

TOT ALERT SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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Temple Torah of West Boynton
Beach



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Rosh Hashanah!

Rosh Hashanah which literally translates to “Head of the Year,” is celebrated on the first day of the Hebrew month of Tishre. The only ritual for this holiday is the blowing of the Shofar.

The Shofar is a horn taken from any kosher animal except a cow. The purpose of the toots or blasts that come from the Shofar are to awaken us to the spirituality, to alert us to the challenges of reflecting on how we might become a better person for the year ahead. There are three sounds and one additional long original sound that the Shofar makes. The sounds are as follows:

Tekiah - one long blast

Shevarim - three short blasts

Teruah - nine staccato blasts; and

Tekiah Gedolah - this is similar to the first blast but the Shofar blower holds this note as long as he or she can.

It is considered a mitzvah (a commandment) to listen to the shofar being blown. Rosh Hashanah is a special time of the year where many Jews gather together in synagogue to pray, read the Torah, listen to the blowing of the Shofar and doing some serious introspection. Other customs we have established over the years are: dipping apples in honey in order to symbolize the wish for a sweet New Year, eating a round Challah to represent the yearlong cycle, and on the first afternoon of the first day of Rosh Hashanah we perform Tashlich. Tachlich is when we go to a body of water and empty our pockets of crumbs. This symbolically shows the casting of our sins for the past year. Our four-year-olds will have the opportunity to go across the street to the Southeast corner of Jog Road and Gateway Blvd. We will be going with our Rabbi and Cantor so that each child will have the opportunity to throw away their sins. Parents are welcome to join us for this field trip.

Please look in your child’s backpack with respect to the times and dates we are holding children’s High Holiday services. We also have babysitting for those individuals with seats in the main sanctuary. A babysitting form must be filled out in advance so that we can make sure to hire enough babysitters.

Calling all Women!!!

The Jewish calendar is both lunar and solar. The appearance of the moon and the disappearance decides the beginning and end of the month. Rosh Chodesh (Head of New Moon) is the Jewish celebration of the new moon.

According to Midrash, when Moses brought the Israelites to Mt. Sinai, he left them at the bottom while he went up to receive the Torah from God. While Moses was away, the Israelites panicked and began to build a golden calf. According to the Midrash, the women did not partake in the building. They would not even give over their jewelry to be melted down. As a

reward, for their faith in God, God granted them the holiday of Rosh Chodesh; so like the moon, women would be rejuvenated each month.

I am happy to announce that Temple Torah has begun a Women's Rosh Chodesh group. The purpose of this group is to give women a chance to unwind spiritually and socially. We will also have the opportunity to celebrate together our specialness as women. **So please mark your calendar now for Tuesday, October 25, 2011 at 7:15 p.m.** I look forward to seeing some of you at this event.

If you cannot make October don't worry this is becoming a monthly event!!!

TZEDAKAH!!!!!!!!!!

Each Friday when the children go to the Wasley Chapel for our Shabbat service, we collect tzedakah. The Hebrew word tzedakah literally means "righteousness." Each week the teachers will collect tzedakah from their students during their morning circle time prior to going to the Wasley Chapel. The teachers will then discuss with the children that performing tzedakah or the act of being charitable comes in many different ways. As Jewish people, we are commanded to perform acts of tzedakah.

As a hands-on school, I would like for this to be a meaningful, learning experience. Please take the time to sit with your child, discuss how they could earn money. This is a great opportunity to foster independence. They are more than capable of putting their dirty clothes in the hamper, setting the breakfast and/or dinner table, clearing their spot at the table after they eat or even feeding their pet (which happens to be a commandment as well!). Then if they have completed their job, just as you must do, they receive their pay. Next you discuss with them out of the pay how much would they like to bring to school to give for tzedakah.

Now the school gets to do the rest. It is our goal to make sure that the children don't just see the money go into a can during the service. They need to understand that they can make a difference in this world. So throughout the year we discuss current events both nationally and locally with the children and together we decide where we would like to make a difference. We also get wonderful ideas from our families and the connections they have made along their private paths!

To start with this year, we have two projects we are working on. The first is we have been matched up with a kindergarten classroom in Joplin, Missouri. We will be purchasing the necessary items to restock this classroom so that their children can have a good school year. The second project hits a little closer to home. One of our students has had major surgery at Children's Hospital in Miami. They noticed that the children's playroom needed a face lift. We have received a list of items that the hospital would like. I will be shopping; the children will have the opportunity to make wrapping paper and cards and this family will deliver the new toys. It is a blessing to have a healthy child, let's make sure that those who are not as fortunate have the proper toys and books to make their time easier!

School Pictures in October!!

Please mark your calendars now for school pictures. Lifetouch will be coming to our school on Monday, October 10th, and Tuesday, October 11th. During this photo shoot, your children will be taking strictly individual pictures. These pictures will make great holiday gifts. Class pictures and graduation pictures will be taken in the spring along with individual pictures.

During picture days, I recommend that you dress your child in the best "picture clothes"; send along their everyday clothes and a teacher will help them change after their pictures.

If you would like a sibling who is not in our program to take a picture at that time, please speak to Debbie and she will set up a time prior to 9:00 a.m.

PTO Update !!

Dear Parents,

We are so excited that the school year has begun. It was so nice to meet so many parents at the First day jitters. If you are available to volunteer for any of the PTO events, please add your name to the posted list(s) hanging in the front hallway or contact either Danielle Swiss (dang0531@aol.com) or Lorraine Weissberg (fldpmbabe@comcast.net)

Thank you to all of the preschool parent volunteers for the month of August:

Erin Feldman, Beth Cohen, Stacey Judah, Lorraine Weissberg, Danielle Swiss, Whitney Cherner, Judy Kozma, Shira Ireland and Karen Cresswell. If you volunteered this month but don't see your name, our apologies....THANKS!!!

Speaking of volunteers, we are still in need of room parents for one of our classes. Ms. Blake/Ms.Sheila's class is still in need of one room parent. If you are interested in being a room parent for that class, please let Ms. Debbie in the office know.

Upcoming PTO Events (Mark your calendars)

Book Fair – November 7-13
 Pajama Night – November 10, 2011
 Holiday Bazaar – November 13, 2011
 Hanukah Happenings – December 22, 2011
 Tot Mitzvah – January 22, 2012
 Dads & Donuts - February 13 &14 2012
 Spring Concert – April 29, 2012
 Moms & Muffins - May 7-8 2012
 Teacher Appreciation – May 12, 2012
 Volunteer Shabbat – May 18, 2012
 Graduation – May 30, 2012

Just like last year, an integral part of several major 2011/2012 events is fundraising. If you happen to be in a restaurant, retail shop or fun spot that would be a great source of a donation, please drop their business card in the Preschool office or, if you're feeling brave, please speak with someone in management to make the first contact. We will provide each business with an official request letter and receipt for their donation. Remember, all monies raised by these fundraisers go DIRECTLY back to the school for educational purposes.

Also, please join us on September 20th at 9:30am for a PTO general meeting.

Finally....please "like" our Facebook page (Wiston Family Torah Tots PTO).

Lorraine Weissberg & Danielle Swiss
 PTO Co-Presidents

Let's Hear it for our Team Leaders!!

In order to increase our lines of communication, each age group has a team leader. These wonderful ladies volunteer to help keep information flowing between administration and the rest of their team. It is their job to run their bi-weekly team meetings. This is when each group of teachers (by age group - 2's, 3's or 4's) meets to go over their classroom observations, and create age appropriate curriculum to meet the needs of their particular students. They also are responsible for organizing age group activities such as a particular holiday project.

Our wonderful team leaders for this year are:

Morah Megan for the 2's
Morah Sheri for the 3's
Morah Debbie for the 4's

Thank you ladies for taking on this very important position and for helping to make our school the best it can possibly be!

Information from your PTO:

October 18th - Costume exchange at the PTO meeting - Save your old costumes and come to a free trade for another one.
Don't forget to "like" our Facebook page, search for Wiston Family Torah Tots PTO!

SAMMY SPIDER VISITS TEMPLE TORAH!!!!!!

Exciting news!!!!!! Sylvia Rouss, author of the Sammy Spider Books, is coming to Wiston Family Torah Tots and Temple Torah.

On Sunday, February 19th, 2012 Sylvia Rouss will be spending a morning filled with fun and activities for all young families in this community.

The morning will go as follows: 10:00 a.m. we will begin with Sylvia reading 2 of her books. The first book will be, "Sammy Spider's Purim and the second is Sammy Goes to Israel with a slide show. After the two books, Sylvia will be available to sign books (either books brought from home or you may purchase). Children will then have the opportunity to rotate to two different centers. One will be an edible art project based on one of the stories and then an art project based on the other story. After center time, Cantor Mondrow and Morah Beth our Music co-ordinator will have a sing along using songs about Purim and Israel. To end the morning, there will be some Israeli dancing for big kids (moms, dads and guests - little kids).

Stay tuned for more information about this program. Just remember to save the date now!!!!!!

Please remember that each Friday your child's class newsletter will be e-mailed directly to you. Each class' newsletter will also be posted on our school's web-site. Thank you Adam Cohen for being our web-master!

You can get on the school's web site by www.ttwbb.org, then click on Torah Tots. Please take the time to read about current events in our school, all of the school's newsletters, our Mispacha & Me Program, Babies Nite Out with Daddy, and of course our Music Together Program.

ENRICHMENT CLASSES

Fall 2011 Enrichments classes:

Gymnastics

Playball

Spanish

Movin' and Groovin'

Cooking

Writing

Phonics

REMEMBER to get your registration forms to the school office by September 7, 2011

Volunteering is the Key!!!

Our parents are the key to our success. Each month look for your name and your friends as we like to honor those who have worked so diligently the past month to enhance our school environment. Without your continued support we could not do what we do!

Please join our own Miss Beth for our next Tot Shabbat on September 10th, 2011 from 10:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.!!!

This month's theme is Rosh Hashanah!!!

Please remember to look in your child's backpack for the flyer with the RSVP to send back! Friends are welcome to join you!!!

Please bring your child to school on time! When you bring your child to school late, you disturb the flow of the class and your child is thrown off for the day.

The security guard has been instructed to not allow parents down the hallway after 9:15 a.m.

If you bring your child to school after 9:15 a.m., you will need to stop in the preschool office and one of the administrative staff will take your child to their classroom.