



CONGREGATION B'NAI JESHURUN
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WE CAN'T WAIT TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL!

We can't wait to see you the first week of Hebrew School, which begins on Monday, September 8, 2008! Just a reminder that Hebrew School meets at the Abraham Joshua Heschel School, located at 270 West 89th Street, between Broadway and West End Avenue. During school hours, you can reach the office at (212) 873-4548. At all other times, please call us at the BJ office, (212) 787-7600.

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

Please make a note of our new arrival and dismissal procedures, which are designed to maximize classroom learning time. **ARRIVAL:** At 3:45pm, students in Gan, Aleph and Bet should report to the Chapel at the back of the first floor. Parents and other adults are welcome to accompany them. At 3:45pm, students in Gimmel, Dalet, Hey, Vav and Zayin will go upstairs to their classrooms. Students may not enter the elevators or stairways without an adult. Our wonderful teenage Ozrim (teachers assistants) will be assigned to chaperone students in the elevators and stairwells. Students will not be permitted to enter the Heschel building before 3:45pm without an adult. **DISMISSAL:** Students in Gan, Aleph and Bet will dismiss from the Chapel. Students in Gimmel and above will dismiss from the Reception Room.

Junior Congregation Attendance Requirement

On the first and third Saturday of each month, beginning on September 6th, our student- and rabbinic-led Junior Congregation meets at 10:30 in the basement Social Hall at 86th Street. To help connect Hebrew School families to the Congregation, as well as help reinforce and concretize the prayers our students learn at Hebrew School, we have a Junior Congregation attendance requirement for students in second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth grades. **Each year, students in grades 2-6 must attend Junior Congregation at least as many times as their grade number (second graders must attend twice, third graders three times, fourth graders four times, etc.). Attendance will be taken.** Your family may choose which dates work best for you. We will discuss this in greater depth at Back to School Night on September 25.

Looking Ahead: Calendar Dates for the Next Few Weeks

- September 8 is the first day of school for Monday students.
- September 11 is the first day of school for Thursday students.
- Hebrew School will be closed on September 29 for Rosh Hashana.
- Hebrew School will be closed on October 9 for Yom Kippur.
- Hebrew School will be closed on October 13 for Sukkot.
- Hebrew School will be closed on October 20 for Shemini Atzeret.
- Hebrew School will be closed on November 27 for Thanksgiving.
- Back to School Night for parents, no matter which day or days your child attends Hebrew School, is on Thursday, September 25 at 7pm in the 88th Street Sanctuary.

We are pleased to continue our partnership with BJ's Environmental Action Hevra, and keep Hebrew School paper-free at the parent level this year. All of our paper consumption will take place in the school and in the classrooms, but after this letter, all of our communication with parents will be electronic.

How will this work?

Website – expected up in the middle of August

Looking for information about the Hebrew School on BJ's website? Go to www.bj.org and click on "Hebrew School" on the left side of BJ's home page, you will be taken to the Hebrew School site. Here, you can find the following information:

- Our calendar for the 2008-2009 school year to print and hang on your fridge
- Family Handbook of policies and procedures, with new information for 2008-2009
- Our mission and vision statements
- Links to information about what's happening for families at BJ

In addition, we have created a password-protected area of the site for Hebrew School parents to be a warehouse for slightly more sensitive information. Here, you can find the following information:

- Student lists – both alphabetical by last name and alphabetical by class assignment. These lists include parent names, phone numbers, and email addresses, as well as days and times that your child's class will meet. This is how you will find your child's class assignment for this year. The class assignment lists are NOT included in this letter.
- Teacher contact list for all of our teachers
- Information about our Hebrew School Advisory Committee
- Information about becoming a Class Parent
- Regularly updated information and reminders about what's coming up in school and how to enrich your child's classroom experience by complementing it with at-home learning.

Username and password for this part of the website will be mailed at the end of August.

Weekly Email Updates

Second, as in the past, our weekly email updates, which are sent on Thursday mornings from the bjhs@bj.org email account, will continue. Please be sure to adjust the security settings on your email account to make sure our emails get to you, especially if you have an AOL email address. The first email will be sent the first week of school.

If for some reason your family will be unable to read email or access the website, please let us know as soon as possible.

Hebrew School ID Cards

Towards the end of August you will receive two key-chain parent/caregiver ID cards for your family. Adults MUST present this card to enter the Heschel building. Adults without ID cards will not be allowed to enter the building until the security staff checks their names against the list of Hebrew School parents and adults authorized to pick up students. The best way to get into the building quickly is to be sure that you, your partner, your caregiver, or whomever will be dropping off and picking up your child has a Hebrew School ID card. If you need extra ID cards, they will be available at Hebrew School beginning on September 8.

We hope you enjoy the last days of summer vacation, and we are looking forward to seeing you in just a few weeks!

Kol tuv,
Ivy Schreiber
Director of the Religious School
Interim Director of Education
(Youth & Family)