



AM SHALOM RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

2011-2012

Dear Parents,

APRIL 2011

Though it is not yet complete, I feel confident proclaiming our 2010-2011 school year a roaring success and it is all thanks to three vital "legs": our energetic and bright students, our committed and devoted teachers, and YOU our parents. Our teachers - Sherri Ann Bloom, Niss Feiner, Jodie Shron, Irene Spalvieri, Iris Tamssot - and I all thank you for placing your children's Jewish education high on your priority scale.

As a small synagogue, our success rests with our membership, our helpful and caring men and women, boys and girls. Do keep an eye out for the 2011-2012 Religious School Kiddish list, which will outline the dates that your family is slated to provide Kiddush for the Religious School (along with set up and clean up).

A review of some of our successful recent changes to Am Shalom's Religious School:

MOVE FROM SUNDAYS TO SHABBAT

Two years ago, we moved Religious School from Sunday to Shabbat mornings. The rationale for this move was that it shifts the general attention of our membership to the Shabbat experience, rather than "Sunday school". Shabbat is a special time, reserved for prayer, study and relaxation. With this new model, the children of our congregation have had the opportunity to join and participate in Shabbat morning services periodically throughout the year. This works toward achieving liturgical "fluency" and one's comfort navigating a siddur (prayer book), a chumash (Torah) and the structure of a prayer service. Also, the change in days encourages Religious School parents to stay in the building and join the congregation for Shabbat services. What better role modeling can there be than to have the whole family in the synagogue on Shabbat mornings? When we all gather together after school and services (~12:30pm) for Kiddush the energy is contagious!

EXTENDING RELIGIOUS SCHOOL HOURS

As of September 2009, school hours increased by 30 minutes to 2.5 hours. The result has been very good; we now have more time to accomplish our curricular goals, including Hebrew, Torah, History, Tikkun Olam, Holidays, Israel, and Ethics. **As a reminder to our families, school begins promptly at 10:00am and does not end until 12:30pm. Please do not come down into your child's classroom before the school day is over.**

I know that by working together, we continue to build a strong, vibrant and exciting Religious School at Am Shalom. As always, **we ask you to contribute \$25 as a materials fee on the first day of school.**

On the reverse side of this letter is the **Religious School Application form for 2011-2012**. Please complete the form and return it along with your **Membership Renewal Form** via fax to the synagogue office 705-792-3982 or by mail to 767 Huronia Road, Barrie, Ontario, L4N 9H2.

L'Shalom,

Rabbi Hlyse Glickman

We thank you for your support and involvement as Am Shalom continues to offer an exciting, safe, and engaging Religious School to the community. Let us go forward from strength to strength!



Am Shalom Religious School Registration Form: 2011-2012

Student information:

Last Name	First Name (English)	Hebrew Name	Date of Birth	Grade in public school as of Sept '11

Student Name		
Food Allergies		
Medical Conditions		

Parents/Guardian Information:

Last Name	First Name	Relationship to student	Home Phone	Cell Phone

Emergency contact other than parent/guardian:

Name	Relationship to student	Home phone	Cell phone

I _____, do assign permission to Am Shalom Religious School to act on my behalf (in the unlikely case that I cannot be reached) to approve medical treatment for my child (children) _____ in case of an accident on synagogue property during the hours of Religious School.