



October 3, 2017

Dear Kitah Gimel Parents,

Kitah Gimel is now in a unit of study that focuses on the holiday of Sukkot and the mitzvah of *hakhnasat orhim*. As part of this unit, students will learn that:

- The Torah tells us to “dwell” in our sukkah during the holiday of Sukkot; we create our sukkot by following the guidelines that are described in the Mishnah.
- During Sukkot, we transform our sukkah into a home through the actions, objects, and people that we bring into it.
- We welcome guests into our dwelling spaces, both permanent and temporary, by making sure that they feel at home.
- We look to our biblical role models, including Avraham and Rivkah, for guidance in how to put this mitzvah into practice.

Students will explore what it means to make a sukkah feel like home; study a Mishnah text that describes the requirements of a sukkah; investigate a sukkah to see the Mishnah text put into practice; recite the *berakhah* that is said when one is in a sukkah; learn about *hakhnasat orhim*—welcoming guests—in a sukkah; and use biblical characters as role models in how to welcome guests.

Several aspects of this unit can be enhanced through family participation. The Students current homework assignment asks to work with you to use Internet search engines such as Google and Flickr to find images of sukkot and pick 1 to bring to class. Additionally, they will bring home guidelines for welcoming—and being—guests and will be asked to put their guidelines into practice the next time your family hosts or visits others.

During this unit, we will be taking a trip to the JCC sukkah. This will be a special class and we hope all of the students will be here on Sunday, Oct 8th or Tuesday, Oct 10th.

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

- Sukkah City (www.sukkahcity.com): Pictures and information about a unique sukkah-building competition in New York City in 2010
- Sukkahs of the World (www.sukkahsoftheworld.org): Website with pictures of many sukkot. Click on the pictures on the homepage to see slide shows.

We hope that your family enjoys exploring Sukkot!

Sincerely,
Morah Yakira, Morah Barb and Morah Polly