

# Mayim at Temple Beth Shalom



# About Temple Beth Shalom

- Suburban Reform congregation in Needham, MA
- 974 member households
- About 85% of households are in Needham
- Enrollment in Learning Programs:
  - Children's Center (ages 1-5): 193 children
  - Mayim (Grades K-5): 378 children
  - Etzim (Grades 6-12): 223 children/teens

# Vision for Excellence in Learning at TBS from Tots to Teens

## **Kehillah Kedoshah - קהילה קדושה**

Our children's learning takes place within the context of our TBS community, which is crafted with intentionality to deepen relationships so that we can better care for one another and, together, strive to achieve those higher goals we could not accomplish alone.

## **Living Torah - תורת חיים**

Our children's learning is grounded in the riches of Jewish tradition in ways that are accessible, relevant to their lives, and applicable beyond the walls of our temple home. In these ways we inspire children to develop relationships with Judaism that are ever evolving and growing.

## **Deep Learning – לימוד**

Time is dedicated to children's authentic experiences, as they grapple with high interest and complex questions that invite them to participate in constructing their own learning.

## **Acting on our Jewish Values - דרך ארץ**

Our Jewish values provide guidance and framing for what we believe and how we act toward ourselves, each other, and the world. Each of us is a role model for our children through living--and making explicit--our Jewish values, and we provide opportunities for children to do the same.

## **It Takes a Village - מורים חכמים**

As a community of parents, clergy, educators, and staff we all share in caring for, nurturing, and teaching Jewish tradition to our children. Our educators are reflective in their practice and are lifelong learners themselves.

## **Family - משפחה**

Families play an integral role in developing a child's Jewish self as they learn, celebrate, and make Jewish memories together. Adults are also on their own Jewish learning journeys; we support them as individuals alongside our children.

## **Rich Learning Environments - מקום**

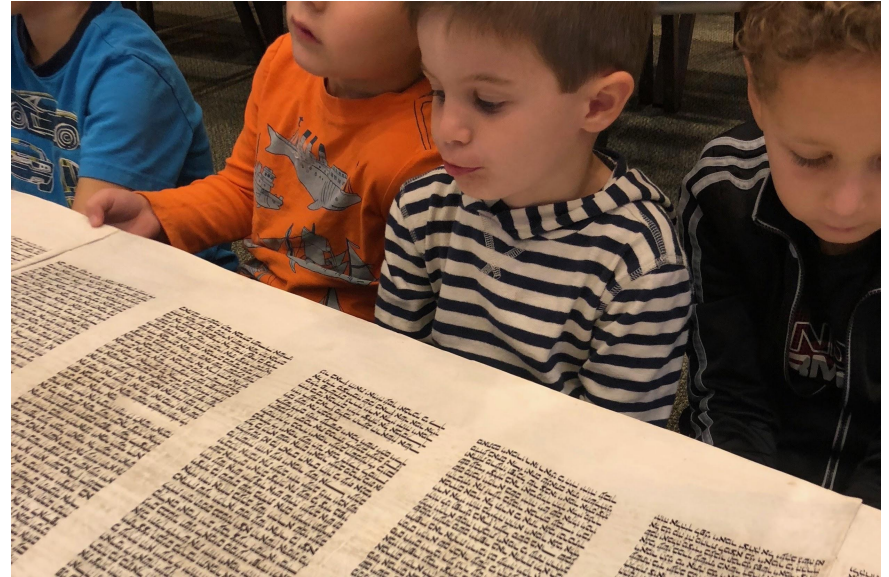
Excitement for learning is cultivated through surroundings that inspire curiosity and wonder. The physical space and materials, along with intentionally designed experiences, bring our values to life, enhance our curriculum, and build a sense of belonging.

# Two Main Goals in K-12 Learning

Depth of Relationships



Depth of Learning



# Mayim Overview

- Mayim is an *experiential* program that uses a variety of approaches, including Project-Based Learning, Center-Based Learning, and Responsive Classroom;
- Children attend 1x/week in small groups (10-12 per group), with some mixed-grade groups (KG alone, 1st-2nd together, 3rd-4th together, 5th alone);
- Families choose from multiple time slots offered throughout the week;
- Hebrew language learning takes place separately (45 minutes per week);
- Monthly Jewish Connection Experiences (mostly Shabbat and holiday programming) are integral to the learning;
- All Jewish Learning Guides are full-time (at least 30 hours per week);
- Curricula are guided by developmentally appropriate questions and content that enable children to make Judaism a relevant part of their lives.

# Typical Weekday Schedule

2:50-3:00 pm	Buses from Broadmeadow, Eliot, Mitchell and Sunita Williams arrive
3:00-3:45 pm	Chugim (electives) / Small Group Hebrew / Hebrew Through Play
3:30-3:45 pm	Bus from Newman arrives
3:45-4:00 pm	Kibbud (Communal Snack)
4:00-5:30 pm	Hafsakah (Playground) - 15 min Mifgash (Group Meeting) - 15 min Masoret (Tradition / Holidays) - 15 min Explorations (Project-Based or Center-Based Learning) - 45 min
5:30-6:00 pm	T'filah (Prayer and Song)

# Typical Sunday Schedule

<b>Sunday Early Session</b>	8:30-10:00 am	Mifgash (Group Meeting) - 15 min Masoret (Tradition / Holidays) - 15 min Explorations (Project-Based or Center-Based Learning) - 45 min Hafsakah (Playground) - 15 min
	10:00-10:30 am	T'filah (Prayer and Song)
	10:30-10:45 am	Kibbud (Communal Snack)
	10:45-11:30 am	Small Group Hebrew / Youth Choir / Israeli Dance / Hebrew Through Play
	11:30a-12:15 pm	Small Group Hebrew / Israeli Dance
<b>Sunday Late Session</b>	12:15-1:45 pm	Mifgash (Group Meeting) - 15 min Masoret (Tradition / Holidays) - 15 min Explorations (Project-Based or Center-Based Learning) - 45 min Hafsakah (Playground) - 15 min
	1:45-2:15 pm	T'filah (Prayer and Song)

# Exploration Curriculum Themes

Mayim Curricula are guided by developmentally appropriate questions and content that enable children to make Judaism a relevant part of their lives at every age and stage.

Kindergarten	What Does It Mean That I'm Jewish? ( <i>Shem, Makom, Tzedakah, God</i> )
Grades 1-2	A: Torah & Me (My Torah Family, <i>Beresheet</i> Family Stories)
	B: Jewish Time & Seasons (Creation, Shabbat, Holidays, the Jewish Day)
Grades 3-4	A: Jewish History (from the Torah to the Present)
	B: Wisdom of Our Ancestors ( <i>Pirkei Avot</i> , Being a Mensch)
Grade 5:	<i>T'filah</i> and <i>Tzedek</i> (Prayer and Justice)



# Exploration Spotlight: Wisdom of Our Ancestors

**Grades: 3rd-4th**

**Big Question:** What Does It Mean That I'm Part of the Jewish Family?

## **Essential Questions:**

- In our Jewish family, what values guide how we treat ourselves and each other?
- Where can we look in our Jewish tradition to find out about our values?
- How can we, as 3rd-4th graders, use our values to support our TBS Kehillah?

## **Big Ideas**

- Everyone has values that they rely on, but as a Jewish Family, we have particular values that guide how we treat ourselves and each other.
- Our particular values come from the wisdom of our shared Jewish ancestors, which we can find in Pirkei Avot ("Wisdom of Our Ancestors") and other Jewish texts.

# Exploration Spotlight: Wisdom of Our Ancestors

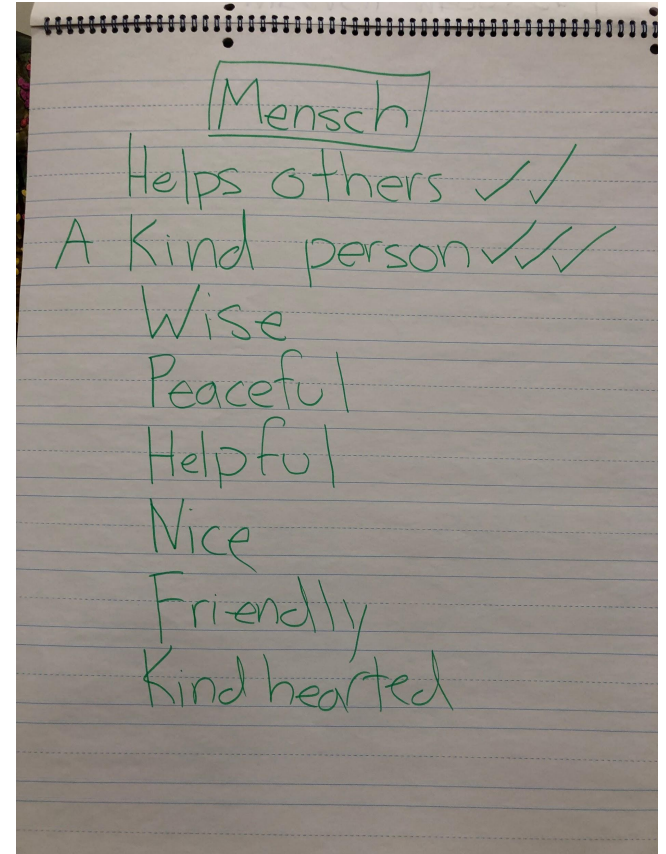
## Developmental links (from *Yardsticks* by Chip Wood)

8-10 year-olds' interest in:

- Our neighborhood and community
- Literary characters and themes
- Issues of fairness and justice

8-10 year olds' social and emotional development:

- Growing sense of moral responsibility
- Respond well to projects that build a sense of unity and cohesion (e.g. annual event or community service project)
- Enjoy working in small groups, especially if the groups change frequently



# Exploration Spotlight: Wisdom of Our Ancestors

## Core Text:

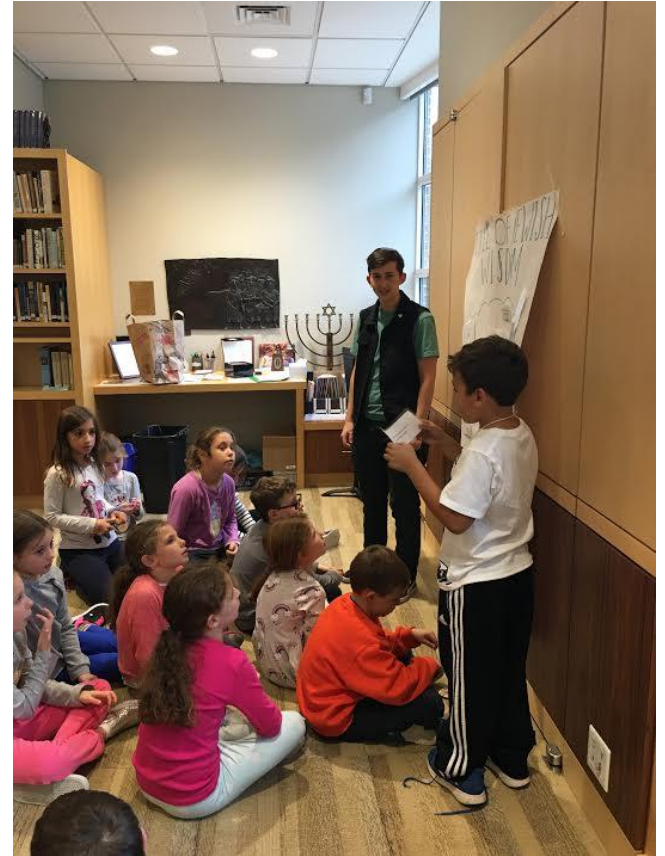
Pirkei Avot 1:14:

*Hillel used to say: "If I am not for myself, who will be for me? And if I am only for myself, then what am I? And if not now, when?"*

## Additional Content:

Twelve selected texts from Pirkei Avot, divided into three categories for exploration:

- Being for myself
- Being not only for myself
- Acting now



# Exploration Spotlight: Wisdom of Our Ancestors

## Playspace Wisdom Project:

### Goals

- Help the children synthesize their learning and share it with the larger TBS community.
- Demonstrate how these values can be relevant and useful in our lives today.



# Exploration Spotlight: Wisdom of Our Ancestors

## Playspace Wisdom Project:

### *Exploration Questions*

- How can we share the wisdom we have learned with others in our community?
- What kind of wisdom from our ancestors have we already learned that will help everyone remember how to treat ourselves, each other, and our environment on the playground?
- What else do we need to learn?
- Where can we find additional wisdom from our Jewish ancestors that will help guide the way we treat ourselves, each other, and our environment in our playspaces?



# Exploration Spotlight: Wisdom of Our Ancestors

## Playspace Wisdom Project:

### *Treasure(s)*

- Create a large piece of artwork for the playground and our indoor play spaces, displaying values and wisdom to help guide the way we treat ourselves and each other.
- Work with a visiting artist who will guide the design and creation of this project.
- Document our process and product in a photo book.



# Exploration Spotlight: Wisdom of Our Ancestors



# Our Approach to Hebrew in Mayim

Grades K-2	<p>Hebrew Exposure During Mayim</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Hebrew words used on a regular basis</li><li>● Hebrew infused in mifgash meeting</li><li>● T'filah participation</li></ul> <p><i>Optional: Hebrew Through Play Elective</i></p>
Grades 3-7	<p>Continued Hebrew Exposure During Mayim &amp; Jr. Etzim</p> <p>Small Group Hebrew</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● No more than 6 children per group</li><li>● 3rd grade: Hebrew games, adapted HTM, letter recognition</li><li>● 4th grade: Mastering letters &amp; vowels, learning to decode</li><li>● 5th-6th grade: Prayer literacy (reading and chanting)</li><li>● 7th grade: Fine-tuning and reviewing prayers</li></ul>



# Jewish Connection Experiences (JCEs)

## Goals:

- Families experience Jewish life as part of the TBS community
- Children experience Jewish life outside the classrooms

Integral parts of the Mayim experience; included in tuition (not “add-ons”)

Families are expected to make *every reasonable effort to attend*.

## Include:

- Shabbat dinners
- Holiday events and celebrations (e.g., Sukkot Block Party, Purim Carnival)
- Exploration Celebrations and Parent Learning
- Retreat (5th Grade)

# Other Opportunities

Youth Choir <i>Grades 2-7</i>	Meets Sundays 10:45-11:30 am Sings at monthly Simchat Shabbat services
Israeli Dance <i>Grades 2-6</i>	Meets Sundays 10:45-11:30 am (Gr 2-3) and 11:30-12:15 (Gr 4-6) Performs at community events and Israel Dance Festival at MIT
Youth Groups	Itty Bitty BESTY (Grades K-2)      Jr. BESTY (Grades 5-7) Mini-BESTY (Grades 3-4)      BESTY (Grades 8-12)
Mayim Family Dinners	Monthly on a weeknight
TBS Family Camp	Yearly retreat for families at Nature's Classroom

# Two Mayim Spin-Offs

## Mayim Tamid



## Mayim B'Yachad



# Mayim Tamid (Mayim Always)

Integrated program of Jewish learning and afterschool care

Children attend 2-5 days per week (at least 2 days per week until 6 pm)

Afterschool Care Components:

- Transportation from Needham elementary schools included
- Opens early on Needham early release days
- Optional programming on school closure days
- Time for homework and enrichment activities

Jewish Learning Components:

- Follows Mayim curriculum themes
- Additional focus on conversational Hebrew
- Goals are:
  - creating a “second Jewish home”
  - education for active participation in Jewish community

# Mayim B'Yachad (Mayim Together)

## Kindergarten Family Learning Model

### Child-Only Sessions

- About 2x/month from 1:00-3:00 pm on NPS Early Release Days
- Follows the Mayim KG curriculum
- Taught by Mayim KG Jewish Learning Guide

### Parent-Child Sessions

- 1x/month on Sundays afternoons
- Led by Mayim KG Jewish Learning Guide
- Special appearances by TBS clergy and senior educators
- Includes 30-minute t'filah

### Parent-Only Sessions

- 3-4 times per year, schedule to be determined by group
- Led by TBS rabbis
- Adult-level learning about KG curriculum topics