



TEMPLE
BETH
SHOLOM
Religious School

401 Roslyn Road, Roslyn Heights, NY 11577

**RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
HANDBOOK
2013 - 2014**
5774



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Torah together with worldly pursuit • אל תאמר לבעאפנה אשנה שמא לא תפנה (פרקי אבות 2:2) • Say not when I have leisure I will study, you might not have it

TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM VISION STATEMENT

Community קהילה: We seek to establish an ongoing partnership between the synagogue and all of its members through shared experiences and integration of Jewish learning and living. We envision the Beth Sholom Community as a tapestry of diverse, dynamic learners woven together through a multitude of programs that engage those from infancy to our most senior adults. Committed to maintaining our high standards of excellence, we are guided by the values of the Conservative Movement. Strengthening our Jewish identity and connection to Israel and to each other will create powerful, positive Jewish memories that will last a lifetime.

Family Involvement משפחה: We view family involvement as the cornerstone of our educational program. We will offer Jewish educational opportunities for all adults and children, from traditional and non-traditional families to become knowledgeable, individually and together. Through various experiences we will enable our families to feel comfortable in our schools, in our synagogue and ultimately, to empower them to integrate Jewish ritual and life into their homes.

Mitzvot מצוות: We strive to educate all in the fulfillment of mitzvot (commandments) through meaningful expression of Judaism including Shabbat, holidays, Jewish ritual, commitment to Israel, tzedakah (charity) and gemilut hasadim (acts of loving kindness). Mastery of skills in Hebrew language, tefillah (prayer), text and critical thinking are essential components of our educational philosophy.

Learning Opportunities לימוד: We seek to create formal and informal learning opportunities, inside and outside the classroom for our young people who receive their Jewish education through our Early Childhood Center, Religious School, Machon Beth Sholom or Solomon Schechter Day School. This kind of experiential programming includes integrating United Synagogue Youth, Kadima and Camp Ramah into the lives of our youth. Acknowledging the right of each student to a Jewish education, we will continue to address diverse needs and learning styles.

Shabbat שבת: We aspire to make Shabbat an ideal time to bring our community together in prayer and study. Through a variety of programming and tefillah options, generations of Temple Beth Sholom families will unite while sharing the beauty of Shabbat.

Temple Beth Sholom is dedicated to the pursuit of LIFELONG JEWISH LEARNING. Built on the principles of Torah, we strive to inspire learners at every age to live a vibrant Jewish life in the home, within the congregation and in the greater Jewish community.

מעשה (תלמוד קריעות) • Without family life no nation can be made • בני חיי משפחה לא יבנה עם • אל תאמר לבעאפנה אשנה שמא לא תפנה (פרקי אבות 2:2) • Torah together with worldly pursuit



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A MESSAGE FROM OUR RABBI



Dear Parents,

We want our children to have a strong Jewish identity. We want our children to be well integrated in their social world. We may want them to go to Public School but we also want them to have a good Jewish education. How do we accomplish all of the things we want for our children given the limited hours in a day? It is not an easy challenge. It is one that contemporary Jewish parents have struggled with for some time now. Imagine the challenge from our perspective. We are charged with the responsibility to teach 4,000 years of Jewish history, tradition, Torah, Mitzvot, Jewish thought, Prayer and Hebrew in a supplemental after-school program that meshes with the life and schedule of busy young people whose lives are already stretched to their limits. We take this challenge very seriously and for the last number of years we have done our best to incorporate the latest in educational thinking with our hallmark commitment to excellence that is at the core of all that we do at TBS. We believe the result is that we have truly created something special under the direction of our principal Sharon Solomon and thanks to a wonderful staff of dedicated and talented teachers, and you and your children are the beneficiaries of these efforts.

Your child has the opportunity to attend what is without question one of the truly outstanding Religious Schools in the country. We at Temple Beth Sholom are proud to be able to offer such a fine education to you and we share in the *naches* of the resulting achievements of our students.

It was stated thousands of years ago in the Bible: “*Thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children...*” and today, thousands of years later the Temple Beth Sholom Religious School is the fulfillment of that mandate in our day. May we all be blessed to see future generations raised to the study of Torah and our sacred tradition.

Sincerely,

Alan B. Lucas
Rabbi



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A Message from Our Assistant Rabbi



Dear Parents:

Welcome to a wonderful year at Temple Beth Shalom Religious School. Both you and your child are in for a great year of learning. Now I know what you're thinking, "but my child is the one going to Religious School, not me!" Well, yes...and no.

You see, here at Temple Beth Shalom, we believe that learning that takes place in the classroom is only part of the Religious Education that your child will receive. Your child will also have the opportunity to learn in exciting and informal ways outside of the classroom and we very much want you to be part of those learning opportunities. Our top-notch **Shabbat Family Study** program is designed so that you and your child have the opportunity to sit down, yes, together, and learn more about the Jewish tradition and how it applies to your life. Our **Mishpacha Minyan** ("Family Minyan") is an interactive family service where both you and your child can learn more about the Shabbat morning service. Interruptions and questions during this service are encouraged by both parents and children! I am proud to be part of both of these programs and I hope you will join me and other families to take advantage of these and other exciting opportunities.

Besides attending these programs at TBS, we also encourage you to enhance your child's Jewish education at home by:

- (1) **Creating a Jewish atmosphere at home.** Light Shabbat candles. Say Kiddush. Learn the blessings together. And if you need help...call us! Encourage regular giving to tzedakah (charity) by putting a tzedakah box prominently in your home. Do something Jewish once a week. (Bonus: Do it twice!)
- (2) **Being a Jewish Learner Role Model:** Continue your own Jewish education. Buy a Jewish book. Study the weekly Torah portion – even once a month!
- (3) **Admitting what you don't know:** When your child has a question about Judaism, admit what you don't know, while working together to find the answer. Sit down and learn with your family, showing your kids that you're still learning too! What a sacred way to spend time together. Need help? Call us!

Becoming active in your child's Jewish education is one of the greatest gifts you will ever give to your child and we're thrilled that you've chosen to do it with the Temple Beth Shalom family. We are here to help you make this experience the most rewarding and fun for your family. Please let us know how we can help!

Best,

Jennifer A. Schlosberg
Assistant Rabbi



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**A MESSAGE FROM
CANTOR OFER BARNOY**



Dear Parents,



Music fuels the fire in our students' souls and helps them to have a Jewish experience in our school that is fun and emotionally fulfilling. Music is a wonderful way to bring fun into the classroom and into all parts of our school experience.

For generations, music has been at the core of our collective Jewish experience. No matter what country Jews were found in, Hebrew songs with familiar melodies kept the Jews together and helped to give them a sing-ular identity (excuse the pun...).

Just imagine a Shabbat or holiday service at our temple without singing those familiar melodies you grew up with and all you'll have is a boring experience that will leave you feeling empty and uninspired. Those familiar songs and melodies are part of the "glue" that keeps Judaism alive and our students deserve a thorough knowledge of our vast and varied musical tradition.

Through the years, we have had wonderful music teachers, most recently Gerry Blum. They were all wonderful trustees of our musical tradition and imparted it with caring love and an infectious enthusiasm.

Beginning this school year, I will be taking over this awesome responsibility. I look forward to exploring our many traditional and modern melodies with your children but most of all I hope that we will have fun learning and singing together!

I look forward to greeting you and your children in school and hope that they will come home every time they are with us singing new tunes and feeling good about their Judaism.

May you live every day with a song in your heart!

Ofer Barnoy

Cantor Ofer Barnoy



A Message from Our Religious School Director



Dear Parents, Shalom!

Welcome back from your summer vacation! I hope you are ready for an exciting new school year. Temple Beth Sholom Religious School strives to provide each student with a comprehensive Jewish education in a warm, positive environment. It is our goal to inspire each student to become active in our synagogue community and to build, through the years, a strong sense of identity in the Conservative Movement. We encourage the students and families to study Torah in the home and in school. This will form a strong foundation for a lifelong commitment to Jewish learning and the practice of Mitzvot.

We strive to provide an environment where students can engage in deep conversations about God, Torah values and Israel. Our program inspires students to explore and question their relationship to Judaism and we hope it will instill a sense of love for our tradition, practice of mitzvot, history, and our ancient texts and Tikkun Olam. We believe that practicing Mitzvot gives the children a real sense of what our values stand for. We encourage our students to take an active role in our Mitzvah of the Month. We also encourage you, at home, to continue the practice and expand on it as a family. You, the parents, are our partners in engaging the children. One of our greatest teachers, Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch, wrote on the subject of education: "*The home can do little without the school, but the school can do nothing without the home*".

Therefore, our **home/school partnership** is a critical factor and your involvement is a vital component. Our family programming as well as Shabbat Family Study and attendance at Shabbat services is the foundation of what we strive to accomplish. We also believe that family involvement in Tikkun Olam (charity projects) help to develop a child's character and a strong sense of belonging to his/her community. We have incorporated a buddy program where younger and older students in the school will be engaging in activities together. We believe in empowering the students to learn from each other and with each other. Building a strong kehilla (community) is at the foundation of who we are as a school and as a temple.

I look forward to a very productive and enjoyable school year and getting to know all of you personally. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to call me at the Religious School office – 484-4980. You can also contact me at sharonsolomon@tbsroslyn.org. Best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year!

B'shalom,
Sharon Solomon
Religious School Director



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Derech: Lifelong Learning

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MACHON BETH SHOLOM



Dear Parents:

Welcome to what is shaping up to be a phenomenal year at the Temple Beth Sholom Religious School. I am thrilled to be writing this letter to you as the Director of Machon Beth Sholom, our High School and Youth Community.

The decision to provide your child with a Jewish education is an important one. We take that responsibility very seriously. Temple Beth Sholom is committed to only the best in Jewish learning and your child will certainly benefit from that commitment. He or she will be excited by the learning and inspired by the Jewish experiences we will be providing. I know that Sharon and our entire Religious School Faculty work very hard to make the Religious School experience one that is meaningful, nurturing and fun!

But Jewish learning is not limited to what takes place in the classroom. It is about creating Jewish memories and the ability to form relationships with other Jewish kids and with the Rabbi, Cantor and other fantastic Jewish role models. The TBS High School and Youth program allows children and teens here at TBS to do just that.

Our Youth program offers monthly programs for students in the following youth groups:

Machar (Grades 4 and 5) – Meets once a month on Tuesdays after Religious School
Kadima (Grades 6 and 7) – Meets once a month on Thursdays from 6 – 7:15PM
USY (Grades 8-12) – Meets once a month on Thursdays from 7:30-9PM.

In addition, our Kadima and USY groups meet with other Kadima and USY groups (called “chapters”) around New York and get a chance to interact with lots of other Jewish teens their age! It is a great social outlet for our kids! Led by our intrepid **Youth Director, Dan Risner**, our kids have a great time at their Youth activities. These events are listed on the Religious School calendar – please have your child join us.

In addition to Youth programming, our Hebrew High School program offers classes, discussion groups, films, community service opportunities and programming. We know that for some of you – high school (even 4th grade) seems like a million years away, but isn’t nice to know these fantastic opportunities exist? By the way, the time does pass pretty quickly...We anticipate a long and wonderful relationship with you and your family.

Thank you for entrusting us with your children. We do not take it lightly. Thank you again for being our partners in this holy venture.

Sincerely,

Gila Hadani Ward
Director of Machon Beth Sholom

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CONTACT LIST

School Office Direct Line	(516) 484-4980
Religious School Director Sharon Solomon	(516) 621-2288 Ext. 118 sharonsolomon@tbsroslyn.org
Machon Beth Sholom Director Gila Hadani Ward	(516) 621-2288 Ext. 129 ghadaniward@tbsroslyn.org
Religious School Administrative Assistant Darlene Friedman	(516) 621-2288 Ext. 119 Religiousschool@tbsroslyn.org
Religious School PTA Co-Presidents Debbie Dubowsky Lisa Berger	(516) 621-2288 Ext. 119 Religiousschool@tbsroslyn.org
Religious School Board of Education Rebecca Altman, Vice President Carrie Gordon, Chair	rebrub4@aol.com chaagordon@aol.com
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Tutors Cantor Ofer Barnoy Mrs. Zahava Rosenfeld	(516) 621-2288 Ext. 121 (516) 621-3273
Shabbat Leaders Mishpacha Service Rabbi Jennifer Schlosberg Minyan Yeladenu Joseph Soffer Mini Minyan Hyam Blum Rabbi Jennifer Schlosberg	(516) 621-2288 Ext. 126 (516) 484-4980 (516) 484-4980 (516) 621-2288 Ext. 126
Youth Director Dan Risner	(516) 621-2288 Ext. 123 youth@tbsroslyn.org

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL STAFF INFORMATION

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Room</u>	<u>Area of Teaching</u>
K	GAN	Fran Kohn	ECC 3	
1st	ALEPH	Hanna Harel	ECC 5	
2nd	BET	Shirley Dae	Room 1	<i>Hebrew & Israel, Tefilah</i>
2nd	BET	Marie Beth Rosenthal	Room 3	<i>Holidays, Mitzvot, Jewish Values</i>
3rd	GIMMEL	Ziva Meraz	Room 2	<i>Hebrew & Tefillah</i>
3rd	GIMMEL	Doreen Zinn	Room 4	<i>Torah, Holiday, Israel</i>
3rd	GIMMEL	Rachel Amsellem	Room 2	<i>Hebrew Teacher Asst. & Tikvah Tutor</i>
4 th	DALED	Gerri Blum	Room 6	<i>Torah</i>
4 th	DALED	Roya Mizrahi	Room 5	<i>Hebrew & Tefilah, Daled Resource</i>
4 th	DALED	Kim Brethel	Room 7	<i>Israel & Holidays</i>
5 th	HAY	Elise Kitaeff	Room 8	<i>Torah, Jewish History & Israel</i>
5 th	HAY	Victoria Eller	Room 9	<i>Hebrew & Tefillah</i>
6 th	VAV	Sharon Solomon	Room 10 Th	<i>Holidays, Shabbat, Tefillah</i>
6 th	VAV	Judy Rosenfeld	Room 11 Th	<i>Hebrew & Tefillah</i>
6 th	VAV	Elise Kitaeff	Room 8 Th	<i>Jewish History</i>
6 th	VAV	Michal Natanov	Room Youth Lounge Sun	<i>Holidays, Laws & Customs</i>
6 th	VAV	Nathan Baruch	Room 10 Sun	<i>Torah/Holidays</i>
7 th	ZAYIN	Elise Kitaeff	Room 8 Mon	<i>Holocaust/Modern Israel</i>
7 th	ZAYIN	Marie Rosenthal	LLL Chapel Sun	<i>Holidays, Laws, Customs (11-12)</i>
7 th	ZAYIN	Nathan Baruch	LLL Chapel Sun	<i>Torah (12-1)</i>
7 th	ZAYIN	Sharon Solomon	Room 7 Mon	<i>Life Cycle Curriculum</i>
	HEBREW RESOURCE	Fran Shalot	Room 7.5	<i>Resource Room (Aleph, Bet, Gimel, Daled)</i>
	HEBREW RESOURCE	Judit Aharoni	Office 2	<i>Resource & Enrichment (Daled, Hay, Vav, Zayin)</i>
	HEBREW RESOURCE	Zahava Rosenfeld	Office 1	<i>Bar/Bat Mitzvah Tutor</i>
	MUSIC	Cantor Barnoy	Chapel or Sanctuary	
	LIBRARIAN	Julie Gittlin	Library	
	ART	Hava Shilon	Art Room	

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL SCHEDULE -- 2013-2014

Gan (Kindergarten)	Sunday 9 AM - 11 AM (plus optional extended hour 11:00-12:00)
Aleph (First Grade)	Sunday 9 AM - 11 AM (plus optional extended hour 11:00-12:00)
Bet (Second Grade)	Sunday 9 AM - 11 AM and Tuesday 4 - 6 PM
Gimmel (Third Grade)	Sunday 9 AM - 12 PM and Tuesday 4 PM - 6 PM Plus 2 Shabbatot per month (Family Study and Mishpacha Service)
Daled (Fourth Grade)	Sunday 9 AM - 12 PM and Tuesday 4 PM - 6 PM Plus 2 Shabbatot per month (Family Study and Mishpacha Service)
Hay (Fifth Grade)	Sunday 9 AM - 12 PM and Tuesday 4 PM - 6 PM Plus 2 Shabbatot per month (Family Study and Mishpacha Service)
Vav (Sixth Grade)	Sunday 9 AM-12 PM and Thursday 3:45 PM–6 PM Plus 6 Sunday programs during the year that include Bar/Bat Mitzvah programs, Tikkun Olam projects and 1 Shabbat per month of Family Study & Mishpacha Service
Zayn (Seventh Grade)	Sunday 11 AM-1 PM and Monday 6:45 – 8:30 PM
Tikvah	Sunday 9 AM – 11 AM Plus Shabbat requirement (see <i>Shabbat Service Attendance Policy on page 11</i>)
Hebrew Resource Room	Sunday 9 AM – 1:00 PM Tuesday 4:00 – 6:00 PM Thursday 4:00 – 6:00 PM

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS

Sunday	8:00 am – 1:30 pm
Monday	12:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Tuesday	12:30 pm – 6:30 pm
Wednesday	By appointment
Thursday	12:30 pm – 6:30 pm

EDUCATIONAL GOALS FOR RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

JEWISH IDENTITY

- To enable our students to have a strong Jewish identity and take pride in Conservative Judaism
- To instill a positive Jewish image
- To relate Judaism to everyday life
- To provide a climate where we stress the importance of Jewish community

TORAH and JEWISH TEXT

- To foster understanding of the Torah
- To enable students to identify the central themes and ethical message within Torah and integrate them into their lives
- To expose students to the foundation/literature of Judaism including Prophets, Writing, *Talmud* and *Midrash*
- To learn and discuss the *Parashat Hashavuah* (weekly Torah portion) and apply it to their lives

ETHICS and VALUES

- To encourage our students to further the causes of justice, freedom and peace by pursuing *Tzedek* (righteousness), *Mishpat* (justice) and *Chesed* (loving deeds)
- To build an understanding of the importance of ongoing values and *Mitzvot* that have guided our people throughout history
- To encourage our students to make choices and decisions based on these values and ethics
- To encourage the performance of *Mitzvot* (commandments) with an emphasis on *Tikun Olam* (repairing the world).

HEBREW

- To enable students to study Hebrew in its original text. We value the language that binds the Jewish people together throughout generations
- To build strong prayer skills and develop vocabulary in liturgical Hebrew for participation in community prayer service and home observances
- To increase competence in reading and writing Hebrew
- To encourage the appreciation of Hebrew as a living language and conversational vocabulary

HISTORY

- To instill in our students a love and understanding of Jewish History
- To teach the historical highlights of the Jewish people
- To teach about contemporary Jewish heroes, newsmakers and current Jewish events
- To teach about the Holocaust
- To encourage an understanding of, and appreciation for, Jewish music

HOLIDAYS

- To encourage and understand appreciation and participation in the Jewish calendar by studying and observing Shabbat, holidays and festivals

- To familiarize students with the rituals, customs, observances and practices associated with the holidays and Shabbat
- To encourage participation in Shabbat Services, Family Services and holiday celebrations
- To encourage the observances of Jewish ceremonies marking the significant occasions in their lives

JEWISH COMMUNITY

- To encourage our families to support and participate in the life of the synagogue
- To encourage our families to become a *Shabbat Kehilah* (community) that includes study, *Tefillah* (participation in prayer) and become a vital part of the community
- To encourage participation in *Tikun Olam* activities that will reinforce the family's connection to the local, national and worldwide Jewish community, fulfilling the principles of *K'lal Yisrael* – the unity of the Jewish people.

FAMILY

- To teach about home observances and encourage families to practice Judaism actively in the home
- To encourage participation in all family education programs, especially Shabbat Family Torah Study and Services
- To encourage Family Torah Study and reinforcement of lifelong Jewish learning in the home

PRAYER and RITUAL

- To allow students to experience different types of Services
- To teach the rituals of the life cycles in Jewish practice
- To increase comfort with and participation in Shabbat observance
- To increase comfort with the structure and content of the *Siddur* (prayerbook)
- To enable parents to practice and lead *Tefilah* (prayer) and value its contents
- To promote competence in prayer reading and leading *Tefilah*

ISRAEL

- To instill a love of, interest in, and connection to Israel as an historical place and as the homeland of the Jewish people
- To acquaint students with the geography, history and culture of Israel
- To engage the students with ongoing dialogue on “Israel today” as an ongoing conversation
- To encourage families to visit Israel as part of their Jewish journey

GENERAL ATTENDANCE POLICY



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Religious School

Participation as a member of Temple Beth Shalom Religious School Community is a vital component of our school program. First and foremost, **consistent attendance is essential.** The social aspect of the classroom foremost, being a Jew requires a commitment to the community. The success of our Religious School relies heavily upon the commitment

made by parents and children to the school community and is, in many ways, as important as the material that is being taught and learned.

Minimum attendance of 80% out of 25 class sessions per semester is required in order to progress into the next grade.

- Parents will receive a phone call either from the teacher or the Director when a student is absent for more than 2 consecutive class sessions.
- In case of prolonged absence due to illness or extenuating circumstances, which may interfere with regular attendance and achievement standards, please notify the school office as soon as possible.
- Students with frequent absences will need to complete an additional assignment developed by the Director of the Religious School and display competency in skills required in order to progress into the next grade.

SHABBAT SERVICE ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students are required to attend Shabbat Services:

Kindergarten, 1 st and 2 nd grades:	4 times during the year
3 rd , 4 th and 5 th grades:	8 times during the year
6 th and 7 th grades:	12 times during the year

(Students in the 6th and 7th grades may receive credit by attending **no more than six** Services outside of Temple Beth Shalom with a written note from a parent.)

At least six of the 6th and 7th grade requirement must be completed at Temple Beth Shalom).

Shabbat Family Study and Services count toward your Shabbat attendance requirement.

- Please be advised that our Shabbat Family Study is an integral part of the Religious School curriculum.
- Attendance at these sessions by the student accompanied by at least one parent is required.
- Attendance is taken, homework is assigned and absences are treated just as we treat any other class absences. **Please make every effort to attend.**

SHABBAT ATTENDANCE NOTIFICATION

Services attendance will be recorded by our Religious School Administrative Assistant. Please notify the Religious School Office and your Hebrew Tefillah teacher of your week Minyanim Service attendance.

REWARD INCENTIVES

Over 15 times – combination of Shabbat family study & Minyanim, FNL (Friday Night Live), Minyan Yeladeynu, Mishpacha Minyanim

Please note: Attendance at holiday services (except Rosh Hashana & Yom Kippur) also count toward your service attendance.

CODE OF RESPONSIBILITY

1. It is both the student's and parent's responsibility to respect all teachers, fellow students and adults with whom they come in contact. Students are expected to follow the teacher's directions and to maintain an acceptable voice level in hallways and classes. No profanity from students, parents or staff will be tolerated.
2. It is the teacher's responsibility to respect the students and the students' parents.
3. The student is expected to show proper respect for his/her books, school materials and all Synagogue books and property.
4. The student is expected to come prepared for class each day with those supplies requested by his/her teacher, i.e. books, binders, pen/pencil and homework. Boys are requested to wear a *kipah* while in the building, preferably brought from home.
5. The student is encouraged to discuss any situation or problem with the Director before or after school.
6. Aggressive behavior is not acceptable in our school. Any attempt to intimidate or show violence against a fellow student or staff member will result in immediate suspension and possible expulsion from school.
7. **Dress Code:** Temple Beth Sholom Religious School is an environment of *Limud Kodesh* (holy study). We wish to have all students feel comfortable and safe in the environment of our school. Students are asked to be neat and clean at all times and dress appropriately. Parents are asked to carefully monitor the child's attire. If you have any questions about this, please feel free to contact our office. Students attending grade-level Shabbat Services or Shabbat Family Study should be dressed appropriately for Shabbat, which is a holy day.
8. **Cell phones:** the use of cellular phones is not permitted during school hours. Please understand that the following procedure that is used in our classroom. It will be explained to the students during class time. If students use his or her cell phone during class the phone will be confiscated, and given back to the student at the end of the school day and parents will be contacted. If a student uses a cell phone a second time, the phone will be confiscated and the parents will have to pick it up from the Religious School Director.
9. If you need to reach your child, or your child needs to reach you, please use the telephone in the Religious School office. If there is an emergency and you cannot reach the Religious School line, please contact the main office at 621-2288; the Religious School Director will be paged.

DISCIPLINARY PROCESS

Every student has the right to participate in and contribute to class discussions. However, he/she must also give the same right to fellow students and teachers. In order to create an atmosphere in which each student can reach his/her full potential, parent and student should review the Code of Responsibility with its details of appropriate behavior for both students and teachers.

The following disciplinary procedures will apply to all students:

1. The teacher is responsible for controlling classroom behavior. The teacher will make all attempts to speak to a student and correct inappropriate behavior within the classroom setting.
2. If the teacher does not feel that he/she can correct the inappropriate behavior within the classroom, the student will be sent to the Religious School Director. The Director will discuss the problem, assist the student in accepting responsibility for the behavior and explore methods of improvement. The Director will send the student back to his/her classroom when deemed appropriate.
3. If a student is dismissed from class a second time for the same behavior, a discipline report will be sent to the parents. This report must be signed by the parent and returned to the Director.

4. If the behavior outlined in the discipline report continues, a parent will be required to attend the next class session with the student before the student can reenter the class. In addition, the parent(s) will be scheduled for a conference with the Director and teacher(s).

It is our hope that a stimulating and productive environment can be maintained at the school for the benefit of all students, families and staff. We appreciate you, as parents, serving as our partners in this venture.

HOMEWORK

It is the school's policy that homework will be given only when it serves a clear, educational purpose. Our school is dedicated to lifelong Jewish learning. This philosophy is carried out in the school through assignments that will be brought home. Some of those assignments can only be completed with the aid of an adult. One purpose for these assignments is to include the parents in the learning process.

The only way your child will gain fluency in Hebrew is through practice. Please stress the importance of practicing Hebrew reading to your child.

Students should spend 5-10 minutes a night practicing Hebrew reading.

TUTORING

Hebrew tutoring is part of our Hebrew Resource Program, and allows students to work in smaller groups during the Hebrew class time. This is taught by our Hebrew Language Specialists. The classroom Hebrew teacher will determine if a student would benefit from this resource. The teacher will notify parents when a student is receiving this additional resource in class. If a parent feels that his/her child could benefit from extra help, please speak with Sharon Solomon, Religious School Director, to arrange tutoring if it has not already been scheduled.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Drop-off and Pick-up

- **Gan (K) and Aleph (1st) – Drop-off & Pick-up at the classroom (in ECC wing).**
- **Children must be dropped off at the main entrance of the Religious School in the main parking lot behind the building.**
- **At dismissal time children are to be picked up in the same parking lot.** Please follow the directions of the Security Guards in order to make pick-up time safe and expedient. When picking up your child please walk to the curb to meet your child and then walk back to your vehicle. This is not the time to have a consultation with your child's teacher.

Communication

Newsletters: Parents of Gan and Aleph will receive weekly newsletters (hard copy given to the children as well as via parent email. Parents of Bet through Vav will receive monthly newsletters.

Parent-Teacher: in addition to regular written communication between parents and teachers, parents of Gan (Kindergarten) through Vav (6th grade) will receive two student progress reports (one in January & one in June.)

Parent-Religious School Director: The Religious School Director is always available for formal and informal conversations with each and every parent. Please feel free to contact Sharon Solomon personally or by email. Parents will receive regular communications regarding school events and general news from Sharon Solomon by email, mail & flyers. If you wish to schedule a conference please contact

the Religious School office to make an appointment. The Director is available to meet with parents either before or after school sessions – **not during school hours.**

E-mail & Constant Contact:

Sharonsolomon@tbsroslyn.org

Religiousschool@tbsroslyn.org

Direct number to Religious School -- (516) 484-4980

or (516) 621-2288 ext 118 or 119

Early Dismissal

For security reasons the parent or guardian **MUST** come to the Religious School office, sign out the child and receive a dismissal slip signed by an office attendant. This must be taken to the classroom and given to the teacher in order to release the child for early dismissal.

Teachers are instructed not to release a child for early dismissal without this slip.

Snow/Emergency Closings

Our policy follows the Roslyn Public School calendar – if they close the school then we also will close. All of the Roslyn and Wheatley Schools will be notified prior to dismissal if we decide to close school because of inclement weather. A message will be on the Religious School direct line (484-4980) with any changes regarding school closings.

Student Progress Reports

Student Progress Reports will be mailed home in January and at the conclusion of the school year. Each teacher has specific guidelines in evaluating his/her students. Parent-Teacher Conferences will take place in December for Gan (K) through Vav (6th grade).

Tzedakah/Gemilut Hasadim/Tikun Olam

Caring for others is an important part of Jewish life. It is a *Mitzvah* of the highest order. One way that we show that we care about others is by giving *Tzedakah*. Students will be asked to contribute *Tzedakah* money on a regular basis at the beginning of each class. We encourage children to give their own earnings in order that their *Tzedakah* can be truly their contribution. Acts of loving kindness (*Gemilut Hasadim*) are highly encouraged both in the school and the community. There are ongoing opportunities for students to participate in our ***Mitzvah of the Month*** related to our Jewish values in the school. Religious School will participate in many synagogue wide tzedakah initiatives through the chesed committee.

We are beginning our school year with a *Mitzvah of the Month*. We are asking each family to participate by bringing in **school supplies and a backpack** to help needy children on Long Island. This project is a UJA initiative that TBS has been partnering with for many years.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Gan (Kindergarten) through Zayn (7th grade)

Curriculum development is an on-going, ever-evolving process. We have implemented a spiral curriculum so that many of the same topics, including Parashat Hashavuah (Bible – weekly Torah portion) and Siddur, based on Hebrew, Shabbat, holiday and Israel, are taught throughout the year on age appropriate levels. Learning activities are geared toward the cognitive and developmental level of the students at any given age.

*Gan through Vav (6th grade) will have rotation of **music, art, prayer service and library** visits to enhance their learning experience. Gan through Vav (6th grade) will have a school-wide **Rosh Hodesh prayer experience** with our teachers and clergy at the beginning of each Hebrew month.*

Hebrew Instruction – Gan through Zayn:

For our students, learning to read Hebrew fluently and accurately is only the beginning. Our program focuses on enabling students to participate in ritual prayer in the Synagogue and at home with confidence and understanding. Students' emotional and spiritual connection to Judaism are developed as students explore the meaning of prayer, discuss their beliefs and participate in our services – *Mini Minyan* (age 0-7), *Minyan Yeladeynu* (3rd -7th grade) and *Mishpacha Minyan* (3rd-7th grade). Hebrew learning is enhanced with songs, games and reading readiness activities. Our Hebrew resource program supports students with special needs as well as Hebrew enrichment.

GAN (Kindergarten)

The goal of the Gan program is to make each child feel excited and comfortable with his/her Judaism. Our students build positive Jewish identities as they participate in hands-on creative activities associated with holiday, prayer and introduction to Hebrew. Holiday and Shabbat are enhanced by stories, songs, crafts and drama. Strong emphasis is placed on family education and family activities to be reviewed and practiced at home.

ALEPH (1st grade)

The goal of the Aleph curriculum is to gain comfort in basic Hebrew vocabulary, basic Hebrew sentence structure and the practices of each holiday. The focus on holiday is through symbols, observances and customs in the home. Great emphasis is placed on family education and home family activities. We believe that home partnership is the key to a strong Jewish education. Children are introduced to the Hebrew letters, connecting them with sounds and visual associations. They are introduced to the early Bible stories and the concept of Mitzvot. Aleph students participate in the ***Mitzvah of the Month*** – a school-wide activity. In addition to that, once a month the Aleph students come together and pray with the entire school as a *Kehilah* (community).

BET (2nd grade)

The goal of the Bet curriculum is to deepen their understanding of holiday observances. We focus on the concept of Mitzvot as the students study basic Jewish ethical precepts. Strong emphasis is placed on the symbols of every holiday as well as Shabbat. Students and parents have an opportunity to participate in our “**Bet Connection**”. Each parent and child will have an opportunity to learn together and then teach the class what was learned at home. This is an on-going family program where every family has the opportunity to be part of our learning community. Students build upon their knowledge of Hebrew letters, vowels and vocabulary that are expanded upon in a formal setting.

GIMMEL (3rd grade)

Hebrew is taught each week with the goal of increasing reading fluency and letter/vowel recognition, with the beginning of vocal acquisition. Students will focus on *Tefilah*-based Hebrew through the text *Shalom Uvracha*. Holiday and Shabbat study begins with the focus on the “why” of the holiday celebrations. *Torah/Parashat Hashavuah* are taught from week to week (following the current weekly cycle of Torah readings). Also, Bible is

taught with “how do we relate to Torah in our everyday life”? There is a strong emphasis on family education, family home activity and/or *Parasha*. Family *Limud* (study) and Shabbat Services are a main component in our program. Students are given many opportunities to participate in the **Mitzvah of the Month** in the class and in the optional **Tikun Olam** family projects.

DALED (4th grade)

Students continue to learn the *Parashat Hashavuah*/Bible characters and *Mitzvot* and how they are connected to the children’s own lives. The students will be introduced to a comprehensive exploration of Jewish concepts of God and the characteristics of Jewish relationship to God. As the students explore the Bible they will learn personal responsibility as well as family and community responsibility. Students will continue their Hebrew through *Tefilah* with the text of the *Hineni Series*. Much emphasis is placed on morning *Tefilah* as well as Shabbat morning *Tefilah*. A strong emphasis will be continued at **Family Shabbat Study and Services**. Home (family) *Limud* activities will continue as the main thrust. **Tikun Olam** opportunities will be available as well as school-wide **Mitzvah of the Month** activities.

HAY (5th grade)

Hay students will continue to study *Parashat Hashavuah*/Bible with the emphasis on *Midrash* and interpreting a *Midrash*. Students will have an opportunity to explore most well known *Midrashim* and write some of their own. By now the Hay students should be able to use a *Siddur* (prayerbook) comfortably. In Jewish History the focus will be on the experiences of both Ashkenazic and Sephardic Jewry, leading up to the creation of the State of Israel. Some lessons will cover Israeli history, culture and geography. Hebrew and *Tefilah* (prayer service) – students will increase their Hebrew vocabulary and reading proficiency through the use of the *Siddur* and Hebrew based text. Prayers from the Friday Night Service will be mastered by this grade. Shabbat Family Study and Service are a major component in this grade.

VAV (6th grade)

The Vav core curriculum includes laws and customs of Shabbat and holidays and ethics and values. The Hebrew/*Tefilah* goal is to hone Hebrew reading skills and comprehension of Shabbat morning prayers in preparation for Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Torah study of the *Parashat Hashavuah* (weekly Torah portion) will be reinforced and connected to our Vav monthly Torah Study. There will be Tikun Olam opportunities for these students and their parents. Additionally, sixth grade is the year where our students learn the Torah trope(cantillation) in order to prepare for reading Torah at their B’nai Mitzvah. Our Bar/Bat Mitzvah family programming begins this year.

YOUTH

YOUTH GROUPS/HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS:

Statistics show that children who continue their Jewish Education through the high school years and are involved in youth groups are more likely to remain committed and involved participants in the Jewish community as adults. Please encourage your students to take part in our youth group and continue into our high school program called “*Machon*”. We need to **de-emphasize** *Bnai Mitzvah* as the end point and re-establish it as one life cycle event along the way. Your enthusiasm, encouragement, and expectations are extremely important for the success of our youth group and high school program.

For your information, we have **three wonderful youth groups: Machar – 4th & 5th grade, Kadima – 6th & 7th grade, and United Synagogue Youth (USY) 8th-12th grade**. If children or parents approach you with specific questions about our TBS Youth programs, please refer them to either the Religious School or Youth Director, **Dan Risner (also our TBS Assistant Camp Director) at youth@tbsroslyn.org**.

TBS ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES through Sisterhood

ADULT LEARNING AT TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM

At TBS, we pride ourselves on having programming for Jewish learners of all ages. We strongly encourage you to nourish your Jewish souls with learning of your own. We have a phenomenal schedule of classes, seminars, workshops and lectures for adults this fall. Join us for these wonderful learning opportunities. Be a part of this enriching experience.

PTA Happenings

- **Welcome Back to School Parent Brunch** — Sunday, September 8th from 9:00 to 9:45 pm
 - Come hear about all the great things the PTA does for the TBS Religious School!
- **First PTA Meeting** — Sunday, September 8th at 9:45 am (First day of RS classes)
- **Sukkah Decorating** — Sunday, September 15th from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon
 - Come help us decorate the TBS Sukkah!
- **PTA Sukkah Art Show** - Tuesday, September 24th-from 5:30-6:30 pm
- **PTA Holiday Boutique** – Sunday, October 27th from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon
- **PTA Book Fair** - Sunday, November 17th from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon
- **PTA Purim Carnival** - Sunday, March 16th

Please mark your calendars to join us for planning sessions:

PTA Meetings — Sundays

- Sunday, September 8th — PTA Meeting at 9:45 am after Welcome Brunch)
- Sunday, October 6th — PTA Meeting (at 9:15 am)
- Sunday, October 27th – Holiday Boutique
- Sunday, November 17th — PTA Book Fair
- Sunday, December 8th — PTA Meeting (at 9:15 am)
- Sunday, January 12th — PTA Meeting (at 9:15 am)
- Sunday, February 9th — PTA Meeting (at 9:15 am)
- Sunday, March 16th — Purim Carnival
- Sunday, April 6th — PTA Meeting (at 9:15 am)
- Sunday, May 4th — PTA Meeting (at 9:15 am)



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER 2013-2014

GRADE LEVEL SHABBAT SERVICES, CEREMONIES & DINNER

Be sure to mark your calendar for these annual grade level family events!

Gan & Aleph - Friday, May 2nd at 6:00 pm
 Bet & Gimel - Friday, April 4 at 6:00 pm
 Daled & Hay - Saturday, March 29 at 9:30 am
 Vav—Thursday, May 28 at 6:00 pm - Vav Torah Celebration
 Zayin—Monday, May 5 at 6:00 pm - Zayin Moving Up Ceremony

SHABBAT FAMILY STUDY

Saturday October 26th @ 9:45 am Parashat Chayei Sarah
 Saturday November 16th @ 9:45 am Parashat Yayishlach
 Friday, December 13th @ @ 6:00 pm Shabbat Theme
 Saturday, January 11th @ @ 5:00—7:00 pm Tu B'Shevat Havdallah Experience
 Saturday, February 1st @ 9:45 am Parashat Trumah (Tzedakah)
 Saturday, March 8th @ @ 9:45 am Purim Study
 Friday, April 11th @ @ 6:00 pm Passover Experience
 Friday, May 9th @ 6:00 pm Final SFS — Israel Theme

BNEI MITZVAH – SIXTH GRADE VAV – FAMILY PROGRAMS

Sunday October 6, 2013 from 10:30am – Noon - “What’s It All About?”

As you prepare for your Bar/Bat Mitzvah, it is critical for you to know what your Torah portion (parasha) and your Haftarah is about. This session will help you look at some of the issues and ideas in your parasha as well as how to incorporate them into a D'var Torah. (regular classes 9-10:30)

Sunday, January 26, 2014 from 10:30am – Noon - “Mitzvah Fair”

Becoming a Bar or Bat Mitzvah means becoming a Jewish adult and taking on the obligations of an adult. One of those obligations is to help those in the world who could use your help. As such, each Bar or Bat Mitzvah is expected to do a Mitzvah project. This project is one of your choosing. This Mitzvah Fair will help you get exposed to different kinds of mitzvah projects and we hope these projects will inspire you to take one on as your own. We are here to help you find one that is personally meaningful to you! (regular classes 9-10:30)

Thursday, February 6, 2014 from 5PM – 7PM - “B’nai Mitzvah: POINT Me In The Right Direction”

One of the most special parts about becoming B’nai Mitzvah is that you begin wearing a tallit. Learn about this special commandment and how you can make this ritual more personal. You will also have the chance to make a beautiful Yad (pointer) to use on the day of your Bar or Bat Mitzvah. **Please note: There is a materials fee for this program of \$45 per student.

Sunday, March 23, 2014 from 10:30 AM – Noon - “Getting Ready For The Big Day”

Spend time with the Rabbis and Cantor of Temple Beth Sholom as they help you learn various aspects of what it means to be a Bar/Bat Mitzvah. (regular classes 9-10:30)

MINYANIM:

MINI-MINYAN @ 10:45 am Sat	MINYAN YELADEYNU @10:45 Sat	MISHPACHA MINYAN @10:45 Sat
9/21, 9/28	10/5, 10/19	10/26
10/5, 10/19, 10/26	11/2, 11/23	11/16
11/2, 11/16, 11/23	12/14	12/7
12/7, 12/14	1/25	2/1
1/4, 1/11, 1/25	2/8	3/8
2/1, 2/8	3/1, 3/15	4/5
3/1, 3/8, 3/15, 3/29	4/26	5/3
4/5, 4/12, 4/26	5/17	
5/3, 5/10, 5,17, 5/31		
6/7		

SHABBAT—A—LOT from 4:45 to 5:45 pm on **FRIDAYS** for Early Childhood, Gan (Kindergarten) & Aleph (First Grade) Children and Families - 10/18, 11/22, 12/6, 4/25, 5/30, 6/5 (Thursday)

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE: 11/1, 12/13, 3/7, 4/11 & 6/20