

SHABBAT SHMOOZER

April 23, 2010

9 Iyar 5770

Dear First Grade Families,

Earth Week is an exciting time in first grade! Throughout the year, we have been learning about caring for the Earth through a Jewish lens. We explored how the Torah teaches that, as part of the Jewish people, it is our responsibility to care for the Earth. Next week, we will take a closer look at a few special verses from Bereshit (Genesis). We will learn about Adam, the first human, who was given four responsibilities in caring for the Earth: guarding, working, ruling, and naming. As we examine each responsibility, we will also do a hands-on gardening activity that will integrate our Torah study with science skills and concepts. Be on the lookout for a "Take-Home Torah" activity in next week's homework that will give your family the opportunity to explore the intersection of Judaism and environmentalism together.

EARTH WEEK RECYCLING DRIVES

- Monday, April 26: Gently Used Backpack Drive
- Tuesday, April 27: Battery Drive / Zero Waste Snack and Lunch
- Wednesday, April 28: E-Waste Drive
- Thursday, April 29: Plastic Bottle Drive

We are sending Friday Folders home today. Please help use reduce and reuse by reminding your child to bring them back to school on Monday.

IT'S TORAH READING TIME!

Torah reading time is here! Reading Torah is an honored tradition of our people and a special event for our students. Throughout the month of May, each first grader will be called to the Torah during the K-1 Tefilah that takes place on Monday mornings at 9:00 am. The week before your child is called to the Torah, he or she will practice with Rabbi Ben-Naim and the Hebrew teachers, Morah Hagit and Morah Orit. Additionally, your child will need some quiet time to practice the portion at home. We will send home a copy of the Torah portion two weeks before as well.

You and your family are encouraged to attend the service when your child reads Torah. Please come directly to the Marcia Israel Chapel-Auditorium. Non-flash cameras and video cameras are fine as long as you remain in your seat. Please do not park on campus because parking is very limited at this time of day. You may bring family and guests with you to share in your *naches!*

TORAH READING SCHEDULE FOR MS. NEUSTADTER'S CLASS

Parshat Behar (Monday, May 3)

- David Ben-Naim
- Ariel Berookhim
- Jack Bricker
- Gia Capelouto
- Ava Freeman

- Jackson Gelbard
- Ben Hochman
- Austin Katz
- Tyler Klein
- Dean Kossoff

Parshat Bamidbar (Monday May 10)

- Miles Malin
- Olivia Mayers
- Arielle Meisel
- Rocky Reisz
- Nicole Rich
- Jessica Schiff
- David Tofer
- Tamar Weber
- Jack Weisskopf
- Justin Wise

TORAH READING SCHEDULE FOR MS. TICKER'S CLASS

Parshat Naso (Monday, May 17)

- Vivien Adler
- Max Bergman
- Eli Fabrick
- Clara Faraut
- Aaron Frey
- Haley Gagerman
- Talia Gandin
- Mia Handelsman
- Jordan Katz
- Zachary Lurie

Parshat Beha'alotcha (Monday May 24)

- Jonathan Pachulski
- Elijah Pimstone
- Oliver Pourmussa
- Netanya Ravid
- Gavin Satenberg
- Jonathan Shenassa
- Samantha Steinsapir
- Lily Tarica
- Leigh Tarica
- Eden Yadegar

TELLING TIME

On Monday, we will begin a new math unit with three important focuses: 1) telling time, 2) using calendars, and 3) determining elapsed time. First graders will learn to tell time to the hour and half-hour, record time using digital and analog clocks, and practice using and making monthly calendars. For the next few weeks, your child's homework will focus on these areas. We encourage you to talk with your child about what he or she is learning. At home, whenever the opportunity arises, allow your child to tell time and use a calendar. If

your child has an analog watch, please encourage her or him to wear it to school.

A NOTE ABOUT MIXED ADDITION AND SUBTRACTION FACTS

Mixed facts are tough stuff! When students are learning how to perform basic math operations, they tend to focus on the numbers rather than the operation sign. A student who is able to quickly and correctly solve an entire worksheet of either type of operation will usually make many mistakes when those operations are mixed on the same page. Nevertheless, we need to be able to switch gears and solve different types of problems. In order to help students take note of both the operation and the numbers, we will introduce a new strategy next week at school:

- Step 1: Circle addition facts in GREEN.
- Step 2: Circle subtraction facts in BLACK.
- Step 3: Solve the problems in order. (Do not skip around to solve all the problems with the same operation. The point is to practice switching back and forth between addition and subtraction.)

Please remind your child to follow this procedure at home as well. For the time being, do not time your child when he or she solves mixed facts. Accuracy is more important than speed.

THIRD 25 HIGH FREQUENCY WORDS

This week, we assessed your child's ability to read and spell the third 25 high frequency words we have been studying. On Monday, your child will receive a list of the words he or she needs to continue practicing. Every child's list will be different. For homework next week, your child will do a word study activity each day. We ask that you spend time reviewing these words and helping her or him with these word study activities.

THIS WEEK'S LIBRARIAN

Each week, our librarian keeps the classroom library organized and ready for eager readers. The librarian also has the opportunity to bring in three favorite books to share with the class. Please make sure your child's books are clearly labeled so we can return them at the end of the week.

- Ms. Neustadter's class – Jackson Gelbard
- Ms. Ticker's class – Aaron Frey

THIS WEEK'S SHABBAT SHOMER (FRIDAY, APRIL 30)

In Hebrew, shomer means guardian. Our Shabbat Shomer helps with our classroom celebration and has the opportunity to "show and tell" about one Judaica item brought from home (such as a shofar or menorah). Please remind your child to bring this item to share with the class on Friday.

- Ms. Neustadter's class – Jessica Schiff
- Ms. Ticker's class – Max Bergman

THIS WEEK'S HOT NEWS REPORTERS (FRIDAY, APRIL 30)

Hot News takes place at 8:20 am in the classroom. Parents are welcome to come watch their child's report.

- Ms. Neustadter's class – Ben Hochman
- Ms. Ticker's class – Elijah Pimstone

NEXT WEEK'S STUDENT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES (FRIDAY, APRIL 30)

Our representatives attend the Student Council meeting and then report back to the class about what is going on at school. Student Council meetings are held on Friday mornings at 7:30 am in Room 206.

- Ms. Neustadter's class – Justin Wise and Ari Berookhim
- Ms. Ticker's class – Oliver Pourmussa and Talia Gandin

WE'VE SURE BEEN BUSY...

- creating edible maps of Israel in celebration of Yom Ha'Atzmaut.
- counting combinations of coins that include pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters.
- ordering items from a menu to practice counting coins and making change.

SOON WE'LL BEGIN...

- sprouting lima bean seeds to learn the parts of a plant.
- telling time to the hour and half-hour.
- taking action to make the Earth a better place.

Thank you,

The First Grade Team

Ms. Neustadter, Ms. Ticker, Mrs. Cohen,

Mrs. Toomin, and Morah Hagit