Kitah Bet (Grade 2)

Kitah Bet (Grade 2) meets twice a week on Sunday mornings from 9:00-11:30am, and either Wednesday or Thursday afternoon from 4:00-6:00pm. This may be the first time that the child experiences the synagogue and school as a gathering place of children of all ages to meet on a regular basis to learn as a community. The Kitah Bet learner begins to or continues to develop a sense of Jewish identity and community through socialization among their fellow Kitah Bet learners and the wider K-3 community.

Our 2nd graders are actively engaged in exploring Judaism at its most fundamental level by learning about blessings; by looking at the world through a Jewish lens and discovering God in their lives. The 2nd graders and their families participate in a year-long project called the “Sheh-heh-hi-yanu Project”, during which children and families look at “First Time Moments” as opportunities to thank God for the richness and blessings in their lives. The “Sheh-heh-hi-yanu Project” culminates in April with a “Siddur Ceremony”, during which the children receive the gift of a siddur from TIC.

**Holidays/Hagim:**

Kitah Bet looks at the holidays through the lens of basic understanding of each holiday. Learners discover and explore the customs, laws and traditions that go with each holiday. Children are reminded of the historical and religious ideas of each holiday and materials come home with each holiday for family use and discussion.

Materials: Pamphlets for “Let’s Celebrate the Jewish Holidays”, as well as many other projects, games, and activities that enhance our curricular goals.

**Torah:**

Kitah Bet learners explore Parashat HaShavua using a text/ workbook. The workbook is designed to involve the young learner in the cycle of the weekly Torah readings, and to help them establish a regular habit of Torah study. The narrative summary of each sidrah (portion) is designed for the young learner, and quotations provide an authentic piece of Torah text as a stimulus for discussion and further study. Learners are encouraged to derive meaning from the text. Comments are designed to provide an opportunity for personal involvement and connection to the events in the sidrah.

Text and Materials: Workbook “My Weekly Sidrah”

**Middot/Jewish Values:**

Children focus on and explore Jewish values as they occur in the Weekly sidrah. Jewish values learning include monthly challenges.
Hebrew:

Children in Kitah Bet are introduced to the aleph-bet and begin to learn to read Hebrew. Through the use of child friendly workbooks, children learn to recognize each letter of the aleph-bet, the names of each letter, the vowel symbols and vocabulary.

Materials: Sarah and David Series

Tefillah/Prayer:

On Sunday mornings, children participate in a weekly K-2 tefillah experience, in which they gather as a community to connect to God and to the prayers of our people. Through song, movement, exploration of the words of prayers in the siddur, children develop and continue to discover positive and reflective attitudes toward prayer.

On weekdays, during the first semester, 2nd and 3rd graders come together and engage in God-talk. This provides an opportunity for community building and also for the children to explore and talk about God. During the second semester, Kitah Bet focuses on learning and leading the prayer service for the Siddur Ceremony.

Texts: Home made siddur that learners reflect in all year and take home at the end of the year, “I have Some Questions About God”, “The New Lev Shalem prayer book”.

Israel Learning:

Israel is integrated throughout the curriculum, with a focus on the cities and bodies of water in and around Israel.

Kitah Bet Literacy Goals (by the end of the year our learners should know):

Torah:

- Familiarity with people and stories
- The Torah speaks to each of us and helps us learn how to behave
- The Torah is made up of parshiyot, and we read a specific parasha each week
- Torah teaches us values and we learn them as we study the weekly parasha
**Hagim Holidays:**

- Basic understanding of each holiday
- There are customs, laws, and traditions that go with each holiday
- How we prepare for the holidays
- Shabbat is a special day

**Israel:**

- It is our Jewish homeland with roots in the Torah
- Basic understanding of major cities and regions (Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, the Negev, Beer Sheva, Eilat, Haifa) and bodies of water (Mediterranean Sea, Dead Sea, Kinneret, Red Sea)
- Basic knowledge of the map of Israel

**Hebrew:**

- Directionality (we read from right to left)
- Hebrew classroom words
- The Aleph Bet Song
- Basic vocabulary
- Hebrew is our Jewish language and the language of the Torah and of Israel
- Ivrit BiTnua (Hebrew Through Movement)

**Brakhot/tefillot:**

- Oseh shalom, Sheh-heh-hi-yanu, Yotzer Or, Ma Tovu (beginning), Shema V'Ahavta
- All the prayers that are part of the siddur booklet in preparation for the siddur ceremony, including Modeh Ani, Ma Tovu, some of Birkot HaShahar, Yismihu, Mi Khamokha

**Other:**

- How to be a respectful member of a learning community