawing. On Wednesday, Michael Korsh won.

The top five readers and the two raffle winners each will have the opportunity to go to Brochins Jewish Book Store with a parent and myself, to pick out a Jewish book of their choice to keep, and another which will be donated to the Talmud Torah library.

The following received awards:

- The “Most Spirited Class Participation” award went to Gimel 2, taught by Mary Baumgarten and Carmella Chazin.
- #1 reader, Sam Herman is from Gimel 2, as well as Elana Warren
- Josh Borkon, the #1 student who read about Jews in different kinds of arts or athletics
- Other students who read about Jews in a number of different kinds of arts or athletics were: Libby Fern, Lexi Zipkin, Sareena Katz, Haley Warren, Justin Wolk and Noah Kaplan.
- Classes with 100% participation who earn parties: Mekhina Bet-taught by Tamar Lavintman, Alef 1 and 2-both taught by Nechamit Yaari, Bet 1-taught by Carmella



Chazin, Bet 3—taught by Bonnie Noyman, Gimel 1—taught by Mary Baumgarten, Gimel 2 and 3— both taught by Carmella Chazin and Mary Baumgarten.

Jewish Book Month is dedicated in memory of beloved longtime Talmud Torah librarian Marilyn Burstein, z"l. She instituted the National Jewish Book Month celebration at Talmud Torah, which inspired many hundreds of students to become readers. This year, her children and grandchildren co-sponsored the Jewish Book Month activities. Last year, in Marilyn's memory, the Marilyn Burstein Book Fund was created. Anyone who would like to make a contribution to her fund will have a special plaque placed in the new book that we purchase for our library.



Alef Students Celebrate Completion of First Reading Primer

The *Alef* students recently completed their first reading primer, *Time to Read*. The class had a party to celebrate this milestone.

The children received their new book, *Time to Read, Volume 2* and are very excited.

The children's Hebrew vocabulary continues to grow with many new words. Future plans include introduction of Hebrew script. Currently, we are learning about our next holiday, *Tu B'Shvat*, the *New Year for Trees*.



Friendship in Kita Dalet

As part of the Etgar curriculum *Kita Dalet* will be starting with a new theme - Friendship. We are very excited to begin this study as it is a topic of extreme relevance and importance to the students. The curriculum is designed to investigate Jewish and modern day perspectives about friends and relationships with peers. As well as learning from *Pirkei - Avot* (Ethics of our Fathers) and the *Tanakh* (Torah, Prophets, and Writings), we will also be reviewing film clips about friendship. The students will have the opportunity to express their thoughts, opinions and feelings about this important topic through creative artwork, interesting writing exercises, class discussion and performance of skits.



Elementary Students Celebrate Tu Bishvat Together

The Talmud Torah elementary students have been collecting money for the indoor athletic facility that they helped build in Sderot last year. We thank you for encouraging your children to collect and donate money for the purchase of art supplies, sporting equipment, video games and more for the children of Sderot. Next week, in conjunction with the fundraiser, the students will celebrate *Tu Bishvat*. They will view and discuss a video about planting trees in Israel and will plant various herbs to be used at their family *Pesach sederim*.

"To participate in the Amazon School Rewards program, please go to Talmud Torah's homepage at www.talmudtorahmpls.org and click on the Amazon link. Thank you for your support!"

Questions or comments regarding the **Ma Chadash**? Email them to schalom@talmudtorahmpls.org

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Talmud Torah is a beneficiary agency of the Minneapolis Jewish Federation

