

Dear Parents,

We designed *Limudim* (studies) to connect our children to Judaism through a stimulating, interactive Jewish learning experience that is consistent with the vision and spirit of IKAR. Our goal is to capture the hearts and minds of our future Jewish leaders, giving them the power to question, learn, explore and become stakeholders in their own religious and spiritual lives. Our goal is for our children to fall in love with Judaism and find their own voices within the tradition, while exploring innovative paths to God, Torah, and a Jewish life of purpose and meaning.

A critical piece of the Limudim experience is family education. We know that children look to their parents to help define their sense of identity, so our students need to know that you think the time they devote to Jewish learning is valuable and supported. It is our hope that as you participate regularly in IKAR and Limudim you will be inspired to deepen your own learning and become an even more inspiring role model for your child.

The document that we are now sharing is a broad overview of our entire academic program. Remember that this is just the broad strokes. Our teachers and I are happy to delve further into the curriculum and objectives with you if you are interested. Through your participation, support and encouragement, we are crafting Limudim into a beautiful and inspiring Jewish educational program.

It is with a real sense of joy and excitement that we welcome you and your children to Limudim!

L'shalom,



Lisa Alpern
Education Director

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 eretz* (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, *hanukkah*, 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* (honoring your parents), *bikkur holim* (visiting the sick), *tzedakah* (righteous giving), *ba'al tashkhit* (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), *halbashat eyroomeem* (clothing the naked), *ha-a-halat rayveem* (feeding the hungry), *shalom bayit* (keeping peace in the home), *gemilut hasadim* (doing righteous deeds), *pikuah nefesh* (saving a life), *shmirat haguf* (taking care of your body), *lo titeyn mihshol* (helping people do their work and not making it more difficult), *lo tignov* (not stealing) and *kavod lezulat* (respecting others).

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.