



Kindergarten Judaic Studies 2018-2019 Morah Shira

ברוכים הבאים לגן הילדים!
אני מורה שירה, המורה לעברית בגן.

In the Kindergarten program, at OJCS, I spend $\frac{1}{4}$ of the day with your *yeladim*, teaching them Hebrew language and Judaic studies.

What does this mean in Kindergarten?

Circle Time



Circle time is an important part of the day. This is where we come together as a whole group to speak our thought and ideas, listen to our friends, sing songs, hear stories, and learn together. During circle we participate in routine activities such as *Tefillot* (prayer), learn new Hebrew words and phrases, discuss the weather, days of the week, seasons, and more. It is also our time to introduce new concepts and ideas to the *yeladim*. These concepts are reinforced through games, songs, and activities.

Shabbat & Holidays



Celebrating Shabbat and the Jewish Holidays is an important focus in our class. Each Friday, we will host a Shabbat Party where the *yeladim* will take turns as the *Ima* and *Aba*. We will give *Tzedakah* (charity), recite the *brachot* (blessings) over the candles, grape juice and challah, sing songs and learn about the *Parashat Hashavua* (*Torah portion of the week*). After the holidays, I will send home a list detailing when it is each child's turn to bring in a challah, *tzedakah* and special healthy snack.

We will learn the customs and rituals behind each of our *chagim* (Jewish holidays) and celebrate together. The *yeladim* will make crafts, play games, hear stories, and have lots of fun!

עברית (Hebrew)



In Kindergarten, we use a program called **מגדלור** (migdalor), it focuses on teaching Hebrew reading (developing decoding skills) and Hebrew language acquisition for beginning readers. The *yeladim* will also become familiar with the Hebrew alphabet (letters and sounds) as well as their Hebrew names.

Torah



We will learn and discuss several stories from the *Torah* (Bible), including Noah's Ark, Jonah and the Fish, Jacob and his Coat of many Colours, and Moshe Rabbeinu leading the Jewish people out of slavery.

Jewish Values



Throughout the course of the year, we will help guide the *yeladim* in making good life choices by instilling Jewish values. Some of the themes we will focus on are *Tikkun Olam* (repairing the world), *Ahavat Yisrael* (loving one another and Israel), *Tzedakah* (giving charity), and respecting our elders.

I am very excited to be embarking on this wonderful journey of learning and discovery with your children, and am looking forward to a wonderful year ahead.

Please feel free to contact me anytime when you have questions or concerns at:
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שנה טובה!
מורה שירה