



JEWISH CONTENT IN OUR SCHOOL

Holidays

Teachers and clergy collaborate to lead children through engaging investigations of Jewish time inspired by holiday themes, which allows for a holistic integration of holidays into the year's curriculum. We typically focus on the following Jewish holidays, identified by their Hebrew names.

- Rosh Hashanah
- Yom Kippur
- Sukkot
- Simchat Torah
- Hanukkah
- Tu B'shvat
- Purim
- Pesah (Passover)
- Shavuot

Shabbat

Each week our children welcome Shabbat by lighting candles, blessing the wine (grape juice) and the challah, as well as, singing songs and engaging in discussions. Classrooms join together bi-weekly to sing, dance, and celebrate the light of Shabbat. Several times year family members join us for a special musical Family Shabbat led by our clergy and Music Specialist.

Each child also has a turn to take home a "Shabbat Bag" filled with everything needed to celebrate Shabbat at home, including a notebook to write and/or draw a picture about their Shabbat. Children share their journal entry when they return to school on Monday or Tuesday.

Havdalah

In the same way that we mark the arrival of Shabbat with ritual, we also mark its departure and the start of a new school week with ritual. Havdalah (a Hebrew word that means "making a distinction or separation," in this case distinguishing Shabbat from the rest of the week) eases the transition back to school on Monday and Tuesday mornings.