

**Peninsula Temple Beth El Education Programs**  
**REGISTRATION PACKET**  
**2009-2010 / 5770**

וְשִׁנַּנְתָּם לְבָנֶיךָ  
*V'shinantam l'vanecha*

“And you shall teach them to your children...” ~ Deuteronomy 6:7

These words are etched in our hearts and minds. As Jews, we recite them every time we say the *Shema* and *V'ahavta* prayers. Peninsula Temple Beth El seeks to provide positive, engaging, and enduring education experiences for students of all ages. The values we teach reflect a deep appreciation for Torah and Jewish tradition and encourage active interpretation and creative forms of religious expression.

Embarking on a Jewish education is a life-long journey. We have a vibrant program of learning starting with our youngest students in Bagels and Blocks (ages 2 & 3) through our high school seniors. We offer many opportunities for parents and children to learn together and with other families. Our education programs introduce students to the rich history and symbols of the Jewish people, the challenge of Torah study, the depth of Jewish prayer and the Hebrew language, the doing of *mitzvot* (commandments) and *tikkun olam* (repairing the world), and the rhythm of living the Jewish calendar and celebrating the Jewish holidays. Our goal is for students to gain the necessary tools to enable them to continue to study, question, and participate actively in Jewish life. We welcome our children and teens into our warm community.

This year we are offering some exciting new programs including a K-6 family retreat, increased options for Hebrew study, and new electives and trips (and food!) in our middle and high school programs.

**We welcome YOU to PTBE's Education Programs for this school year!**

*Your 2009-2010 Education Team,*

Rabbi Karen Citrin  
Amanda Silber Levitt, Interim Director of Education Pre-K - 7  
Kathy Pollack, Director of Youth and Teen Programs  
Sigal Kletter, Hebrew Specialist and Young Families Coordinator  
Rick Fuchs, Administrator

**This is your registration packet:**

Included you will find a Student Enrollment form, a Family Tuition form, and information about our programs. Please note that grades 3-6 have options for Hebrew days. Preference will be given to students with forms completed by the due date. In order to register your child, the following items are due to the Education Office by **June 5<sup>th</sup>** with 50% installment (registration received after this date will incur a late fee of \$75). NOTE: All of the items mentioned below must be fully completed for your registration to be processed:

Student Enrollment and Emergency Form (**one per student**)

- Be sure to **fill out the back** and SIGN the bottom
- A **photograph** of your child MUST be attached

Tuition Form (**one per family**)

Check/Credit Card information for **half** of your tuition (the remainder is due by August 14, 2009).

**Please take a moment to read through this packet of materials.** Following enrollment, our Parent Handbook and other calendar information will arrive in your mailboxes in late August. If you have any questions about programs or the registration process, we are happy to provide you with additional information at any time. You can reach us at **650-931-0775**.

There is a modest increase in fees for the coming year. The Religious School Committee has worked with the Board of Trustees to keep fees to a minimum while maintaining an excellent staff and program. Please keep in mind that the actual per child cost of running our education programs is much greater than the tuition rates we charge. We encourage anyone who is able to include an additional contribution of **\$180** per child or any amount above our standard fee to please do so.

As always, **no** student will be turned away from any of our programs for financial reasons. You may request a scholarship application by checking the appropriate box on the Tuition Form.

**Start of School Calendar:**

Sunday, September 13 – Welcome Back and Open House (Grades preK-5)

Tuesday, September 15 – 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday afternoon (Grades 3-5) and 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday evening (Grades 6-7)

Wednesday, September 16 – 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday afternoon (Grades 3-5) and 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday evening (Grades 8-12)

*A complete calendar will be mailed during the summer.*

**Save the Dates!**

7<sup>th</sup> Grade *B'nai Mitzvah* Retreat (for students and parents): October 16-18

Confirmation Retreat: October 16-18

New K-6 Family Retreat: March 12-14

<b>GRADE</b>	<b>DAY/TIME</b>
<b>Bagels &amp; Blocks (Ages 2-3)</b>	Once each month; parents attend with their child(ren) Sundays 9:00-10:30 AM
<b>Pre-K – 2</b>	Sundays 9:00-11:45 AM
<b>Grade 3</b>	Sundays 9:00-11:45 AM <i>optional midweek Hebrew:</i> Tuesdays 3:30-5:30 PM –or– Wednesdays 3:45-5:45 PM
<b>4 – 5 (option T)</b>	Sundays 9:00-11:45 AM & <b>Tuesday Hebrew</b> 3:30-5:30 PM
<b>4 – 5 (option W)</b>	Sundays 9:00-11:45 AM & <b>Wednesday Hebrew</b> 3:45-5:45 PM
<b>6</b>	Tuesdays 5:30-8:00 PM (includes dinner) Weekly Group Hebrew Tutorial (choice of days, tbd) <i>Oneg Shabbat</i> (1 Friday + 5 Saturday mornings)
<b>7</b>	Tuesdays 5:30-8:00 PM (includes dinner) Sunday family sessions, tbd
<b>8 – 9</b>	Wednesdays 6:00-8:30 PM (includes dinner)
<b>10 (Confirmation)</b>	Wednesdays 6:00-8:30 PM (includes dinner)
<b>11 – 12</b>	Approximately Every Other Wednesday 6:00-8:30 PM (includes dinner)

## OVERVIEW OF EDUCATION PROGRAMS 2009-2010 / 5770

In addition to the grade descriptions below, our learning is enhanced by a variety of Jewish experiences outside of the classroom. Our community gathers for *Tefilah* (services) during each session. Our classes are enriched by music, art, and Israeli dance. This year we will hold a K-6 family retreat, a retreat for 7<sup>th</sup> grade students and parents, a trip for 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade students, and a Confirmation retreat. Our program includes various family learning opportunities. Overnights and youth group activities help our students build and maintain friendships.

**Pre-Kindergarten – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:** Students study *parashat ha'shavuah* (the weekly Torah portion) and other Judaic topics including Jewish symbols, Jewish holidays, and prayer. Children begin to learn the Hebrew *alef-bet* (alphabet) and basic Hebrew words.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade:** This year includes *parashat ha'shavuah* and an exciting “*tiyul la'aretz*”- tour of the land of Israel. Hebrew study continues with students exploring the fundamentals of the Hebrew language. 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade students are invited to begin more formal Hebrew instruction by attending mid-week Hebrew with our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students.

**4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grades Judaic and Hebrew:** The Judaic program includes Torah, *midrash* (commentaries), study of *mitzvot* (commandments), God, Jewish lifecycles, and Jewish history. Our Hebrew program focuses on reading prayers and developing Hebrew vocabulary. Students demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the Shabbat evening and morning services.

**We strongly encourage families with students in grades 3-6 to attend Shabbat services regularly.** Children are welcome at all of our services. On several occasions we hold a special Junior Congregation service on Shabbat morning designed for students in grades 4-6. These services provide the opportunity for students to assume leadership roles and for families to get to know the prayers in a more informal learning environment.

**Middle School - 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Grades:** A multi-faceted program helps our students make the transition into Jewish adulthood and prepare to become *b'nai mitzvah*. Students meet on Tuesday evenings to explore their Jewish heritage and identity through classes such as Torah study, Hebrew, history, Torah/Haftarah cantillation and *mitzvot* plus a variety of electives designed for pre-teens. The evening includes dinner and time with friends. In addition, 6<sup>th</sup> grade students attend a weekly Hebrew tutorial group. More details about the *B'nai Mitzvah* experience, preparation and instruction are outlined in the *B'nai Mitzvah* Parent Handbook. Education is extended to the family in the following programs:

***Oneg Shabbat (The Joy of Shabbat)*** is an integral component of the sixth grade program. *Oneg Shabbat* is designed to integrate Jewish learning with Jewish living, to build community, and to enhance Shabbat celebration. Students attend with at least one parent 1 Shabbat evening and 5 Shabbat mornings. *Oneg Shabbat* puts classroom learning into practice and provides a natural bridge for becoming *b'nai mitzvah*. The Shabbat experience includes a study session and service followed by a potluck meal.

***B'nai Mitzvah Family Education Series*** is designed to explore a variety of themes about what it means to enter the adult Jewish world. Students attend with at least one parent on 5 Sunday mornings. These sessions provide a meaningful opportunity for your family to meet with our clergy and staff to discuss topics such as: responsibility, life-long learning, community, God, *mitzvot*, Shabbat services, and more.

**Teen Program (Grades 8-12):** Journeys/Oh the places you'll go! We recognize that what brings teens into the temple on a weekly basis is friends, fun, and conversation. Keeping these ideas at the top of the list, PTBE has developed a new model for our high school program on Wednesday nights. Our primary focus will be developing the teen community while learning together about being Jewish. We will explore Judaism through an exciting series of elective choices on a variety of topics including identity, spirituality, Israel and Jewish culture. We will dance, cook, act, sing, and create. There is also time for students to meet by grade, including a dynamic Confirmation program for our tenth grade students. Guest speakers and teen-led programs will take place throughout the year. Each evening includes dinner and time to socialize with friends in a fun and safe environment.