

Religious School . . . education and enrichment

Throughout the school year, I try to meet with as many parents as possible to discuss the goals and objectives of a Religious School education. Our discussions have been quite productive as we have explored the curricular goals of our Religious School program in particular; (a) to prepare each child to become a functional Jew to the best of each child's ability via Hebrew reading skills and knowledge of the prayers for Shabbat and weekdays; (b) to help each student better understand the Jewish holidays, customs and traditions and (c) to foster a love, pride and commitment to Judaism and Israel.

In the course of our conversations, we have looked at two important concepts: that for Jewish education to be successful it must be both real and relevant to them and their children and for us to survive as a people we must concentrate our efforts on quality Jewish educational experiences not only for our children but for ourselves as adults. I have always pointed out that we do not have to invent anything new but just take advantage of those things which are already here for us. Nothing can be more precious than experiencing Judaism first hand with family and friends. If you are serious about being Jewish, you will find signs of it everywhere in your home. Because Judaism is, most of all, about *doing*—the rituals and behaviors that *elevate*, that enable us to bring a spark of holiness to even the most mundane activities.

Bob

Important November dates:

Sunday	1	No Religious School – Community Teacher In-Service
Sunday	15	Kindergarten Family Education Program
Tuesday	24	No School Thanksgiving Recess
Wednesday	25	No School Thanksgiving Recess
Sunday	29	No School Thanksgiving Recess