

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

January/February 2012

According to the Roman calendar, the month of January is named after Janus, who had two heads, each looking in a different direction. Since it was the first month of the year, people took the time to reflect on the year just past and to plan for the future. think that it is appropriate for us to do the same. So much is coming up in the RS this month, it would make old Janus' heads spin!



At the end of December we finished our study of Hanukkah and enjoyed the school-wide Hanukkah Extravaganza. The reactions of students and parents to the edicts of “Antiochus” and “desecration” of the Sanctuary concretized the reasons for the Maccabees’ fight against the Syrian Greeks. Thanks to Cantor Nadel and Rabbi Mallach for taking part in our reenactment, as well as all the teachers and Madrichim (Macabees and Greeks) for their part in this program.

January starts off with a “*Yom Iyun*” for teachers as part of their ongoing Professional Growth. We’ll be exploring the field of Brain-Based Learning. I look forward to innovations in lessons and new ways of approaching student learning.

Kitah Hey will be preparing for their Havdalah service by creating items for the ceremony that marks the end of Shabbat. They will make their own special braided or twisted candles, decorate wine goblets and create fragrant spice holders, all designed to enhance the mitzvah of Melave Malka, saying farewell to the Sabbath Queen.

Kitah Dalet students and their parents will participate in a Zimriyah (songfest) with other students from MetroWest congregations at Adath Shalom in Parsippany. This annual event is a highlight for our Kitah Dalet students, whose performance is the best (I say this with all due modesty- we RULE!)

Kitah Vav students and their parents will be extra busy. They will meet with Rabbi Mallach for the first of a series of five seminars focusing on topics germane to Bar/Bat Mitzvah. They will pray, eat and learn together (almost sounds like a good name for a book..). The next week they get to sleep late and then go to Whippany for Mitzvot of MetroWest, the area exhibition of Tikkun Olam /Mitzvah Projects/Community Service opportunities available to students in sixth and seventh grades. They are sure to find a program there that will pique their interest and create a lifelong commitment to making the world a better place.

Shabbatot are filled with the sounds of singing prayers and discussing Torah. What could be better? Thanks to our leaders, Jesse, Michele, Zach, Elana, Carolyn, Greg, Justin, Ariel and Shir for all their hard work every week. Make sure that you come! If you attend another synagogue for Shabbat, take advantage of our Shul Hop form, available in the office.

Are you tired yet?
Keep warm and I'll see you in Religious School.

Gail Buchbinder, Education Director