



## **Carpool Curriculum by Michael Raileanu**



### **CARPOOL CURRICULUM**

As is our tradition, we discuss whatever parasha is being read on the Shabbat at the end of any given week. Well, as we all know this week ends with Yom Kippur so our discussion will reflect that fact. Traditionally, the first part of the reading is Leviticus 16:1-34 followed by Numbers 29:7-11. And of course traditionally in the afternoon service we read the Book of Jonah. Man, oh man, there is a lot to talk about here. The Torah reading opens with a reference to the death of Aaron's son, Nadav and Avihu. They brought "a strange fire" into the Holy of Holies and were consumed by that fire. Hmmm, why start here? Why not skip that and move on to the Yom Kippur rituals that follow? Is it possible that Jewish Tradition was trying to tell us something about our behavior in synagogue? If so, what? Do you think it was done just 'cus it was easy, beginning 16:1 instead of 16:2? What reasons can you come up with? Only Aaron (and then the Koheyn Gadol-High Priest) was allowed into the Holy of Holies on Yom Kippur. Why? How would the status of that day, that event change if everyone could step in there? How might it have helped if every Jew could enter that space? In the Holy of Holies on Yom Kippur was the only time God was called by the official four letter name of God. We no longer say it at all.

Bummer. Why is a name like that so important? What power is there in a name, any name? Why don't children normally call their parents by their first names? How would that change the relationship? How would knowing God's formal, formal, formal name and using it all the time change our relationship? Why is the President called Mr. President and not Barry, like when he was kid? What's the difference? How is this similar/different from the whole "God's name" business? Fasting! Fasting! Fasting! That seems like the most famous part of Yom Kippur. Why do we do it? Does fasting really help people focus on repentance? How? What are some other reasons for fasting (health, tikkun olam, etc.)? Do you fast? When did you start? What is the hardest part of fasting for you? Jonah, oh poor Jonah. Man, what a confused guy. He tries to run away from God. What's the problem with that idea? The people toss him off of the boat. Does that remind you of any Jewish ritual from this time of the year? How is Jonah like those bread crumbs? Jonah is a short book, read it. Now that you've read it, what do you think about the end? Does it even have an end? In your opinion, what happens next? Jonah is sitting on that hill and God has been wagging the Godly finger at him and making him feel bad. What does Jonah do? Where does he go? Is he ever going to be happy?

**Shavuah Tov & Gmar Tov!**

## **Shavuon L'Mishpachot on the web!**

Your child was sick, you were out of town, your very responsible child forgot to hand it to you, it got stuffed in the bottom of their backpack, you "accidentally" threw it out and wanted to look something up, wondering if there is or isn't school on a particular day...whatever the reason might be, you can access ALL past issues of the Hebrew School's weekly newsletter (the Shavuon L'Mishpachot) online! Simply visit the PSJC Hebrew School Facebook group OR the Hebrew School section of the website (www.psjc.org), go to the "SHAVUON L'MISHPACHOT" section and click on the link for the week you are looking for...

If you missed an issue, please be sure to check it out online to stay up to date on all of the latest happenings at the Hebrew School!

### Upcoming Important Dates

- 10/4 HS (K-2)
- 10/5 HS (3-7)
- 10/9 NO HS-Columbus Day
- 10/11 HS (K-2)/Time in the Sukkah
- 10/12 NO HS—Erev Sukkot
- 10/16 HS (3-7)/Time in the Sukkah
- 10/18 HS (K-2)
- 10/19 NO HS-Erev Shmini Atzeret
- 10/23 HS (3-7)/Kitah Gimel Parent Student Study Session w/ Rabbi Carter & the teachers

### **Happy Birthday**

The PSJC Hebrew School wishes the following birthdays this week a "Yom Huledet Sameach!"

- Jackson P.** (Kitah Hay) 10/4
- Ellie L.** (Kitah Gimel) 10/5
- Anna Hollander** (Kitah Gimel Madricha) 10/5
- Laura Hollander** (Kitah Dalet Madricha) 10/5
- Lori Levine** (Kitah Zayin teacher/Rosh T'fillah 5-7) 10/5
- Beili C.** (Kitah Dalet) 10/8
- Leah L.** (Kitah Vav) 10/8





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### What Should I bring to Hebrew School Each Week?

Each student should bring their 1) class books, 2) pencil, 3) *Tzedakah* and 4) anything your teacher has specifically requested.

### **E-MAIL**

Please make sure we have your correct e-mail address. This will be our primary source of communication. If you have not received anything via e-mail from Elisabeth check with her at [principal@psjc.org](mailto:principal@psjc.org) to make sure we didn't make a mistake!

### **Back 2 School Nite**

Please mark your calendars for **Wednesday, November 2nd** at 7:15 PM. Parents are invited to shmooze with one another, hear from the principal, rabbi and committee members about what is going on in the school, and have a chance to talk to your child's teacher(s) in a casual "science fair-style" event.

**facebook**

Have you joined the **PSJC Hebrew School** Facebook group? This is a closed group for current PSJC Hebrew School parents, students and teachers. We'll post class updates, pictures, reminders and more here! Just another fun way (in addition to emails, the website, and the Shavuon L'Mishpachot) to stay in touch with all of the amazing things happening in Hebrew School this year.

## **Parent Study Sessions w/Rabbi Carter**

Parent-Student Study Sessions are a fun, interesting way of learning more about what your children do in Hebrew School. 1) Parents are encouraged to join us at the beginning of the day for Havdallah or T'fillah. 2) Parents join Rabbi Carter for an adult-level lesson on a subject the students have been working on. All parents are welcome regardless of their Jewish educational experiences...there is no homework or prerequisites. 3) After the lesson with the Rabbi, parents join their children and the teacher for a special Parent-Student lesson/activity. We hope to see you at your class study session soon!

### **Upcoming Study Sessions**

October 23rd: Kitah Gimel (3<sup>rd</sup> grade)

### **Volunteers needed to supervise children playing in the yard on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur**

We need people to function as official "shushers" of adults and to supervise children playing in the tent/yard.

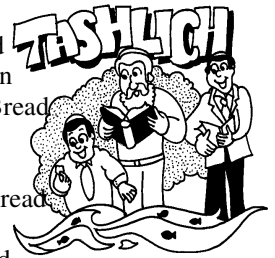
Mini Minyan and Junior Congregation end around 12:15 pm. Supervision is most needed from 12:15 - 1:30 pm (although volunteers would be appreciated all morning to be an extra pair of eyes for any play in the yard). Please contact Reva Grossberg to volunteer: [Revacarm1@aol.com](mailto:Revacarm1@aol.com)

## **YOUR TASHLICH BREAD OF CHOICE...**

On Rosh Hashana (Jewish New Year), there is a ceremony called *Tashlich*. Jews traditionally go to the ocean (or a stream or river), pray, and then throw bread crumbs onto the water, for the fish to symbolically eat their sins. Some people have been known to ask what kind of bread crumbs should they throw). Taking a few crumbs to *Tashlich* from whatever old bread is in the house lacks subtlety, nuance and religious sensitivity. I would suggest that we can do better. Instead:

For ordinary sins, use...White Bread  
For particularly dark sins ...Pumpernickel  
For twisted sins ...Pretzels  
For committing auto theft ...Caraway  
For committing arson ...Toast  
For excessive use of irony ...Rye Bread  
For war-mongering ...Kaiser Rolls  
For davenning (praying) off tune ...Flat Bread  
For dropping in without warning ...Popovers  
For causing injury or damage to others ...Tortes  
For being up-tight and irritable ...High Fiber or Bran Muffins  
For sins committed in less than eighteen minutes...Shmurah Matzah

For exotic sins ...French Bread  
For complex sins ...Multi-Grain  
For sins of chutzpah ...Fresh Bread  
For petty larceny ...Stollen  
For silliness ...Nut Bread  
For telling bad jokes ...Corn Bread  
For sins of pride ...Puff Pastry  
For impetuosity ...Quick Bread  
For being ill tempered/sulky ...Sourdough



### **Headcoverings**

Please note that it is the policy of the Park Slope Jewish Center (not just the Hebrew School) that ALL people where appropriate head coverings during services. We don't consider coat or sweatshirt hoods as head coverings, though hats are accepted. **\*\*Students are encouraged to bring their OWN head coverings to school each day.** We can provide them for you if you do not bring your own. Parents can help us out by reminding students about this policy.