



Dear Zayin Parents,

I wish to provide you with an update about some of the things we have been learning.

Mitzvot

We have spoken about “choices” and their importance, and grappled with the question of what can guide us in making the right choices. Since this is the year of becoming a Bar or Bat Mitzvah we also discussed how becoming a Bar or Bat Mitzvah can last a lifetime and not just one day.

We will be working on the mitzvah of tzedakah and kids will have the opportunity to tell about some of their mitzvah projects. I want to make sure that they understand that tzedakah is not just about giving money.

Tzedakah comes from the word “tzedek” which means justice. As Jews, we need to always to fight for and to defend what is just and right.

T’fillah

We discussed and read selections from the High Holiday Liturgy. Students worked in hevruta (pairs) to write their own “Ashamnu” for teens. They then presented their lists to the group.

This week we will begin the Etgar unit entitled “Why Pray?”

Our first discussion will be about why people pray in the first place.

We will also talk about the role of wonder in prayer.

Then we will move on to a discussion of the Kaddish and the importance of saying it.

History

This week we will learn about the first Jews in America. Why and when did they come? How did they acculturate to life in America while still retaining Their Jewish identity?

I am truly enjoying working with my Zayin students. They are a delightful and engaged group.

L'hitraot,

Mary