

Enrollment for the 2010-11 Religious School year is currently underway. From Bible stories, holiday art projects and the introduction of the Hebrew alphabet in Kindergarten to the philosophic and values driven debates held in 12th grade, children at Temple Israel find a warm, nurturing community where teachers strive to instill a love of Jewish life and learning. Religious School is an extension of our congregants homes where Jewish values are modeled, questions of faith can be safely explored, holidays are celebrated and the customs, rituals and traditions of Jewish life are passed on to a new generation.

We have a large student body, 500 children come in and out of the temple every week from September – May. From Sunday – Thursday our school buzzes with activity. In class Hebrew is taught and reinforced with dozens of innovative teaching techniques and you can always find clusters of young students in and out of the classrooms practicing their reading with our more than 50 teen madrichim (student aides). Torah and Prophets lessons are taught each year with increasing depth. History is brought to life with exciting projects. The beauty and complexities of Israel are explored with the help each year of a new, young Israeli emissary who creates activities to help students make meaningful connections with our Jewish homeland. On any given day you may find children singing in the reception room, praying together in the sanctuary, practicing the chanting of prayers and blessings in our computer center, learning how to cook Jewish specialties in the kitchen, conducting a bake sale to raise tzedakah for their class's chosen charity or studying with their parents in a family program.

There is a vibrancy and vitality in our school created by happy, energetic children learning, sharing, thinking, questioning and celebrating together. Every Jewish child should be so blessed to be part of a community like this. From Kindergarten until they go off to college Temple Israel is here to nurture the Jewish identity of each child. The teachers and I hope that every family will take advantage of what we have to offer and give their children the gift of a Jewish education.

In 2010-11 we look forward to welcoming back our hundreds of returning students and we look forward to greeting the new students who will become part of our community. ***Parents, make sure that you take advantage of the early bird enrollment discount available until May 21.***

If you are the parent of a child entering Kindergarten in 2010, we hope you will take advantage of our newest offer to temple members – Kindergarten is tuition free.

If you have questions about our curriculum and programs or if you are planning to enroll your child for the first time and would like to visit a class in session, please call Director of Education, Karin Beitel, at 203-227-1656 or email – kbeitel@tiwestport.org.