

Bolton Street Synagogue

Religious School 2015-2016



Joyce Singer, Director of Education

John Franken, Rabbi

Russ Margolis, Synagogue President

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

8/16 Faculty In-service

8/30 first day of school

9/6 NO SCHOOL LABOR DAY

9/13 Back to School Day

9/20 music

9/25 – 9/26 7th grade retreat

9/27

OCTOBER

10/4 Simchat Torah program music

10/11 music

10/18

10/23 Vav/Zayin Shabbat

10/25

NOVEMBER 2015

11/1

11/8 music Bet Family Ed

11/13 Teen trip to DC with Rabbi

11/15

11/22 music

Vav students to Jewish Museum family history program – with Bet Tikvah

11/30 NO SCHOOL - THANKSGIVING BREAK

DECEMBER

12/6

12/13 Hanukkah program music

12/20 progress reports due

12/27 NO SCHOOL - WINTER BREAK

JANUARY 2016

1/3 NO SCHOOL WINTER BREAK

1/10 music

1/17 Zayin Family Education

1/24 Tu B'shvat program music

1/31

FEBRUARY 2016

2/ 7 music

Dalet Family Education

2/14 NO SCHOOL

2/21 music

2/28

3/27 Purim celebration

MARCH 2016

3/4 Dalet/Hey Shabbat

3/6 music

3/13

3/20 music

Hey Family Education

APRIL 2016

4/3 music

4/10 Good Deeds Day

4/17 music

Passover Program

4/24 NO SCHOOL SPRING BREAK

MAY 2016

5/1 Yom HaShoah observance

5/1 Bet Shabbat service

5/8 Yom Ha'atzmaut program music

5/15 Final day End of Year Picnic progress reports due

5/22 Snow make-up day

Gan/Aleph

- Students will be introduced to Hebrew vocabulary, holiday customs, mitzvot, Bible stories, and the synagogue
 - they will learn the following Hebrew words and phrases and their meanings: abba, ahavah, aleph bet, aron kodesh, beit sefer, bima, boker tov, challah, gan, ima, mezuzah, mitz, morah/moreh, seder, Shabbat, shalom, siddur, Torah, yaldah/yeled/yeladim
 - they will learn basic vocabulary and customs relating to Jewish holidays
- Students will be introduced to the mitzvot of tzedakkah, care of self, shalom bayit, being kind, helping others feel better, caring for animals, and protecting the environment

Kitah Bet

Hebrew

Text *Shalom Alef Bet*

- Students will be introduced to the Hebrew letters and vowels
- Students will learn that Hebrew is read from right to left
- Students will develop simple decoding skills and learn single-syllable letter-vowel combinations
- Students will be introduced to basic vocabulary
- Reading assessments will take place in December and May

Bible/Torah

Text *Let's Discover the Bible*

- Students will be introduced to the Torah/Bible through story and activity folders

Israel

Text *The Great Israel Scavenger Hunt*

- Students learn about Israel's history, geography, and people as well as basic Hebrew expressions

Chagim and Yom Tov – Holidays and Holy Days

Text *Jewish Holiday Treasure Trail*

- Students will learn about holiday traditions, history, and blessings with the same characters in *The Great Israel Scavenger Hunt*

Values

Text *Let's Discover Mitzvot*

- Students will learn about eight mitzvot: tzedakah, visiting the sick, feeding the hungry, saving the earth, derech eretz, welcoming guests, guarding your tongue, and Talmud Torah

Kitah Gimel

Hebrew/Brachot

Text Shalom Uvarach Primer Express

- Students will learn to decode Hebrew, identifying Hebrew letters and their sounds
- Students will learn to read and chant the following blessings: motzi, the short Kiddush, blessing over juice, blessing over snacks, blessing for washing hands, Shabbat and Havdalah candle blessings
- Students will learn blessings for Sukkot, and the Four Questions for Pesach
- Reading assessments will be taken in December and May

Torah

Text *Explorer's Bible Volume I Genesis - Exodus*

- Students will explore stories from Genesis while learning key Hebrew words and Torah related values
- Students will learn to create midrashim
- Biblical archeology will help students connect to Biblical events

The Synagogue

Text *The Synagogue: The House of the Jewish People*

- Students will learn how our ancestors worshipped and The Holy Temple
- Students will learn about synagogues around the world
- Students will learn about the sanctuary, the Torah and how we pray

Chagim and Yom Tov/Holidays and Holy Days

Teacher Resources: *Holiday Pak 4 – 6, The Book of Jewish Holidays, Teacher's Edition, Teaching Jewish Holidays: History, Values, and Activities*

Middot/Values

Text *A Kid's Mensch Handbook: Step by Step to a Lifetime of Jewish Values*

- Students will learn basic Jewish values self-respect and how to treat others through stories, Jewish texts, and discussion
- Students will be able to relate to Jewish values on a personal and global level

Kitah Dalet

Hebrew/Tefillah

Text **Decoding: The New Siddur Primer; Prayers: Hineni I**

- Students will spend first month on decoding and mastering consonant and vowel sounds

- Students will learn and master *bar'chu, shema, v'ahavtah,, mi chamocho, and brachot shel Shabbat*
- Reading assessments will be taken in September, December, and May

Torah

Text **Explorer's Bible Volume II From Sinai to the Nation of Israel**

- Students will explore stories from several books of the Bible while learning key Hebrew words and Torah related values
- Students will create midrashim
- Students will learn to find solutions for their conflicts by learning about the conflicts our ancestors faced

Life Cycle

Text *Journey of a Lifetime: The Jewish Life Cycle Book*

- Students will learn about Brit Milah and Brit Bat, baby naming, Consecration, Bar and Bat Mitzvah, Confirmation, the marriage ceremony, the funeral, *and* rituals of mourning with Bible stories and mitzvot highlighting the ethical values of each life-cycle event

Chagim and Yom Tov/Holidays and Holy Days

Resources *Holiday Pak 4 – 6, The Book of Jewish Holidays, Teacher's Edition, Teaching Jewish Holidays: History, Values, and Activities*

Middot/Values

Text *Living Jewish Values, Volumes I and II Lesson Plan Manual*

- Students will learn the Hebrew value terms for specific Jewish values
- Through reading, discussion, and activities, students will understand value concepts and
- Students will be able to identify core sacred texts associated with each value
- Students will recognize the relevance of these values to society and develop a plan to adopt each value in their personal lives

Kitah Hey

Hebrew/Tefillah

Text **Journeys Through the Siddur: Friday Evenings**

- Students will learn the order of the Friday evening service
- Focus will be on decoding, mastery and meaning of prayers
- Students will learn to recognize word parts, root and other language elements that will help connect them to the prayers they learn; students will make personal connections with the prayers they learn
- Students will master *ahavat olam, v'ahavtah, vishamru, avot v'imahot, and g'vurot*
- Reading assessments will be taken in September, December, and May

Torah

Text: **My Weekly Sidrah**

- Students will understand the concept of weekly parshiot
- Students will read weekly Torah parsha and discuss

Israel

Text **History of Israel Student Pack**

Chagim and Yom Tov/Holidays and Holy Days

Resources *Holiday Pak 4 – 6, The Book of Jewish Holidays, Teacher’s Edition, Teaching Jewish Holidays: History, Values, and Activities*

Middot/Values

Text *Living Jewish Values, Volumes 3 & 4 Lesson Plan Manual*

- Students will learn the Hebrew value terms for specific Jewish values
- Through reading, discussion, and activities, students will understand value concepts and
- Students will be able to identify core sacred texts associated with each value
- Students will recognize the relevance of these values to society and develop a plan to adopt each value in their personal lives

Kitah Vav

Hebrew/ Tefillot

Text *Journeys Through the Siddur: Friday Evening; Journey through the Siddur: Saturday Morning*

- Students will review brachot and tefillot covered in Kitot Gimel through Hey
- Students will learn concluding prayers: *Aleinu, Kaddish, Ein Keloheinu*
- Students will learn sleeping and waking prayers: *Hashkiveinu, Shema, Modeh/Modah Ani*
- Focus will be on reading fluency as well as comprehension
- Reading assessments will be taken in September, December, and May

Torah

Text **Basic Judaism 2: Torah and Teacher’s Guide**

- Students will learn Jewish history through Torah
- Students will read and discuss stories to examine morality
- Students will learn Jewish values through the lives and actions of Jewish heroes
- Sources will include: Haftarah, Midrash, Halachah, Humash, Tanach, Nevi'im, and Talmud

American Jewish History

Text *Let Freedom Ring: A History of the Jews in the United States, and Teacher’s Guide*

- Students will learn about the history of Jews in the United States from pre-Colonial America to the present
- Students will be asked to consider their own roles in the next chapter of Jewish American history

Chagim and Yom Tov/Holidays and Holy Days

Resources *Holiday Pak 4 – 6, The Book of Jewish Holidays, Teacher’s Edition, Teaching Jewish Holidays: History, Values, and Activities*

Middot/Values

Text *Manga Midrash: The Series*

- Through manga, an illustrated storytelling technique originally developed in Japan, students will read Bible story, a rabbinic midrash exploring that story, and a related Jewish value.
- students will actively participate in the tradition of interpreting sacred text while discussing Jewish values

Kitah Zayin

Hebrew/Tefillah

- Students review brachot and tefillot covered in Kitot Bet through Vav with an emphasis on fluency and comprehension
- Students will become familiar with the synagogue siddur and the order of the service
- Students will study passages from the weekly *parshiot* in Hebrew and English using the *Chumash*
- Students will assist in leading *tefillot* at Tefillah: Prayer and Share

Holocaust

Text **The Holocaust: A History of Courage and Resistance, and Discussion Guide**

- Students will learn about events leading up to the Holocaust, Hitler’s rise to power, the Resistance, righteous gentiles, ghettos and concentration camps

Chagim and Yom Tov/Holidays and Holy Days

Resources *Holiday Pak 4 – 6, The Book of Jewish Holidays, Teacher’s Edition, Teaching Jewish Holidays: History, Values, and Activities*

Middot/Values

Text *Jewish Heroes, Jewish Values, and Teacher’s Guide*

- Students will learn about Jews involved in some of the most dramatic moments of the 20th century including Sandy Koufax, Golda Meir, Abraham Joshua Heschel, Natan and Avital Sharansky, Anne Frank, Yonatan Netenyahu, Menachem Begin, Stephen Spielberg

2015-2016 Bolton Street Synagogue Religious School FAQ

When does Religious School meet?

Bolton Street Religious School meets Sunday mornings from 9:30a-12:00p. We begin our day with Tefillah: Prayer and Share in the Sanctuary.

How many children are enrolled in the Religious School?

Currently, there are 55 children enrolled between the grades of Gan-Aleph (kindergarten) through Zayin (7th grade), as well as 16 teens involved with our Confirmation Class/Teaching Assistant program

Is synagogue membership required to register for religious school?

Yes, synagogue membership is required to enroll your child in our religious school.

What is tuition for the religious school?

Tuition is \$700 per child.

Is there a post B'nai Mitzvah program/Confirmation Class for teens?

Yes! There is a new, exciting program for teens this year! Teens will meet three Sundays a month and it includes Confirmation Class, volunteer projects and teen trips with our teen educator!

Is it true you're one of the only synagogues with a "ga-ga" pit on site?

Yes, we do indeed have a ga-ga pit set up on site. It is brand new and a HUGE hit with the kids!

What are the basics of the curriculum for the religious school?

Each class focuses on several specific Jewish values for the year and, through their study of Torah stories, Hebrew language, art, music and prayer, develop an appreciation for them.

Who are most of your faculty members of the synagogue? College students? Non-members?

We have faculty from all walks of life, each bringing their own unique skillset to their classroom. All of our teachers are dedicated to Jewish values and functioning as Jewish role models for our students!

We are an interfaith household. Will my child feel comfortable in the religious school?

Absolutely! Our students come from families with parents from many different backgrounds and faith traditions.

What is the religious school's approach towards inclusion?

As an open Jewish community, it is one of our top priorities to ensure that each child is comfortable and successful at our religious school. We work with the Center for Jewish Education to ensure that we are set up to accommodate children of all abilities and learning styles.

Is there a music program?

Each class spends a half hour twice a month with our music specialists learning new, fun songs related to Judaism!

Is there an opportunity for family education?

"Family Education Days" are held twice a year for each grade level, during which families are invited in for breakfast and a morning of informal Jewish learning with their child!

This all sounds amazing! Where can I register?

Click the following link to register your child today!

<https://boltonstreetsynagogue.wufoo.com/forms/20142015-bss-religious-school-enrollment-form/>