

TOT ALERT SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

December 1, 2011
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Temple Torah of West Boynton
Beach



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Hanukkah is just around the corner!

Hanukkah is the only major Jewish holiday rooted firmly in history. Hanukkah is also not mentioned in the Torah. The word Hanukkah literally means “dedication.” The holiday is celebrated for eight days and begins on the 25th day of the Hebrew month of Kislev. This year the first candle lighting will take place on Tuesday evening December 20th at sundown.

The story is told that in 168 B.C. King Antiochus, the Greek Ruler of Syria wanted all of his people to adopt the culture of the Greeks. At the same time, Israel was under Greek rule; which therefore, meant that all Jewish practices such as celebration of holidays, and circumcisions would be outlawed.

Mattathias and his five sons decided they needed to fight back. Their followers retreated to the hills to fight the Syrian army. Mattathias turned over the leadership to his son Judah (which literally means “hammer”), and under Judah’s leadership the Jews were able to defeat the Syrian army.

Upon returning to the Temple, the Jews found only one cruse of oil which had not been desecrated. The oil should have been enough for only one day. Each day, the Eternal Light in the Temple needed to be kindled, but with only enough for one day there was a problem. A miracle occurred and the oil lasted for eight days giving them enough time to make some more oil.

Hanukkah Happenings!!

Mark your calendars now for Thursday, December 22nd. You will not want to miss our PTO sponsored Hanukkah Happenings.

Parents are welcome to join their children for this school wide celebration. This event will begin at 10:00 a.m. If you wish to be a part of this celebration, please come to the school at 9:50 a.m. Please sign in at the security desk. All the classes will be proceeding down to the social hall. When they reach the social hall, they will break up by age groups into the stations.

There will be four stations as follows: art center, reading center and game center. The fourth will be cookie decorating and this will be done at the round tables by class. After the children have decorated their cookies, they will have the opportunity to enjoy latkes and applesauce. Once everyone is done filling their bellies, we will have a sing along with Morah Beth and Cantor Zachary. To end the morning we will light the Hanukkiah.

Please feel free to bring your camera and create those moments to send to grandma and grandpa.

If you plan on removing your child early that day, please first tell your child’s teacher and secondly, sign your child out at the security desk.

January 2's Orientation

On Thursday, December 8th we will be holding our January 2's Parent Orientation. This event will begin promptly at 7:00 p.m. in the Wasley Chapel. This evening is for those individuals whose children will be entering our program starting January 2012.

I would also like to open this up to those parents who missed Parent Orientation back in August. This is a one hour presentation that will help you become familiar with who we are and what we do.

Lastly, if you know of anyone who may be interested in joining our school, please feel free to invite them to this presentation.

Parent/Teacher Conferences!

What is an assessment? An assessment is the process of gathering information about each child, each classroom as a whole, and our school through several forms of evidence. We then take the evidence, organize and interpret the information. We must keep in mind that a child's assessment is not based on a single measure.

Throughout the school year, your child's teachers will be gathering this evidence. They will be using cameras, tape recorders, poster boards, an observation box, and using open discussions at their team meetings. As your child is observed by both teachers in his or her class, they may write something the child said, or specifically how they handled a situation, or even which hand the child uses most. These observations are dated and placed in the observation box. This portion of the process is considered the "informal" assessment.

The "formal" piece of the assessment is provided at the actual conference. Your child's teacher will be using an age appropriate skills list. This is a four page document broken down by social, emotional, cognitive, fine motor, gross motor and language areas which enables your child's teachers to set certain goals when putting their lesson plans together. The skills list also gives each teacher an idea of what to look and listen for as they observe your child's daily activities. The skills list also allows your child's teachers to create challenging lesson plans based on your child's skill level noted during the observations.

The most important reasons to assess each child is so that we can monitor each child's development and learning and guide our teacher's in planning and decision making. This allows for us to identify children who may need early intervention and be able to work together as a team, with those families, specialists and the staff to create the best learning environment possible.

A letter will be coming home from your child's teachers very shortly. This letter will give you a time for your first parent/teacher conference of this school year. You will be given one of two evenings, Tuesday, December 13th or Wednesday, December 14th. When you arrive for your scheduled time, please wait by the security desk. Your child's teacher will come out and greet you when it is your turn. We do this so that parents get the privacy they are so entitled to. When you enter the classroom please sign in, and you will be given a copy of the skills list. Once you go over the list and the teacher shows you the evidence, you will be able to ask specific questions about your child. Please remember that we never talk about another child.

Lastly, it is my policy that our staff does not talk about a student to their parents, in front of the child. Please make sure that you have coverage as I do not want children in the classrooms during these meetings.

RICH RECHT IS COMING!!

Rick Recht is the top-touring musician in Jewish music playing over 150 concerts a year in the United States and abroad. Recht is widely recognized for his appeal to youth and family audiences not only as an exceptional musician, singer/songwriter, and entertainer, but also as a role model for involvement in Jewish life. He has become an icon for Jewish youth in the United States, elevating the medium of Jewish music as a powerful and effective tool for developing Jewish pride and identity among the masses. You will not want to miss this!!

SPONSORS: \$36/TICKET (Reserved Seats + a Meet and Greet Reception with Rick Recht after the concert)

NON-RESERVED SEATS:

ADULTS - MEMBERS: \$15/TICKET

NON-MEMBERS: \$18/TICKET

YOUTH MEMBERS: \$10/TICKET (from any Jewish Youth Group)

CHILDREN (5-12 years old): \$6/TICKET

CHILDREN (under 5 years): FREE

PTO Update!!

Dear Parents,

It was so nice to see many of you at Pajama Night, Book Fair, and the Holiday Bazaar. A special THANK YOU to Erin Feldman and Minka Hoffberg for organizing Pajama Night. Jennifer Gross and Andrea Yospe for Organizing the Book Fair and Stacey Judah for the Holiday Bazaar. If you are available to volunteer for any of the PTO events, 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 November:

Erin Feldman, Gena Lederhandler, Stacey Judah, Lorraine Weissberg, Danielle Swiss, Whitney Cherner, Judy Kozma, Shira Ireland, Karen Cresswell, Annie Edler, Franki Cohen, Minka Hoffberg, Rachel Gleichenhaus, Elyssa Zion, Shari Haik, Sima Cooper, Tracy Smith, Jessica Goldfinger, Beth Mousseri, Wilma Rosenbaum, Jennifer Gross, Tracy Smith, Heather Press, Denise Zager, Laura Zipris, Nicole Lucas, Kristy Wexler, Andrea Yospe and Heather Zuckerman (also a thanks to the teachers for providing crafts for the book fair). If you volunteered this month but don't see your name, our apologies....THANKS!!!

Upcoming PTO Events (Mark your calendars)

Hanukkah 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 December 6th at 9:30am for a PTO general meeting.

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

Danielle Swiss & Lorraine Weissberg
PTO Co-Presidents

Fun on Our New Airboat



Information from your PTO:

Don't forget to "like" our Facebook page, search for Wiston Family Torah Tots PTO!

Music Fun



Little Chefs at Work!



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.

GYM TIME

Gym in December...

We will be learning Tennis!!! We will start with our warm up including stretches and yoga.

We have learned some new poses such as A..airplane, B..butterfly, C..cobra, Next is D..dog and dinosaur.

We will learn how to hold a racquet. We will practice a forehand and backhand swing while hitting balls all over the room. Many of my friends at Torah Tots told me that they love to play tennis. Tennis is game of love that you can enjoy your whole life. Stay fit and be healthy.



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 December 10th, 2011 from 10:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.!!!

This month's theme is

Hanukkah

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.