

## **Vav-Alef Yedidim Program**

### **Hachnasat Orchim**

**October 27 2013**

On Sunday October 27<sup>th</sup> we had our informal Vav-Alef Yedidim program. The theme of our program was Hachnasat Orchim, the central idea of the parsha from that week.

#### **ITEMS**

1. A tent was set up in the classroom to symbolize Avraham's tent that he welcomed the angels into.
2. S'mores packages were pre-made for each student prior to the program. Included in each bag was graham crackers, assorted flavored chocolate chips and colored sprinkles.
3. A bowl of marshmallow fluff was given to each group of yedidim to make the smores.
4. Name tags were printed for each student in order for the buddies to identify each other easier and faster.

#### **PROCEDURE**

The 1<sup>st</sup> graders were invited into the 6<sup>th</sup> grade classroom from 9-10am. The 6<sup>th</sup> graders were extremely happy to see their buddies again. The buddies began to instantly gravitate towards each other as the 1<sup>st</sup> grade classes trickled in. The buddies sat together in clusters on the floor, where a table cloth was laid out for them. A few minutes were allotted for interactions and brief conversations between the buddies. Once everyone was settled Morah Hanna introduced the program to the students by describing the week's parsha and the importance of Hachnasat Orchim, by referencing to the tent. The s'mores were given out and the buddies made them together. The students were very excited about the activity. The 6<sup>th</sup> graders took initiative and control and helped out their first grade buddies construct the s'mores. The interaction between them during this program was much stronger than the first. The sixth graders were showing guidance and protection for their buddies, making sure they were on task with the group. There was a lot of laughter and excitement as the s'mores were being made and eaten!

#### **CONCLUSION**

- The program was smooth and clear
- It did not run over time
- The buddies found each other quickly
- They students were happy and asked for more sessions like this.
- The connection between the yedidim was stronger

In class the 6<sup>th</sup> graders and I spent the lesson discussing Hachnasat Orchim and reflected over the program and the importance of this mitzvah. The students had a clear understanding of the intentions of the program and the deeper message behind the fun and tasty activity. They provided great reflections during our class discussion.