

# IKAR • עיקר

## LIMUDIM FAMILY HANDBOOK 5770 (2009-2010)

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## Limudim Mission

*Limudim* (studies) is a program designed to connect IKAR's children and families to Judaism and the world through a stimulating, interactive and inspiring Jewish learning experience consistent with the vision and spirit of IKAR.

### Our Mission

At Limudim, our mission is two-fold. We aim to:

Create <b>literate</b> , knowledgeable and committed Jews rooted in the belief that liturgy and Torah can be engaging and stimulating.
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Enable our students and their families to <b>love</b> Judaism and experience the joy of Jewish living.
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### The Spirit of Our Program

At Limudim, we value every student, every parent, every teacher and every moment. We know that each person has a story and is on a journey, and we take seriously our responsibility to help each individual discover relevance and meaning within our tradition. At the same time, we believe that prayer and learning in a *kehillah kedoshah*, a holy community, can be soulful, inspiring, and profoundly impactful, and so we learn immersed in a caring and vibrant community.

We promote a culture of both honoring and challenging the tradition. We believe that open questioning is vital and that every generation has a new set of questions. We encourage critical thinking and debate and hope to together uncover innovative new paths to God, Torah, and a Jewish life of purpose. At the same time, we hope to instill a sense of love, commitment, obligation and responsibility to the Jewish people and to the larger world. We engage thoughtfully and seriously in the important questions facing us as Jews and as human beings.

At Limudim, we seek to create lifelong learners of our children and their parents. To this end, family education is integral to our program and the Limudim parents become not only partners in their child's Jewish education but learners themselves, wrestling with the tradition and nurturing their spirits.

Our program is designed to teach Jewish life as it is lived, giving students and their parents the knowledge and practical skills to translate learning into living. We meet on Shabbat, helping families feel the rhythm of the Jewish week, and establish their own Shabbat routine and practice.

We believe in the power of experiential learning. Our families learn about *davening*, traditional Jewish prayer, by spending Shabbat week after week in a community of dynamic and vibrant prayer. They learn about the holidays by kashering kitchens for Passover, participating in a Tu B'Shevat seder and working for social change in our Purim Justice Carnival. They learn about social justice and *tikkun olam* (repairing the world) through study, advocacy and action on behalf of local and global causes.

Limudim has brought the spirit of IKAR to our children, blending social justice with spiritual depth and helping the students connect to Judaism and the world. Our community is creative, spiritual, and egalitarian, welcoming people of diverse backgrounds, affiliations and lifestyles. We look forward to meeting your family and joining you on your Jewish journey.

Welcome to the 5770 (2009-2010) Limudim Year!

We are excited to learn with you and your family during the upcoming year. The 5770 Limudim program incorporates the following elements:

- **Shabbat Limudim (Kindergarten – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade)**

The main thrust of our program is an innovative and experiential Shabbat program. We want our kids (and adults) to fall in love with Shabbat and appreciate that Shabbat is a time to come together and celebrate as a community. During Limudim, we encourage parents to attend IKAR's soul-inspiring and energetic services. On the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Shabbat of every month (weeks in which there is no 'traditional' IKAR Shabbat service), we offer a more intimate minyan as well as other exciting adult education opportunities for parents and community members such as text-focused learning with the rabbi, guest speakers, yoga, Hebrew learning and more. Limudim students meet at the Westside JCC (5870 W. Olympic Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90036) every Shabbat morning (Saturday) from 9:15 a.m. – Noon.

- **Tuesday Havurah Learning (2<sup>nd</sup> Grade – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade)**

Staying true to our vision to create meaningful and interactive learning experiences, our Tuesday curriculum differs for each grade and complements Shabbat learning. Limudim students meet at the Westside JCC (5870 W. Olympic Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90036) every Tuesday afternoon from 4 PM – 6 PM for learning.

The following pages contain a broad overview of our entire academic program. Remember that this is just the broad strokes. We are happy to delve further into the curriculum and objectives with you if you are interested. We also encourage all students and families to continue their learning in the home and we will do our best to provide engaging materials for this purpose.

We are looking forward to an incredible year!

# THE BROAD STROKES OF KINDERGARTEN

## Hagim (Holidays)

- ✓ Students will learn about all the different holidays as they happen throughout the year, focusing on the essential meaning of each, as well as the rituals, symbols, music and basic customs. Our holiday curriculum builds from year-to-year and students will both review the material from the previous year and be introduced to new topics and ideas.

## Tefillah (Prayer)

- ✓ Students will be exposed to many elements of the Shabbat morning service through the weekly Limudim service.
- ✓ Students will discuss the different kinds of prayers (petition, praise and thanksgiving) we say and what it means to talk to God.
- ✓ Students will learn the blessings over bread, for wine/grape juice and for fruits from trees.
- ✓ Students will become familiar with symbols and ritual items associated with prayer including: *sefer Torah*, *Ner Tamid*, *siddur*, *tallit*, *kippah*, *tzitzit*, *tefillin* and *minyan*.
- ✓ Students will explore different synagogues around the world, looking at pictures and discussing different traditions.

## Ivrit (Hebrew)

- ✓ Students will be able to identify all of the Hebrew letters.
- ✓ Students will develop a love of the Hebrew language and understand its importance in Judaism.
- ✓ Students will learn common Hebrew phrases and words (*Shabbat Shalom*, *Hag Sameah*, *Boker Tov*, etc.).

## Torah

- ✓ Students will be introduced to the names of the five books of the Torah in Hebrew and English.
- ✓ Students will be introduced to major narratives and themes from Genesis through a “best of” Torah stories series.

## Mitzvot

- ✓ Students will explore the concept of *b'tzelem elohim*, and what it means to be created in God's image.
- ✓ Students will learn the term *mitzvah* and about the various *mitzvot* they can and already do in their lives.
- ✓ Students will understand that some *mitzvot* have to do with the way we behave toward God and some have to do with the way we treat people.
- ✓ Students will learn in-depth about the following mitzvot: *shalom bayit* (peace in the home), *tza'ar ba'alei hayim* (being kind to animals), *ba'al tashkit* (avoiding waste and preserving our environment), *tzedakah* (righteous giving), *bikkur holim* (visiting the sick), *talmud Torah* (studying Torah), *derekh erez* (respectful behavior toward others), *ahavat Yisrael* (love of Israel) and *tikkun olam* (repairing the world).

## IKAR – Our Community

- ✓ Students will understand that IKAR is a *beit k'nesset* (meeting place), *beit tefillah* (place of prayer) and *beit midrash* (house of learning).
- ✓ Students will learn about and meet the various people who make our community incredible (rabbi, staff, etc.)!

## Jewish Symbols

- ✓ Students will learn about many different Jewish symbols and their meaning including: *mezuzah*, *Magen David*, Ten Commandments, menorah, *tzedakah* box, different types of candles (Shabbat, Hanukkah and Havdalah), Havdalah spice box, Kiddush cup, *hanukiah*, shofar and *bikkurim* (first fruits).

# THE BROAD STROKES OF FIRST GRADE

## **Hagim (Holidays)**

- ✓ Students will learn about all the different holidays as they happen throughout the year, focusing on the essential meaning of each, as well as the rituals, symbols, music and basic customs. Our holiday curriculum builds from year-to-year and students will both review the material from the previous year and be introduced to new topics and ideas.

## **Tefillah (Prayer)**

- ✓ Students will be exposed to many elements of the Shabbat morning service through the weekly Limudim service.

## **Ivrit (Hebrew)**

- ✓ Students will be able to identify all of the Hebrew letters and the sounds they make.
- ✓ Students will continue to learn common Hebrew phrases and words and be able to sight read many of these words.

## **Torah**

- ✓ Students will learn the names of the five books of the Torah in Hebrew and English.
- ✓ Students will be introduced to major narratives and themes from Genesis and Exodus through a “best of” Torah stories series.
- ✓ Students will learn key facts about the Torah, including important terms (*Sofer*, *Humash*, *parashah*, *yad*, *aliyah*), how to dress the Torah and when the Torah is read.
- ✓ Students will understand that the Jewish Bible is called the *Tanakh* and is comprised of Torah, *Nevi'im* (Prophets) and *Ketuvim* (Writings).
- ✓ Students will examine *Nevi'im*, or Prophets, in more depth, and understand that the prophets were people in Jewish history directed by God to teach those around them how to live better lives. Students will look specifically at the story of Jonah and examine the message of the narrative.
- ✓ Students will learn that other parts of *Nevi'im* tell us about leaders from our history and learn briefly about Saul, David and Solomon, the three most famous kings of Israel.
- ✓ Students will examine *Ketuvim*, or Writings, in more depth, and learn about the five *megillot*, or scrolls. They will look specifically at the story of Ruth and learn about the book of *Tehillim*, or Psalms.

## **Israel**

- ✓ Students will take a virtual ‘tour’ of Israel, visiting the cities, desert and important historical and religious sites.
- ✓ Students will understand that Israel is both an old and new country.
- ✓ Students will learn about culture in Israel and visit the shuk, taste Israeli foods, learn an Israeli dance and examine Israeli products.
- ✓ Students will learn about the basics of life in Israel and explore similarities and differences between Israel and the United States.

# THE BROAD STROKES OF SECOND GRADE

## Hagim (Holidays)

- ✓ Students will learn about all the different holidays as they happen throughout the year, focusing on the essential meaning of each, as well as the rituals, symbols, music and basic customs. Our holiday curriculum builds from year-to-year and students will both review the material from the previous year and be introduced to new topics and ideas.

## Tefillah (Prayer)

- ✓ Students will be exposed to many elements of the Shabbat morning service through the weekly Limudim service.
- ✓ Students will learn all the blessings over food: for cakes, crackers and cookies (*borei minei mezonot*), for vegetables from the ground (*borei pri ha'adamah*) and for drinks, meats, fish and cheese (*shehakol nihyeh bidvaro*).

## Ivrit (Hebrew)

- ✓ Using the textbook Alef-Bet Quest, students will learn all of the Hebrew letters, vowels and the sounds they make. They will also begin to put Hebrew words together and learn to read one, two and three syllable words.
- ✓ Students will enhance their Hebrew vocabulary, learning key words taught in their textbook.

## Torah

- ✓ Student will learn the general flow and storyline of the first half of the book of Genesis (Abraham/Sarah – Jacob/Rachel/Leah).
- ✓ Students will be able to create a family tree for the matriarchs and patriarchs.
- ✓ Students will examine in depth several stories from Genesis, and apply the lessons from these stories to their everyday lives.

## Ethics and Mitzvot

- ✓ Students will learn about a mitzvah per week, including: *derekh eretz* (respectful behavior towards others), *teshuva* (being sorry for what you have done and changing your ways), *busha* (embarrassment), *kibbud horim u'moreem* (honoring your parents and teachers), *bikkur holim* (visiting the sick), *tzedakah* (righteous giving), *ba'al tashkit* (avoiding waste and preserving our environment), *l'shon hora* (not gossiping), *hiddur p'nei zaken* (respecting the elderly), *hashavat aveydah* (returning lost articles), *tza'ar ba'alei hayim* (being kind to animals), *tikkun olam* (repairing the world), *dibbur emet* (being truthful), *hakhnassat orhim* (welcoming guests), *talmud Torah* (studying), *havaat shalom ben adam l'haveyro* (bringing peace between people), *ha-a-halat rayveem* (feeding the hungry), *shalom bayit* (keeping peace in the home), *pikuah nefesh* (saving a life), *shmirat haguf* (taking care of your body) and *lo tignov* (not stealing).

# THE BROAD STROKES OF THIRD GRADE

## Hagim (Holidays)

- ✓ Students will learn about all the different holidays as they happen throughout the year, focusing on the essential meaning of each, as well as the rituals, symbols, music and basic customs. Our holiday curriculum builds from year-to-year and students will both review the material from the previous year and be introduced to new topics and ideas.

## Tefillah (Prayer)

- ✓ Students will be exposed to many elements of the Shabbat morning service through the weekly Limudim service.
- ✓ Students will learn *Birkhat HaMazon*, Grace After Meals.

## Ivrit (Hebrew)

- ✓ Using Shalom Ivrit Volume 1 (chapters 1-7), students will encounter Hebrew as a living language and improve their reading fluency and comprehension.
- ✓ Students will learn over 100 key words.
- ✓ Students will learn basic grammar—including prefixes, the present tense, masculine and feminine nouns and adjectives in the singular and plural.

## Torah

- ✓ Students will learn what a *parashah* is, how a *parashah* is named and the *parshiot* in order for Genesis.
- ✓ Students will review/learn the following terms: *Tanakh*, *parashah*, *Parashat HaShavua*, *Humash*, *Haftarah*, *Aseret Hadibrut*, *Aron HaKodesh*, *siddur*, *yad* and *sefer Torah*.
- ✓ Students will learn how Torah is divided into *perek/perakim* and *pasuk/pasukim* within a *parashah*.
- ✓ Student will review the people, places and stories from the first half of Genesis and learn the stories from the second half of the book of Genesis (Joseph stories).
- ✓ Students will examine in depth several stories from Genesis, and apply the lessons from these stories to their everyday lives.

## Shabbat

- ✓ Students will examine the idea that God created Shabbat both to remember Creation and the Exodus from Egypt.
- ✓ Students will examine what it means to *shamor* (guard) and *zakhor* (remember) Shabbat.
- ✓ Students will learn about the 39 *melakhot* and their connection to building the *mishkan*.
- ✓ Students will learn about traditional Shabbat observance and practice.
- ✓ Students will review/learn the Shabbat blessings including the blessing over candles, hand washing, wine and hallah.
- ✓ Students will learn about many aspects of the Friday night service and home rituals, including Kabbalat Shabbat (focus on *Lekha Dodi*), *Shalom Aleichem*, the Friday night Kiddush and *Birkhat HaYeladim*.
- ✓ Students will learn about *Se'udah Shlishit*, the third meal.
- ✓ Students will learn the Havdalah blessings including the blessings over wine, spices, candles and Havdalah.
- ✓ Students will discuss the concept of separation and making time/space holy.

## Kashrut

- ✓ Students will learn about how and why people keep kosher.
- ✓ Students will learn the terms associated with *kashrut* and how to recognize kosher symbols.
- ✓ Students will explore what a kosher kitchen looks like, and learn what makes something kosher.

# THE BROAD STROKES OF FOURTH GRADE

## **Hagim (Holidays)**

- ✓ Students will learn about all the different holidays as they happen throughout the year, focusing on the essential meaning of each, as well as the rituals, symbols, music and basic customs. Our holiday curriculum builds from year-to-year and students will both review the material from the previous year and be introduced to new topics and ideas.

## **Tefillah (Prayer)**

- ✓ Students will be exposed to many elements of the Shabbat morning service through the weekly Limudim service and the IKAR community service. Additionally, students will explore one aspect of the service in-depth bi-weekly (every other week).

## **Ivrit (Hebrew)**

- ✓ Using Shalom Ivrit Volume 1 (chapters 8-14), students will encounter Hebrew as a living language and improve their reading fluency and comprehension.
- ✓ Students will continue to expand their Hebrew vocabulary.
- ✓ Students will continue to learn basic grammar—including pronouns, the infinitive verb form and verb form combinations.

## **Torah**

- ✓ Students learn the general flow and storyline of the book of Exodus and the *parashah* song for Exodus.
- ✓ Students will learn several terms association with the Book of Exodus including: *Mitzrayim, Har Sinai, Mishkan, Kohein/Kohanim, Levi/Levi'im, meraglim* and *Yam Soof*.
- ✓ Students will examine in depth several stories from Exodus and apply the lessons from these stories to their everyday lives.

## **Jewish Living: Life Cycle**

- ✓ Students will learn about the Jewish life cycle from birth to death (*Brit Milah/Brit Bat, Pidyon HaBen, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, Wedding and Death*). They will explore the origins of each celebration and learn about the symbols, customs and Jewish laws associated with living a Jewish life. They will also explore how they can play an active role in community celebrations and even develop new celebrations to further enrich our tradition.

# THE BROAD STROKES OF FIFTH GRADE

## **Hagim (Holidays)**

- ✓ Students will learn about all the different holidays as they happen throughout the year, focusing on the essential meaning of each, as well as the rituals, symbols, music and basic customs. Our holiday curriculum builds from year-to-year and students will both review the material from the previous year and be introduced to new topics and ideas.

## **Tefillah (Prayer)**

- ✓ Students will be exposed to many elements of the Shabbat morning service through the weekly Limudim service and the IKAR community service. Additionally, students will explore one aspect of the service in-depth bi-weekly (every other week).

## **Ivrit (Hebrew)**

- ✓ Using Shalom Ivrit Volume 2 (chapters 1-5), students will encounter Hebrew as a living language and improve their reading fluency and comprehension.
- ✓ Students will continue to expand their Hebrew vocabulary.
- ✓ Students will continue to learn basic grammar—including past tense, the imperative verb form, prepositions and three letter roots.

## **Torah**

- ✓ Students will learn the terms *pshat* (simple, plain intended meaning) and *drash* (interpretive meaning) and understand the difference between the two.
- ✓ Students will learn about *midrash* and create their own book of *midrash*.
- ✓ Students will review the chronology of Torah learned to date and learn about select stories found in Judges (Deborah and Barak, Samson), Samuel (Samuel, Saul, David) and Kings (Solomon, Elijah).

## **Jewish Heroes, Jewish Values**

- ✓ Using the book Jewish Heroes, Jewish Values students will learn about Jewish values by reliving dramatic moments in Jewish history. Learning will be focused around the following individuals: Rabbi Yohanan ben Zakkai, Sandy Koufax, Golda Meir, Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, Hannah Senesh, Avital and Natan Sharansky, Anne Frank, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Yonatan Netanyahu, Albert Einstein, Menachem Begin and Steven Spielberg.

# THE BROAD STROKES OF SIXTH GRADE

## **Hagim (Holidays)**

- ✓ Students will learn about all the different holidays as they happen throughout the year, focusing on the essential meaning of each, as well as the rituals, symbols, music and basic customs. Our holiday curriculum builds from year-to-year and students will both review the material from the previous year and be introduced to new topics and ideas.

## **Tefillah (Prayer)**

- ✓ Students will be exposed to many elements of the Shabbat morning service through the weekly Limudim service and the IKAR community service. Additionally, students will explore one aspect of the service in-depth bi-weekly (every other week).

## **Ivrit (Hebrew)**

- ✓ Using Shalom Ivrit Volume 2 (chapters 6-10), students will encounter Hebrew as a living language and improve their reading fluency and comprehension.
- ✓ Students will continue to expand their Hebrew vocabulary.
- ✓ Students will continue to learn basic grammar—including adverbs, command verb form, question words and possessive forms.

## **Jewish Living: Developing a Moral Compass**

- ✓ Students will be introduced to the three major prophets – Ezekiel, Isaiah and Jeremiah – and explore their teachings and discuss how their words are relevant today.
- ✓ Students will discuss the concept of Jewish ethics and compare Jewish ethics to universal ethics.
- ✓ Using the textbook Making A Difference, students will explore in-depth several key ritual and ethical mitzvot including *tzedakah* (righteous giving), *ba'al tashkit* (avoiding waste and preserving our environment), *sh'mirat habriyut* (caring for one's health), *bikkur holim* (visiting the sick), *kibbud horim* (honoring your parents), *sh'mirat halashon* (guarding one's words), Shabbat, *kashrut* and *talmud Torah* (studying Torah).
- ✓ Students will understand how Jewish values can inform their everyday relationships and decision-making.
- ✓ Students will understand their own personal values in light of Jewish values and identify issues they are concerned with, seeing themselves as agents of change.

## **History**

- ✓ Using the textbook *The History of the Jewish People, Volume One* as a guide, students will explore several different events, periods, people and places in Jewish history including the destruction of the First Temple, the return from exile, the Hasmoneans, life under Roman rule, the Bar Kokhba Revolt, the Rabbinic period and the Jewish dispersion.

# THE BROAD STROKES OF SEVENTH GRADE

## **Hagim (Holidays)**

- ✓ Students will learn about all the different holidays as they happen throughout the year, focusing on the essential meaning of each, as well as the rituals, symbols, music and basic customs. Our holiday curriculum builds from year-to-year and students will both review the material from the previous year and be introduced to new topics and ideas.

## **Tefillah (Prayer)**

- ✓ Through completion of 12 *shiurim* (lessons), students will learn about the meaning, structure and liturgy of the Shabbat morning service. Topics include *kavannah*, Hebrew roots, *Birkhot HaShahar*, *P'sukei D'Zimra*, the *Shema* and its blessings, the *Amidah*, the Torah service, *Musaf* and the concluding blessings.

## **Hebrew**

- ✓ Students will continue their Hebrew learning, focusing on prayer Hebrew.

## **Torah: Introduction to Rabbinics**

- ✓ Students will revisit the development of the *Mishnah* and *Gemara* and understand that *Mishnah* was developed to distill *halakhah* (Jewish law).
- ✓ Students will learn how *halakah* developed and continues to develop.
- ✓ Become familiar with the concept of commentaries and famous commentators such as Rashi, Ramban and Nechama Leibowitz.
- ✓ Students will learn the following terms: *Mishnah*, *Talmud*, *Gemara*, *aggadah*, *midrash*, *halakhah* and *minhag*.

## **History**

- ✓ Using the textbook [The History of the Jewish People, Volumes One and Two](#) as a guide, students will explore in-depth several different events, periods, people and places in Jewish history including the Enlightenment, the birth of the Reform movement, Zionism, the Balfour Declaration, the Holocaust and the challenges and blessings of the modern state of Israel.

## School Policies

The Limudim schedule and curriculum sets forth our aims in creating a quality Jewish education. Our policies set forth our aims in creating a community of learners, teachers, parents and administrators who can rely on predictability, continuity and consideration in our relationships to each other. If you anticipate any problems in complying with these policies, please contact the Limudim office as soon as possible to discuss your particular needs.

### Registration and Tuition

IKAR membership is required for all participants in Limudim.

For specific details on tuition pricing, please refer to the Limudim registration forms. Please note that Limudim will not turn away any child due to financial constraints, thanks in large part to the generosity of the Marlene Horowitz Scholarship Fund, a generous donation made specifically to help make Limudim more affordable for IKAR families.

For a confidential and dignified conversation about reduced rates, please contact IKAR's Ezra Initiative (learn more about this initiative at [www.ikar-la.org/membership](http://www.ikar-la.org/membership)) at [ezra@ikar-la.org](mailto:ezra@ikar-la.org).

Tuition refunds will not be given after Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup>.

### Attendance

If we are to meet our aims of transforming a classroom of children into a community of learners, and give our children a quality Jewish education, *regular attendance is vital*.

We realize some absences are unavoidable, but missing class is a loss for everyone involved. If a student misses more than 25% of classes, the Director of Limudim will contact the family to attend to the matter. Depending upon the age of the child, the circumstances of the absences and the content of the curriculum, it may be necessary to make arrangements for the child to complete make-up work in order to catch-up with his or her peers.

We know that there are many demands in your daily schedules, and we appreciate that you've made Limudim a priority.

### Arrival & Pick-Up

We understand that driving to Limudim, sometimes from across town, is a labor of love. However, we hope that parents will make every effort to ensure their child/carpool arrives to and is picked up from Limudim on time. Please note that our Limudim staff will remain with the children until all students have been picked up, but we want to

avoid situations that repeatedly require a child to wait for a tardy parent at the conclusion of Limudim.

Our school is open 15 minutes prior to the start of class. We ask that students not be dropped off prior to this time unless a parent (or a parent-designated adult) remains with them. This will ensure the safety, supervision and security of our students and entire school.

In the rare instance that you must take your child out of class early, please be sure to send a note with your child.

### Guests

We encourage our students to bring guests who are potential Limudim students. Since visitors to the classroom change the dynamics of the classroom for both children and teachers, guests will be limited to no more than two visits unless prior arrangements are made with the Education Director.

### Food/Snack

The children will be given a small snack on Shabbat morning, courtesy of IKAR. Parents will rotate providing snack for the students on Tuesday afternoons. All meals and snacks served at IKAR are kosher and vegetarian. If your child has any dietary concerns, please be sure to include this on the emergency form and to alert the Limudim staff.

### Tzedakah

We collect tzedakah every Tuesday at Limudim. The children will learn about different organizations and be able to decide where the funds go at the end of each semester.

### Safety & Health

Safety is a primary concern to everyone at IKAR. Please be sure that your child's emergency and medical information form has been completed. We cannot treat your child in an emergency without this form. No child will be permitted to begin classes without the completed form on file.

To ensure the safety of our students, students must remain with their classes at all times. Therefore, they are not permitted to be out of the classroom without permission of the teacher, and they may not enter a classroom without a teacher's supervision.

When a child is hurt or sick at school, a parent will always be called. By law, the school may only apply bandages, soap and water, and ice to any wounds. No medication may be given. If an injury occurs in which we feel it is necessary for the child to receive emergency medical attention, the paramedics will be called immediately. If your child

becomes ill at school, we will call you to come pick him/her up. If there is no fever, the Limudim staff will take what measures it can to comfort the child and return him/her to class.

### Emergency Evacuation

There are cellular phones on the school premises by which we can relay information.

Earthquake and fire drills will be employed as required by law, and students will know which areas are safe spots and which areas are danger spots. In case of an earthquake or fire, our staff will also be prepared with a detailed Emergency Evacuation Plan. Students will be moved swiftly to the safest possible area and the staff will shut off gas, water and electricity if needed. Staff will immediately begin to contact parents from the emergency contact list and children will be supervised and cared for until pickups are possible and safe.

Additionally, Limudim will maintain a supply of emergency water, first-aid kits, lighting and tools (including a fire extinguisher). The safety of our children is a primary concern of Limudim. If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Limudim office.

### Communication

Regular contact between parents, teachers and the Education Director is a key factor in our program. Whenever you have a question or concern, please stop by, email or call the Limudim office. If you have a question for a specific teacher, please leave a message for him/her in the Limudim office and the teacher will contact you at his/her earliest convenience.

To help keep you updated and informed, the Limudim office sends out weekly updates via email about your child's specific class and curriculum.

Parents are always more than welcome to visit the school. If possible, please try to give us advance notice.

Progress cards will be issued two times yearly, in December and in June. This will include a summary of what has been covered in class, as well as some of the teacher's insights into your child's Jewish learning and growth.

### Code of Conduct

We are committed to offering our students a quality Jewish Education. To this end, every teacher will establish a classroom *brit*, or covenant, in cooperation with the students outlining the basic rules of conduct for the classroom. Copies of this *brit* will be sent home to all parents as well.

Additionally, each teacher has a specific classroom discipline plan (specific consequences for students who break rules) and a positive reinforcement plan (including both individual and group reinforcement) that will be enforced throughout the year. If a child continues to have behavioral problems and to disrupt the classroom learning experience, the parents will be asked to coordinate with the Limudim staff in order to determine the most appropriate response.

### IKAR Limudim Committee

The IKAR Limudim Committee is a group of dedicated members from our community, many of whom have children in our school. The committee generates ideas and suggestions and serves as a sounding board for the Limudim staff. Meetings are lively exchanges about educational philosophy, curriculum, specific programming, special needs and administrative concerns. If you are interested in joining the Limudim committee, please contact the Limudim office.

### Parent Volunteers

We always need parent volunteers for our various programs. If you are willing and able to volunteer, please contact the Limudim office. Thank you in advance!

### Carpools

We encourage all Limudim families to participate in the Limudim carpooling program on Tuesday afternoons. If you are interested in joining a carpool, please contact the Limudim office.