



September 10, 2017

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Talmud Torah. It was wonderful to meet all of the Sunday/Wednesday students today and we look forward to meeting the Tuesday/Thursday students this Tuesday.

Your child is about to begin a unit of study that focuses on the Yamim Noraim, the holiday season that includes Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. As part of this unit, students will learn that:

- On the Yamim Noraim, the Jewish people mark time through celebration, tradition, and prayer.
- Through the Shehecheyanu blessing, we express our gratitude to God for allowing us to reach milestones in our year and in our lives.
- The shofar announces the Yamim Noraim and reminds us to actively make the year a good one for ourselves, our families, and others.

Students will reflect upon the challenges of new beginnings; brainstorm ways that the Jewish community marks the beginning of the Jewish year; learn the Shehecheyanu prayer to express gratitude to God for new experiences; explore the blowing of the shofar as a reminder to think about their tradition and their actions; and study the shofar-blowing service in order to blow the shofar for those who cannot attend synagogue.

In addition, the following websites may be useful as resources for family discussion of the Yamim Noraim:

- Background information:

[From Rosh Hashanah to Yom Kippur](#)

- Music: (Download from iTunes)
  - "Shehecheyanu," by Tzivika Pik; Album: Shiron L'Noar: Jewish Songs for Children Ages 10-13  
<https://itunes.apple.com/us/album/shiron-lnoar-jewish-songs-for-children-ages-10-13/id311324455>
  - "Shehecheyanu," by Debbie Friedman; Album: And the Youth Shall See Visions  
<https://itunes.apple.com/us/album/and-the-youth-shall-see-visions-disc-5/id77723454>
  - "Shehecheyanu," by David Kamenir; Album: Rock B'ivrit  
<https://itunes.apple.com/bw/album/rock-bivrit/id18792935>

We we will be recording students blowing shofar and putting the videos on the TT website for you to share with family and friends so that everyone will be able to hear the shofar during this special time.

Shanah Tovah to your entire family.

Sincerely,

Morah Barb, Morah Yakira and Morah Polly