

July 16, 2007

Dear Kindergarten and First Grade Parents,

We have wonderful, improved plans for the fall. I have always wanted to increase family education programming for our youngest Sunday classes. Family programming in the youngest grades helps children make the connection between their family and what they experience here at B'nai Tikvah. Family programming also introduces parents to one another, increasing friendship opportunities between families at this early stage.

So now to the announcement:

Debi Silverman will be teaching a combination kindergarten/ first grade class both early and late sessions starting this fall. Debi is an expert in family education and will incorporate ample opportunities for parents to get to be involved in the classroom, to know each other, and experience family-style Jewish learning. I am truly excited about this plan!

For those of you who don't know Debi, she designed and facilitated our monthly preschool family education program for the past two years, and taught 2nd grade here last year. She has over 25 years of experience teaching Kindergarten through third grade religious school in congregations in California and Colorado and has over 20 years experience in K-8 education as a teacher and administrator. She is currently the Early Childhood Education Specialist for First 5 Contra Costa Children and Families Commission, where she designs curriculum and facilitates training for parent-child education programs.

This combination class replaces the separate kindergarten and first grade classes on school registration forms.

I will call each of you who have registered to check on whether you need early session, prefer late session or are open to both. Kindergarten and first grade students need to be evenly distributed between early and late sessions, for educational and social reasons.

Sometimes parents are concerned about combination classes and age appropriate learning. Be assured, Debi Silverman is highly skilled at created differentiated learning in the classroom. Your children will be engaged in age appropriate learning activities. Also, the high degree of parent participation gives ample opportunities to talk things over with Debi. I hope this change of plans doesn't complicate things for you. I think the results will be well worth the effort!

I look forward to hearing from you all soon. Don't hesitate to call with questions.

B'shalom,

Robin Wood
Religious School Director