



Dear *Dalet* Parents,

We are so excited to welcome you and your children to 4th grade at Talmud Torah! A little bit about us-

Allie Greenstein, a graduate of the Talmud Torah Bet Midrash program and M.Ed. program at the University of Minnesota, is excited to begin her teaching career here at TT. She is the Director of Camp Olami at the Sabes JCC by day, and teacher by night. Allie is excited to delve into this curriculum with your students, as they explore their family history, memories, and so much more.

Tamar Lavintman is a veteran teacher of 42+ years and has taught Hebrew and Judaica in almost all grade levels at Talmud Torah and in various other institutions throughout Minnesota. She is also teaching College in the School Hebrew at Yachad, the community high school. She works as a leader and a personal coach for Weight Watchers, her other passion.

This year promises to be a year of growth, learning, fun and building community!

In Tamar's class, the students will begin a unit of study that focuses on the High Holidays, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Students will reflect upon what *Rosh Hashanah* and *Yom Kippur* mean to them, how they celebrate, and will also explore how Jews in Israel celebrate the High Holidays. They will study the sounds of the *shofar*, the last verse of *Avinu Malkekinu*, appropriate blessings and brainstorm ways to ask for forgiveness for our wrong doings and also how to forgive others.

We usually begin our first hour class by chanting the blessing, *Laasok B'divrei Torah* and then by asking and answering some simple questions in Hebrew. For example, "How are you?" "Where do you live?" *The New Siddur Program for Hebrew and Heritage, Book 2* by Pearl and Norman Tarnor, and the *Prayer Skills Workbook 2* by Roberta Osser Baum and Magda Winter are the primary texts.

Students are encouraged to practice their **Hebrew reading** aloud. Regular assignments are given to read pages from *The New Siddur Program for Hebrew and Heritage, Book 2*, and the *Prayer Skills Workbook 2*. Thank you for listening to them and for signing their assignment sheet when they complete the homework.

**Etgar**, taught by Allie, is a new program that we are introducing in *Dalet* this year, which allows for the exploration of Jewish traditions, values, and rituals, as well as opportunities to create personal meaning. Etgar uses a project-based and experiential learning model which draws upon multiple intelligences.

As part of the first unit, students will:

- Use family stories as starting points for deepened connections to their Jewish ancestors
- Create family trees and share family memories and stories
- Learn about the legacies of their own families

Your children's education is a partnership between all of us. We encourage open and honest communication and welcome any suggestions, questions or concerns you may have. Please do not hesitate to email either of us at [agreenstein@talmudtorahmpls.org](mailto:agreenstein@talmudtorahmpls.org) or [mlavintman@talmudtorahmpls.org](mailto:mlavintman@talmudtorahmpls.org)

Wishing you and your entire family a *Shanah Tovah!*

Sincerely,

*HaMorot* Allie Greenstein and Tamar Lavintman