



West End Synagogue

Jewish Family Life and Learning (JFLL)

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July 18, 2017

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 myself 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 families with kids 0-4

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, Saturdays 2-3:30)

For pre-K-1st 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**

At Kef Kids, students engage in interactive, fun experiences that truly resonate with them Dates for the upcoming 2017-2018 year:

9/16	12/9	3/24
10/21	1/13	4/14
10/28	1/20	4/21
11/4	2/3	5/5
11/18	2/10	5/12
12/2	3/17	6/2

For grades 2, 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:

- attend the **First Friday** service/potluck Shabbat dinner
- **5th-7th grade families:** attend one additional Shabbat program or service at WES (Torah study, Friday night service, or Shabbat/holiday service) and attend B’nei Mitzvah family programming (Stay tuned for more news on this!)

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 and Rachel Oshrin. This will include classes in teen leadership twice a month. These classes are open for kids in 8th grade and up.

Our teen trip to The Religious Action Center in Washington, D.C. will take place January 26-29. This trip is for teens in 9th grade and up. 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. Stay tuned for more information on these programs.

Madrichim Program: We invite all children of members ages 13 and up to become Madrichim, assistant teachers on either Tuesday evenings 4-6 pm or Saturdays during Kef Kids. Please let me know if your teen is interested in becoming a Madrich.

Youth Groups And Volunteer Opportunities

We have two youth group programs here at WES. Our **Teen Senior Youth Group** for 8th graders and up, and our **Junior Youth Group** for grades 4-7. These groups will be led by Rabbi Nadia and various teachers in our JFLL/Kef Kids program. The goal of the youth program is to create community amongst our students. Friends of students who are not WES members may attend certain events. Approximately once a month we will have fun and engaging events such as: bowling, Havdalah and a movie, or working at a soup kitchen.

Students in grades 6 and up may volunteer to work with the youth program during the High Holidays, Chanukkah, and Purim for community service credit.

Now it’s time to register for the 2017-18 school year. Enclosed are the forms for you to complete and return by August 15, 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.**

*The school year begins on **SEPTEMBER 12.** A full yearly calendar will be coming soon!* MOST correspondence will be 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