



1 September 2009/12 Elul 5769

Dear Beit Ahavah Community School families:

Welcome to a new and exciting year ahead of learning and connection in the **Beit Ahavah Community School** as **we enter our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary year!** Rabbi Riqi and the "YOFIE" Committee (Youth and Families Involved in Education) under Andrew Bourke's leadership have been working throughout the summer to develop our program to engage our children and enrich our families and community. This registration packet includes the following important information:

- Registration form
- Tuition form
- Parent Volunteer form
- Emergency Card
- Dates at a Glance – to post on your fridge!

DATES & ORIENTATION & FORMS:

**Thursday Hebrew School begins October 1<sup>st</sup>** and **Sunday Religious School start October 18<sup>th</sup>**. The start date is delayed this year because of the Jewish fall holidays, which primarily occur on weekends in the upcoming Jewish year of 5770 – making our Sundays coincide beautifully with celebration in the year ahead.

**Parent Orientation** is on the first day of Religious School led by Rabbi Riqi on Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at 4pm. School begins with an all-school "Kehillah" community gathering at 3:30pm, followed by first day of classes for students, nosh and Orientation for parents. At the end of Orientation, parents will join their children's prospective classrooms for the last half hour of planned activity.

If you have more than one child in the school, you can either divide up parental duties if you have more than one parent available, or else we will do our best to help you divide your time. The children will be prepared that parents will participate at the end of the day. This will be your first opportunity to meet and greet the teachers and help us get the year off to a great start together as parent-child-teacher teams. We listened to your feedback last year, and want to create a strong connection between parents and teachers.

**Registration & Tuition forms (2 sides) & Emergency Card. NEW this year: YOFIE Household Volunteer form!** Please return the forms as soon as possible and by September 18 – Rosh Hashanah! This will ensure you get a good inscription to the Book of Life, or at least make our book keeping and class roster planning successful. You can mail these forms or drop in the door-slot at the Beit Ahavah office at 182 Main Street, Suite 202. We appreciate your help. **WE MUST HAVE THESE FORMS OR YOUR CHILD CANNOT BEGIN RELIGIOUS SCHOOL.**

**School Calendar.** Enclosed please find the "DATES AT A GLANCE" (2 sides) with the dates of school and school events. We may add more events and special programs as the year goes on. You can also always check the School & Synagogue Full Calendar on [www.beitahavah.org](http://www.beitahavah.org) for updates to the Synagogue/School calendar.

MISSION:

**Our mission** is to offer educational opportunities that emphasize experiential learning, family education and thoughtful Jewish content within the classroom. Our goal is to create a program that promotes a positive identification with a meaningful Judaism that is a place where both children and parents want to be while exploring Judaism and its richness through dynamic programs, the arts and learning opportunities.

We are excited to continue to build upon our Beit Ahavah Community School's successes: Our Sunday Religious School program, Tikkun Olam Club (social justice projects) expanded to grades 5+ and to include parent involvement when possible, Thursday Hebrew School with the Mitkadem Hebrew program & a more structured Tefillah/prayer component led by Rabbi Riqi, B'nei Mitzvah Class program with Rabbi Riqi, Kef Mishpachah (younger grades K-2 Family & Fun programs), Holiday and Family Education programs.

Here are some Highlights of the full year ahead!

#### SCHOOL AGE & FAMILY PROGRAMS:

We are lucky this year to have **many great teachers**, some new and some returning and four parent teachers! Our cadre includes Felicia Sloin (6<sup>th</sup> grade & music), Ben Beraha (7<sup>th</sup> grade), Tami Fields (Thursday Hebrew), returning parent member-teachers Kenny Hahn (Thursday Hebrew) and Sharon Saline (6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> grade special Jewish immigration project), and new fantastic parent-teachers Lisa Prolman (3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grade) and Jennifer Friedman (Gan/K), and a few others to be announced shortly (grades 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>), as well as our new Teen parent-advisor Sheldon Snodgrass. We will also have our own Shevet teens as teaching assistants. We will also announce our new Assistant Director shortly. This position was expanded to more accurately reflect the role of our Head Teacher, as the position was called last year, to support Rabbi Riqi, our school and teachers and our mission. Last year Amy Meltzer filled the position – this year she has taken a wonderful position as a full-time Jewish studied first grade teacher at LGA and we wish her mazel tov, and she assured us she will still be involved with Beit Ahavah as much as she can.

We are thrilled that Felicia Sloin will be leading our Children's Services on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. We also listened to your feedback to "share" Felicia Sloin and her musical talents more intimately with the other grades. This year Felicia rejoins her Beit Ahavah home to teach 6<sup>th</sup> grade, but throughout the year she will also spend one Sunday devoted to singing, drama and music in the different classrooms. We look forward to more **"Musical Mishpuchah"** programs as well led by Felicia Sloin

And of course Beit Ahavah Community holiday celebrations continue to be part of our Sunday and holiday experience. This year many of the Jewish holidays and holy-days fall on Shabbat or Sunday, so we have our calendar made easy for us in terms of planning. Families in the B'nei Mitzvah Class will continue to learn with the rabbi and experience interactive family projects.

#### TOTS/PRESCHOOL:

**Tot Shabbat** led by Peggy Walker with Rabbi Riqi continues to be a popular service (first Friday of the month at new time 6:00pm). To get on the Tot Shabbat mailing list, please email the office.

#### TEENS:

Welcome Sheldon Snodgrass for taking on the Shevet teen tour de force. He is working with the new Upper Valley "J-TOV" Jewish Teens Of the Valley collaboration as well.

We are looking forward to an exciting school year of growth and learning, and of course we welcome your involvement. If you know of other families new to the area or seeking a religious school and synagogue, please send us their info to help us grow our community. We hope you have had a peaceful and healthy summer with your families.

**L'shalom u'l'shanah tovah u'mitukah l'chayim/peace for a sweet and healthy new year of life!**



Rabbi Riqi Kosovske

The YOFIE Committee: Andrew Bourke, Chair

Jami Albro-Fisher, Nina Brand, Aline LaBorwit-Davis,

Debra Immergut Marks, Mimi Kaplan, Lisa Oram and David Perry