

TALMUD TORAH TIMES MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

The monthly newsletter of Edmonton Talmud Torah Society



WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE?

- A Word From Our TT Society President
- Society News
- ELC/OSC Highlights
- School News
- Community News

FEATURE **Happy Hanukkah!!**



MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Families, Alumni and Friends,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. December may be a short month for students, with winter break around the corner, but it has been long on learning, growing and celebrating Hanukkah in all its brightness and joy!

We all look forward to this fun celebration of light and redemption. Sit back, relax, and enjoy seeing and reading all of what our students experienced in the month of December.

Best,

Natalie Soroka

TALMUD TORAH TIMES MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Message From Leeor Eliyahu President TT Society Board

This month, hallways and classrooms have been filled with the sights, sounds and smells of Chanukkah, as students and staff enjoyed preparing for and celebrating in various ways. From the Chanukkah bear displayed prominently in the front foyer to Channukiyot displayed throughout the school, the excitement is palpable. From 12 months to 12 years, our children are enjoying basking in the glow of this celebration of light over darkness, triumph over tragedy.

The TT student choir performed at the Legislature on December 18 for the annual Channukiah lighting. On December 19 CTV morning news came to the school to record the choir and get a glimpse of our holiday celebrations! I hope you had a chance to check them out!

There have been many changes in the Talmud Torah Early Learning Centre (TTELC) over the past month. Irene St. Savard is no longer working for the TTELC, and after lots of hours of work we have now hired Sacha Brodie as our new ELC Director. Please pop by and say hello if you're in the building! She comes to us with plenty of childcare experience, lots of energy and enthusiasm and has already hit the ground running. Bruchim Ha'bayim Sacha!

We have also hired Jennie Leonard as a Lead Educator. She was acting as an interim Lead Educator and has now been hired into the position. We are very excited to continue working with Jennie in a new capacity. Bruchim Ha'bayim, Jennie!

We had a JNF funded Shabbat this month to exchange blue boxes and Jay Cairns, the Executive Director of JNF Edmonton, was present in the school to do the exchange and answer questions from students.

I hope that you have some time to spend with your family and friends over Channukah and enjoy the light of the candles, the delicious food and rejoice in the triumph and strength of the Maccabees!!

On behalf of the TT Society board of directors,

Chag Chanukkah Sameach!



TALMUD TORAH TIMES MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Alumni Highlight

Our alumni are important to us. If you are an alumni, we would love to know what you have been up to since graduating from Talmud Torah School. Our Alumni Highlight this month is Marlee Koptlowicz (Class of '00).



Marlee (Mozeson) Koptlowicz
Class of '00

I attended Talmud Torah School from preschool to Grade 9, and then Ross Sheppard for high school. I went to Israel for a year after high school (2006), and moved to Toronto the following year.

I have worked in politics, and have been a professional fundraiser for almost a decade. I currently work as a Senior Leadership Gifts Officer and Philanthropic Advisor at UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

Tell us about any TT memories: Being in the same class as my cousins and so many great memories in the lunch room and gym of the old Talmud Torah.

Moving to the new/current TT when we were in Grade 5. Getting to meet Shimon Perez and Ruben "Hurricane" Carter when the new school opened.

What kind of impact did TT have on your life? TT absolutely impacted my life in a positive way. The small, intimate classes were so important, and Jewish values were woven into everything we did, which influenced my identity.

Many of my closest friends are my TT classmates. We scattered around the world (even as far as Australia!) but keep in constant contact, and make sure to visit each other. And we always bring out our TT year books whenever we're together!

How do you feel about TT as a Jewish institution in Edmonton? Growing up in a small Jewish community was very special, but definitely presented challenges. My parents worked hard to instill Jewish values in my brother, Jonah, and me, and made sure Judaism was an integral part of our lives. Now, as a parent of 2 young boys, I have even more respect for my parents, aunts/uncles, and their friends for working tirelessly to ensure we had a top notch Jewish day school to attend and strong Jewish institutions.

If you lived here, would you send your kids to TT? Without a doubt. And I would be proud to see my children walk by the Mozeson Soifer classroom!

TT alumni, WE NEED YOU! We welcome and encourage our TT alumni to connect with us so we can include you. Please don't hesitate to drop us an email. You can send us something short and sweet, or long and luxurious....we just want to hear from you, and so do all our TT alumni and friends. Please email nataliesoroka@talmudtorahsociety.com.

TALMUD TORAH TIMES MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



A Message from our Principal Darin Johnson, M.Ed

December has been a wonderful month at Talmud Torah.

We began our second academic term with new units. Our illness rates improved and we were able to create some new experiences for our students. The school took on a festive appearance outside with decorated planters organized by Talmud Torah School Council and put together by our Grade 6 students.

On the inside Chanukah themed decorations and art work filled the halls. We welcomed Grade 4 students from Centennial school to learn about Chanukah. Our Grade 3 and 4 students were wonderful hosts.

The running club has been busy training for future events. During the cold snap teachers and staff organized fun indoor recess activities to get the students up and moving. We had a glow-in-the-dark dance off, and learned some Israeli circle dance moves!

Our choir, one of the largest yet with students from Kindergarten to Grade 6, performed Chanukah songs on Dec. 18th at the Alberta Legislature, to coincide with the annual public Menorah lighting. The annual Chanukah assembly was back this year and was led by Grade 5 students. Family members beamed with pride watching their children perform Chanukah-themed songs and skits.

I am looking forward to 2023 and building on the momentum we have created during this past fall. We are seeing student success by working together to support all of our students. I thank all of you for welcoming me into your community and school. Have a safe, healthy, and fabulous holiday season.

Chag Chanukah Sameach!



TALMUD TORAH TIMES MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Hanukkah Learning Olive Oil Factory with Rabbi Dovid

The week leading up to Hanukkah students in the Kindergarten to Grade 6 school program, as well as in the Early Learning Centre, learned and laughed along with their classmates and Rabbi Dovid as he entertained them with the history of oil in the story of Hanukkah.

Rabbi Dovid engages with children at their age levels, and all who wish get to participate in some way in the Olive Oil Factory program.

There's nothing like hands-on activities to strengthen learning!

Todah Rabbah Rabbi Dovid!



TALMUD TORAH TIMES MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Hanukkah at TT



TALMUD TORAH TIMES MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



TTELC

If you walked our hallways



EDMONTON TALMUD TORAH
תלמוד תורה כנגד כולם

This month the children have been busy preparing for Hanukkah. Many of the rooms built and painted Hanukkiah's, made dreidel crowns and learned some new Hanukkah songs for our annual Hanukkah video. Rabbi Dovid made a visit to the school and invited the children to learn how olive oil was made. This was a wonderful learning experience for Educators and children to learn about their cultural heritage.



TALMUD TORAH TIMES MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



TTELC Hanukkah Event

Over 165 parents, grandparents and children in the TTELC attended its Hanukkah event recently. Delicious kosher food was prepared onsite by educators Michal and Livnat, crafts and activities were available for children to enjoy, as well as a silent auction and 50/50 raffle for adults in support of the Centre.



ANNOUNCEMENT



Under the new federal-provincial child care agreement, subsidy for child care is now available to families with a combined gross income of \$180,000 or less. If your family has not qualified in the past, perhaps it does now!

[Click on this link for more details.](#)

TALMUD TORAH TIMES MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

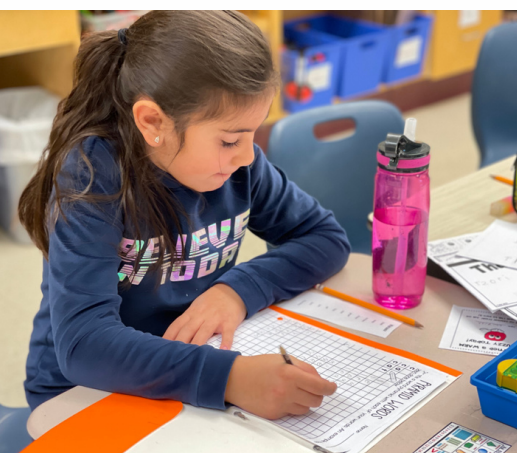


Teacher Update

Marlee Soroka - Gr. 2

Take a look at what daily Guided Reading stations look like in Grade 2! Every morning, the students start their day with three, 20 minute rotations developing their literacy skills. The centres include independent reading, writing, word work, buddy reading, listening to reading, and teacher table.

While I am working at the teacher table with a small group of 2-4 students to develop or reinforce specific reading, writing, or phonics skills, the other students are developing literacy skills while working on different activities, either independently or with their group members. Not only do these daily centres build students' literacy skills, but they also allow students to build independence, problem-solving skills, time management, and internal motivation toward their learning.



TALMUD TORAH TIMES MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

CONTACT US



talmudtorahschoolcouncil@partner.epsb.ca

SCHOOL COUNCIL UPDATES



November and December have been busy with council activities! Birthday treat celebrations have returned to the classroom, Cafe Ivrit hosted the first group of Hebrew speaking volunteers, and the Grade 6s finished their Science unit on trees by installing our beautiful, evergreen winter planters at the school entrance. To keep the excitement going, we brought back spirit days (you can get your TT spirit wear at talmudtorah.entripyshops.com) throughout the year! We kicked things off with a TT pride day and the week of Chanukah will have students and staff wearing their best neon, metallic, blue/white, pajamas, and fancy attire!

The Council is continuing to work on planning the Grade 6 Shabbaton (keep an eye out for fundraisers!) and trying to find a supplier for a Hot Lunch program. As well, we met with the EPSB transportation team to discuss how we can adapt our bus route to better serve students and look forward to continuing this discussion.

TALMUD TORAH TIMES

On behalf of the TT School Council, we want to wish all of our Talmud Torah students and families, teachers and staff, and the Jewish community a Chag Semach Chanukah! May your Chanukah be filled with joy and light.

As we head into winter break, we are very excited for what 2023 has in store. There is LOTS in the works: a new student club, a special culinary experience, parent social event(s), and June Fitness month! But first, we will start with the Trickster Theatre Residency.

Turn the page to read more about this amazing, week-long program that will end with a custom made, full production featuring all of our kindergarten through Grade 6 students.

Don't forget to save the dates:

Residency is February 13-17
Live performance February 16 (evening) and February 17 (afternoon)
LOTS of volunteers will be needed!



JANUARY 9: BACK TO SCHOOL!

JANUARY 24: COUNCIL MEETING

JANUARY 30: PD DAY, NO TT

FEBRUARY 13-17: TRICKSTER THEATRE RESIDENCY

FEBRUARY 16: EVENING PERFORMANCE

FEBRUARY 17: AFTERNOON PERFORMANCE

TALMUD TORAH SCHOOL COUNCIL PRESENTS: קפה עברית

Cafe Ivrit



select Thursdays @ 9am

PARENTS & COMMUNITY MEMBERS ARE INVITED

To Join the Conversation, email: ben.ragosin@epsb.ca

- Speak Hebrew
- Play games
- Connect with Grade 6 students
- BYO Beverage

TALMUD TORAH TIMES MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

CONTACT US



talmudtorahschoolcouncil@partner.epsb.ca

TALMUD TORAH SCHOOL COUNCIL
Our students appreciate your support

Opportunities to be involved in student enrichment at TT:

This one week residency embodies an organic, improvised process to create a school-wide production that includes lighting, sound, costumes, props, writing, direction and production. It will give our students and teachers the opportunity to take skills learned in the classroom and collaboratively create and perform a full production. Students will help develop the script, choreograph the skits, learn about and use props/sound, and finally perform their masterpiece for parents and the community. The production will be written around core **Jewish Values** (such as respect, tzedakah, solidarity), in consultation with the teachers and TTS Judaic Studies committee.

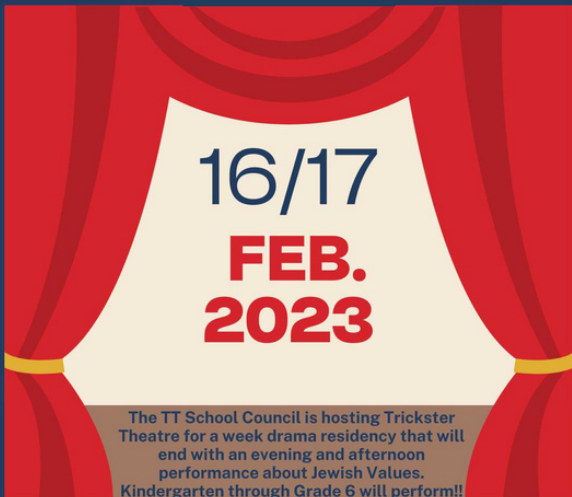
We are grateful to the Edmonton Jewish Community Foundation for providing a grant that covers nearly 60% of the residency cost! We were unsuccessful with a grant from the Alberta Arts Association that would have covered the remainder of the residency cost, so the TT School Council will be raising funds to cover the remaining amount.

There are many ways parents and community members can be involved and **ensure this program is a success:**

1. Volunteer during the residency week. A signup sheet with duties will go out in mid-January.
2. Share your talents: We need musicians, dancers, artists/crafters, etc. to help enhance the production.
3. Attend the show! Pre-registration will be required as seating is limited.
4. Place an ad or well wishes in the playbill.

Don't miss the chance to be a part of this one-of-a-kind play, written and performed by Talmud Torah students!

SAVE THE DATE
TT STUDENT
PRODUCTION



16/17
FEB.
2023

The TT School Council is hosting Trickster Theatre for a week drama residency that will end with an evening and afternoon performance about Jewish Values. Kindergarten through Grade 6 will perform!!

WE NEED COMMUNITY SUPPORT:
ARTISTS - MUSICIANS - CRAFTERS - DANCERS -
VIDEO - PRODUCTION - SET UP - AND MORE!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED **SPONSORS WELCOME**

talmudtorahschoolcouncil@partner.epsb.ca

TALMUD TORAH TIMES MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

CONTACT US



talmudtorahschoolcouncil
@partner.epsb.ca

TALMUD TORAH SCHOOL COUNCIL
Our students appreciate your support

TALMUDTORAHSOCIETY.COM/SHOP

HELP SUPPORT THE
WEEKLY SHABBAT
PROGRAM AT TT, BE A

★
SHABBAT SPONSOR
★



\$72 FOR THE SCHOOL

WWW.TALMUDTORAHSOCIETY.COM/SHOP

SPONSORSHIPS ARE USED TO COVER THE COST
OF BLISS CHALLAH FOR EVERY STUDENT AND
GRAPE JUICE FOR THE STUDENT PRAYER LEADERS.
THIS IS NOT A FUNDRAISER!

[Click Here](http://WWW.TALMUDTORAHSOCIETY.COM/SHOP)

LEAVE THE AT SCHOOL
CELEBRATION TO US!

**\$25 Birthday
Treats Council
Fundraiser**

www.talmudtorahsociety.com/shop

Pre*order kosher cupcakes or ice cream
sandwiches and SC will take care of
delivering to your child's class for their
special day.



[Click Here](http://www.talmudtorahsociety.com/shop)

TT School Council runs enrichment programs throughout the year, many of which have associated costs. **Our mandate** is to raise and use funds within the same school year; we are not a fundraising association. **Please consider** supporting student enrichment by participating in **any of our fundraisers**. We aim to make them effortless and useful and, in some cases, will not cost you anything extra.

THANK YOU

to our December
Shabbat Sponsors:

**Cairns Family In
memory of Sharon &
Bobby Cairns z"l
Yahrzeit**

**Jewish National Fund
JNF Edmonton**

Ghermezian Family

**Shannon Sabbah in
honor of Moe and
Ricky Furman and
George and Joyce
Goldford, and Leah
Goldford for her 68th
Birthday!**

TALMUD TORAH TIMES MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



AJP@TT (Ancillary Judaic Program)

ABOUT

AJP@TT looks to our rich Jewish tradition to build the future.

Our mission is to complement the already outstanding Jewish and secular education at Talmud Torah school by connecting our students to more Judaic traditions and teachings.

In doing so, we hope to provide the diverse student body of the Talmud Torah community with a curriculum that cultivates a passion and love for Torah, Mitzvot and the Land of Israel.

AJP@TT OUR STAFF



Rabbi Guy Tal was born and raised in Israel. He learned in Yeshivat Kefar Haroe'e, Yeshivat Dimona and Yeshivat Har HaMor, and also served in the Israeli Defense Forces.

He has worked as a Rabbi and educator over the last 17 years in Venezuela, Mexico, Greece and Israel.

He earned his BEd in education from Michlala (college) of Beit Vagan, his MA in Jewish Studies from the Hebrew University of Mexico, and recently his PhD in History of Ideas from the Pan-American University in Mexico City. He has smicha from the principal rabbinate in Israel. Rabbi Guy also published two books with commentary on Rav Kook's "Drot".

Rabbi Guy believes that the future of the Jewish community in Edmonton depends on its Jewish education, and that knowledge of the Torah and the tradition must be taught from early age until the last day.

His own children attend AJP and are loving the program!

Yitzchak Borenstein grew up in a diverse community in Israel giving him exposure to a wide spectrum of Israeli sectors.

Following high school at Bnei-Akiva, Yitzchak learned in the pioneer Hesder yeshiva, Kerem B'Yavneh which included army service in an infantry unit. With a passion for Torah and Education, Yitzchak obtained a bachelors in education with a focus on Teshuva (The Oral Law).

Recently Yitzchak relocated to Edmonton with his wife Pessy and baby Rebecca. While growing up, informal learning was a favorite for Yitzchak, which brings excitement for the opportunity to teach younger children through drama and song.



Daniella Varon is an experienced preschool teacher for over 20 years.

She has bilingual knowledge of traditional/ Israeli Jewish life.

Before joining the AJP program last year, Daniella was the head teacher in the early childhood program at Menorah Academy for 5 years.

Daniella believes in strengthening faith and love for Hashem.

CURRICULUM

- » **Middot:** Jewish character
- » **Chumash:** Will include Chumash skill-building to start and will advance to in depth chumash study as the semester progresses.
- » **Jewish Holidays:** Includes major and minor Jewish holidays
- » **Parsha:** Study of the weekly Torah portion and study of the core messages in it.

Monday-Thursday

3:35pm-4:45pm

cost: \$2000/year

*part time option available. Contact for info

info@kadimaacademy.com



TALMUD TORAH TIMES MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



FEDERATION PROGRAMS

Edmonton Talmud Torah is a beneficiary of the Jewish Federation of Edmonton.



Jewish Federation
OF EDMONTON

WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE UP TO \$100
TO HELP GET TOGETHER WITH FRIENDS?

For Shabbat? To celebrate the fall holidays?
To volunteer together?
TO DO SOMETHING JEWISH AND FUN?

HAVE YOU HOSTED ONE BEFORE?

Yes, let's do it again!

No, sounds scary ...

WE'LL HELP MAKE IT EASY!

YOU SHOULD TOTALLY HOST A GET TOGETHER!

September 6, 2022 through May 31, 2023

If the cold weather has you down, you could use a Shabbat dance party! When you invite two or more other families to celebrate Shabbat, PJ Library's Get Together program will reimburse you for up to \$100 of your gathering costs. Just invite the friends and get those Shabbat songs going! Learn more: pjlibrary.org/gettogether

**NOW WE
GO FORWARD**

**Jewish Federation
OF EDMONTON**
Powered by United Jewish Appeal

Make an impact on how our Jewish Edmonton goes forward in building a better and stronger future for our community. Consider donating to the United Jewish Appeal.

[Donate now](#)

Follow Jewish Edmonton on social media or sign up for our weekly e-newsletter

[Visit our community calendar at jewishedmonton.org](https://www.jewishedmonton.org)

TALMUD TORAH TIMES MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Say it with a card

Tribute cards are a wonderful way of honouring or paying tribute to a loved one.

Your donation helps us maintain a high quality experience for our students and families. A beautiful acknowledgement card is mailed to the recipient.

**Any occasion cards, including:
Mazel Tov & Memorial Tributes**
Tax receipts provided for donations \$18 and over

Donate online: talmudtorahsociety.com/donate
Call 780 481 3377 or email:
nataliesoroka@talmudtorahsociety.com