

September/October 2023 • Elul 5783/Tishrei/Cheshvan 5784 • אלול תשפ"ג , תשרי - חשון תשפ"ג , תשרי

כיתה ד'

Shalom 4th Grade Parents,

"The beginning is the most important part of the work." Plato

Our class has been off to a great start.

Hebrew:

During the first weeks, our Hebrew focus has been on assessment and review. Students reviewed their previous knowledge in Hebrew in order to build on it.

Daily Life Track:

This year we will use the book "Alef Bet: Yeladim Lomdim Ivrit" (Children Study Hebrew). It is a unique program, based on the ulpan system of teaching Hebrew as a foreign language to children in elementary school. Hebrew is taught in a step by step program, from beginners to advanced levels. The course of study includes the systematic instruction of grammar exercises and texts which are especially designed to suit the needs of children, their culture and special world.

During the months of September and October fourth grade, we are focusing on increasing vocabulary and grammar skills:

- pronouns (singular and plural)
- verbs (present tense)
- question words

Holidays:

We are learning about the Tishrei holidays: Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, and Simchat Torah. We are learning historical facts, Jewish customs, stories, prayers, and songs. We are doing many activities to help enhance the experiences of the Jewish holidays in the month of Tishrei such as the Shofar Factory before blowing the shofar, sitting in the sukkah, and shaking the lulav and etrog. On each of the Tishrei holidays, after establishing the students' previous knowledge, we will explore new topics such as what the Mishnah (Oral Law) says about the observances surrounding the holidays. We discussed personal reflections on how each of us can do Teshuvah (repentance) according to Ramban, or improve ourselves for the coming year.

Torah:

After reviewing the stories of Avraham, we have since immersed ourselves in the Torah stories of Parashat Toldot in the book of Genesis (Beresheet in Hebrew). The Toldot portion tells the stories of Isaac and Rebecca and their sons Jacob and Esau. We use the Matok curriculum and its workbook as a base, but fill our lessons with exploration of important family issues such as sibling rivalry, feelings of jealousy, parental loyalty, faith in the future, and trust in G-d. Students will be challenged in both Hebrew and English to sharpen their skills in Hebrew vocabulary as well as in the emotional lessons and important values of the Torah stories. They will use language skills, literary tools, games and rabbinic midrash to deepen this experience.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with questions or concerns. We look forward to a great and productive school year.

Thank you for your support,

Morah Sigal, Morah Galia, Morah Mali, Morah Mika and Morah Tiki