

# Parent Volunteer Highlights

## Room Parents

This year, I am excited about expanding the role of room parents. They can streamline school event planning and enhance connections among class families. I hope you'll be excited by this idea and volunteer to be a room parent.

Room parents e-mail class families for special events. Key events are class welcome brunches and Shabbat services. Some classes also have social events, field trips and family education sessions. Room parents receive directions from me for all events. My hope is that involving room parents more in coordinating food and volunteers for events will increase parents' connections with one another and enhance volunteerism.

The room parent can also act as a focus for social networking among parents. Maybe a class parent is taking their child to a Jewish special event in the city or enrolling their child in camp. An e-mail to the room parent can get the word out. If you are tech savvy and have an easy way to set this up, let me know. Ideally, room parents will connect to each other and share ideas, too.

Let me know if you'd like to be a room parent. It's a perfect position for someone who wants to make a difference and work from home.

## Hebrew Mitkadem Assistants

Older teens and adults provide individual and small group Hebrew tutoring on Sundays and midweek. **Mitkadem, our new Hebrew curriculum for 4<sup>th</sup> grade**, seems to have increased the consistency of student reading skills. Essentially, all students work at once, so they can't just be passive learners. Students complete work which is checked off for accuracy. This curriculum will expand to 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades next year. Hebrew assistants in Mitkadem classrooms must read prayer book Hebrew accurately, and the more translation skills the better. We have a large incoming 4<sup>th</sup> grade, with 40 students, so finding enough Hebrew assistants is a key requirement. Mitkadem is usually just used for 30 minutes at a time in class, so even if you can't devote an entire midweek or Sunday session to tutoring, you can make a big difference. Assisting in a Mitkadem classroom is a good spot for someone who enjoys encouraging children with their Hebrew, but is not looking to teach a class or tutor specific children on an ongoing basis.

## Hebrew Tutors

We have always used, and will continue to use Hebrew tutors in school. At the beginning of the year, we need tutors for students who are new to Hebrew in grades 4-7. We also use tutors to support students needing extra help, and to evaluate student prayer reading & chanting progress in all grades.

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Generally, older teens are paid to work here. A few adults are paid. Most are volunteers. Due to budget constraints, we very much appreciate parents who are able to volunteer. However, for parents who are able to work regularly, payment is a possibility. Contact me about this.

### **Elective Leaders**

This year students in grades 3-5 enjoyed monthly electives. Electives included art, cooking, drama and Jewish genealogy. Kids loved the electives and we'd like to offer more next year. If you have good rapport with children and have a skill you'd like to share, please contact me.

One option is to take an elective we already offer, and be a leader for the younger children in grades k-2.

A second option is to lead a new elective. Examples are: social action, ecology, physical games using Hebrew, creative writing, story telling, scrap booking.

A third option is to lead cooking for grades 3-5. The elective cooking leader has been Ellen Fasman. With 40 incoming 4<sup>th</sup> graders, she will need an adult who can lead her cooking elective. I'm sure she can still do planning, but the leading that day needs to be someone else.

### **Event Planners**

Do you like to plan parties? Is your home the "fun house" in the neighborhood? I'd love to find a group of parents to work with me on the creative aspects of school events. The best meeting time is 9:30-10:30am one Sunday a month. I'll work with your schedules.

### **Religious School Committee**

Get involved at a leadership level in the direction of the school. Recent committee accomplishments include choosing a new Hebrew curriculum which was successfully piloted this year. The committee, at this point, has been focused on school quality rather than fund raising and holiday event planning. If you really care about having a say in the school's direction, consider joining the religious school committee.