



West End Synagogue

Jewish Family Life and Learning (JFLL)

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www.westendsynagogue.org

July 12, 2016

Dear JFLL, High School and Kef Kids Parent(s),

I am excited and thrilled to begin another year with the West End Synagogue family. **This coming year we have some changes to our program so please read this letter carefully.**

Our WES educational program is special because it is not "religious school." For me and others, both words can be daunting and can have negative associations. People get scared of the word "religious" and students shy away from anything that has to do with "school". Our program is called JFLL (Jewish Family Life and Learning) because we believe that Jewish education is not only about the student but about the whole family and its relationship to our synagogue and the greater Jewish community.

We have programs for students of all ages! In addition to our regular curriculum for the students, throughout the year there will be various opportunities for whole family learning through joint family sessions and trips. Please keep an eye out for those coming dates. Here is some important information that each family needs to know for the coming year:

For pre-K (0-4) families

Families are encouraged to:

- attend weekly **Tot Shabbat services Saturday morning** at WES
- attend **First Friday** service/potluck Shabbat dinner
- register for **Kef Kids** our innovative Shabbat based-learning program. Please visit our website for more information. (Pre K-2nd grade)

For K-2d grade families

Families are encouraged to:

- attend weekly **Shirat Shabbat services Saturday morning** at WES
- attend **First Friday** service/potluck Shabbat dinner
- register for **Kef Kids**

For grades 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7

We will continue to hold our JFLL classes Tuesday afternoons from 4-6 pm, featuring fun, interactive, hands-on learning, following the philosophy of "whole person learning" that emphasizes "knowing, doing, believing and belonging." In addition to our regular Tuesday classes, we expect students and their families to take part in the following:

- attending the **First Friday** service/potluck Shabbat dinner
- attend monthly **Aliyah B'Yachad classes with Rabbi Marc**, Shabbat morning
- **6-7th grade families:** attend one additional Shabbat program or service at WES (Torah study, Friday night service, or Shabbat/holiday service)

Please Note that all Bnei Mitzvah students are expected to complete the ENTIRE 7th grade year of JFLL

For grades 8 -12:

Manhigut Teen Leadership Program and Religious Action Center Trip: We are in the process of developing an exciting teen program here at WES with Rabbi Nadia. This will include classes in teen leadership and a trip for ages 14 and up. Our teen trip to The Religious Action Center in Washington, D.C. will take place December 9-12. At the Religious Action Center, students learn about social justice issues and learn about lobbying. The students write speeches that they deliver Monday morning to their congress people on the Hill. Please stay tuned for more information on both of these programs.

Now it's time to register for the 2016-17 school year. Enclosed are the forms for you to complete and return by July 26, so we can order books and supplies in time for the start of school. **Please complete the Enrollment Agreement, the Tuition/Payment Plan, and the Student Information form and mail it to West End Synagogue or fax it to: 212-579-2669.**

MOST correspondence will be done via email. Please make sure to check your email often!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me or email me. I look forward to a wonderful year filled with learning and joy.

L'shalom,

Rabbi Nadia Gold
Director of Family Engagement