



Chai Hebrew School

A project of Canton Chai Center

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Dear Parents,

As we approach the end of summer vacation and prepare for next year's Hebrew School please find enclosed a welcome package, which includes our program and curriculum, a fact sheet with detailed information about the Hebrew School, & a registration form.

Please read this package and send the form back at your earliest convenience. If you have any questions or if you need any special arrangements, please feel free to call me.

At Chai Hebrew School, we firmly believe that your child's first taste of Jewish learning should be fun, upbeat, and interesting. With the upcoming 2009-2010 Hebrew School in Canton, we are incorporating lots of new & exciting programs, in addition to the events & activities that we've had in the past.

At Chai Hebrew School, families of all backgrounds and affiliations are made to feel welcome. Please invite your friends to visit our Hebrew School to learn more about our school and our unique program and curriculum.

Looking forward to a year of learning and fun!

Wishing you a happy & healthy rest of the summer!

Sincerely yours,

Rivka Horowitz

Director

Special Offer

Please note that if you refer a new child to our Hebrew School you qualify for a 20% reduction in your tuition costs for this year for your child.



SCHOOL PROGRAM

We are enthusiastic about the beautiful lessons that Judaism has to offer, and we hope to transmit that excitement to the children through the excellent Hebrew School program at Canton Chai Center.

We have prepared an outstanding program that will give your child a solid foundation in the fundamentals of Judaism, and will instill in your child the faith, beauty and values of our heritage.

All lessons will be taught in a manner that will give the children a great appreciation of our rich Jewish heritage. Role-playing, crafts, and songs will be incorporated to help make the lessons enjoyable.

We are planning special programs which will take place at different times throughout the year, such as Shabbat experiences, Chanukah Party, Purim Fun, Passover Matzah Baking, Model Seder, Lag B'Omer Community Barbeque, and more.

We believe that the joy and pride in Judaism that will be experienced at the Chai Hebrew School will make an indelible impression upon the children.

Curriculum

Hebrew Reading and Writing	Jewish History
Hebrew Prayer	The Jewish Calendar
Conversational Hebrew	Love for Israel
Jewish Laws and Customs	Synagogue Life
Jewish Holidays	Bible - Torah Portions
Jewish Values	Jewish Songs



HEBREW LANGUAGE:

Children will learn to recognize and identify all of the Hebrew letters and vowels. As the children progress, they will climb the ladder of Hebrew reading at their own pace, using the Aleph Champ reading program (please see attached for more information about the Aleph Champ program). Additionally, they will begin to learn how to write some of the letters. Conversational Hebrew is a basic part of our program - Children will gain a base line of the Hebrew language and they will learn Hebrew words related to current themes.

MITZVOT:

Children will be taught the meaning of Mitzvoth - Torah commandments - and will be encouraged to enjoy the experience of doing mitzvot (good deeds). Some mitzvot emphasized are Charity, loving one another, kindness to living creatures, hospitality, honoring parents, and mezuzah.

JEWISH HOLIDAYS:

Children will learn to appreciate the special quality and holiness of Shabbat and Holidays. They will become familiar with the historical background, customs, and observances of each festival throughout the year.

PRAYERS:

Children will become familiar with basic prayers and blessings, as well as the reasons and meanings behind them.

JEWISH HISTORY & TRADITION:

Over the year the children will learn about many of the important events and lessons which have helped shape Jewish History. Each year we incorporate a central theme into our weekly Hebrew lessons.

Group 1: This year our theme is based on the Jewish Home. The children will learn about Jewish tradition with a focus on family values. We will explore Mitzvahs such as respecting our parents, Tzedakah (charity), Shabbat, and welcoming guests.

Group 2: This year our theme is based on Breishit, the book of Genesis, which is the first of the five books of the Torah. B'reishit is jam-packed with very important and well-known bible stories. Using the book of B'reishit as a base for our theme, the children will learn the stories and the valuable lessons gleaned from the stories, as they encounter several heroic figures who serve as role models for us. Each story emerges with a practical application that the children can relate to in their own lives in today's society.



FACT SHEET

Days / Times

Sunday 9:30 am – 12:00 pm

Location

574 Washington St.

Canton, MA 02021

Tuition and Fees:

Group 1 \$750.00

Payment Options:

Option 1: Prepayment in full before September.

Option 2: Pay \$250.00 before September (before the first day of school), \$250.00 before December 1st, and \$250.00 before March 1st.

Note: If there are reasons you cannot commit to one of the above options, please contact us to arrange a personal payment plan. No child will be turned away for lack of funds.

Please check box with your choice for method of payment:

- Prepayment in full before September
- Pay 1/3 of tuition before September, 1/3 of tuition before December 1st, and 1/3 before March 1st



Registration Application 2009-2010

Part I: Student Information

Last Name _____
First Name: English _____ Hebrew _____
Address _____ City _____ Zip _____ Phone _____
Birth date _____ Age _____ School _____ Grade (Entering) _____

Part II: Parents' Information

Father's Name _____ Mother's Name _____
e-mail (parent) _____
Emergency Contact Person _____ Telephone # () - _____
Relationship to child _____

Part II: Hebrew Education

Does your child read Hebrew? ___None ___Somewhat ___Well
Does your child speak/understand Hebrew? ___None ___Somewhat ___Well
Does your child have any learning difficulties with general studies? ___ Yes ___ No
If yes, please describe: _____
Child's previous Hebrew education (if any): _____
Are both parents Jewish? _____
Are there any conversions in the family? _____ If yes please describe _____
Is anyone in the family a Kohen or Levi? _____

Signature _____

Date _____



The Aleph Champ Reading Program

The Aleph Champion Program is a brainstorm idea based on the karate motivational system of colors and levels. The entire reading system was divided into levels of different colors. This arrangement ensures that students learn to read Hebrew at their own pace in an efficient, well-organized method.

Children begin with the white level, practicing the first half of the aleph-bet and move through the ten levels, ending with reading fluently. Children will receive an Aleph Champ home kit so they can practice their level at home, and move ahead. Home kit items are to be returned to the school as the child moves ahead and are replaced with the next level items. Children will be tested throughout the year and can move up a level at any time. Awards are given throughout the year as well.

Aleph Champ History

A long, long time ago, (back in the year 2003) a young and energetic Hebrew School Director decided to expand her recreational activities by joining a local Torah Dojo Karate class. Under the tutelage of "Sensei Diane" she began learning the techniques of Karate.

One fine morning it dawned upon her that learning **Karate** was indeed quite similar to the reading program at the Hebrew School she was running. The parallels were incredible. First, both systems ran once a week, leaving way too much space time from class to class for any substantial progress. Second, at home, few parents were clued in to what the child was learning. Practicing Karate at home, no one would have noticed whether she was practicing a front, side or round-house kick. Similar to the parent who tries to help with her child's Hebrew reading work but can't tell a *Kamatz* from a *Koobotz*. And last, there were students of all levels in class at the same time.

With all these similarities, there was just one major difference. In Karate, students were motivated to progress, were practicing for test dates with friends, and graduated from level to level quite quickly. Hebrew reading at the Hebrew School however was looking quite different. Students were learning to read year after year, without too much motivation to progress and failing to read properly by the time they needed to read for their Bar and Bat Mitzvahs.

So what was being done in Karate that could be adapted to the Hebrew School?

When a student steps into a Karate class, it is *very clear* what level everyone is on. The teacher is a **Black Belt**. Some students who have been studying for years are Purple or even Brown Belts. Beginners wear White Belts and there is a plethora of other colored belts.

It is very clear what one needs to know in order to pass a level and the reward is merely the change in color belt, a change in status.

If only there was some way to divide reading into a clear color coded system with levels easily defined and attainable... A program in which students would be excited about learning to read Hebrew and motivated to advance to the level of the teacher...

How does it work?



Step 1: Students are tested for their level using the aleph champ quiz book.

Step 2: Once placed in a level, the children receive a colored aleph champ reading primer depending on which color they passed.

Step 3: When a student progresses to the point of advancing a level, a testing date is set. The child is tested and receives an Aleph Champ Certificate of achievement as well as a new color book.

Step 4: Teachers are designated for the different color reading groups. **Aleph Champ Centers** are set up for reading, writing, games and flashcard review.

Step 5: Students are motivated and excited. The Aleph Champion Program is a success.

Aleph Champ Levels

1. **White Aleph Champion** – Master the first 18 letters of the Aleph Bet.
2. **Red Aleph Champion** – Master all 32 letters of the Aleph Bet.
3. **Orange Aleph Champion** – Master the first 3 vowels with letter combinations.
4. **Yellow Aleph Champion** – Master the first 6 vowels with letter combinations.
5. **Green Aleph Champion** – Master the first 9 vowels with letter combinations.
6. **Blue Aleph Champion** – Master all the vowels and exceptions to the rules.
7. **Purple Aleph Champion** – Master reading familiar Prayers and Brachot.
8. **Brown Aleph Champion** – Master reading important Tefillot.
9. **Grey Aleph Champion** – Master reading from the Siddur in a timed fashion.
10. **Black Aleph Champion** – Master reading over 100 words in a minute



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Hebrew School Calendar 2008/2009

Sunday, September 14 th	First day of school
Sunday, September 21 st	School in session
Sunday, September 28 th	School in session
Sunday, October 5 th	School in session
Sunday, October 12 th	School in session
Sunday, October 19 th	Sukkot Party
Sunday, October 26 th	School in session
Sunday, November 2 nd	School in session
Sunday, November 9 th	School in session
Sunday, November 16 th	School in session
Sunday, November 23 rd	School in session
Sunday, November 30 th	No School – Thanksgiving weekend
Sunday, December 7 th	School in session
Sunday, December 14 th	School in session
Sunday, December 21 st	School in session – Chanukah Show
Sunday, December 28 th	No School – Mid-Winter Break
Sunday, January 4 th	School in session
Sunday, January 11 th	School in session
Sunday, January 18 th	School in session
Sunday, January 25 th	School in session
Sunday, February 1 st	School in session
Friday, February 6 th	Hebrew School Friday Night Dinner
Sunday, February 8 th	School in session
Sunday, February 15 th	No School – Teacher Training
Sunday, February 22 nd	School in session
Sunday, March 1 st	School in session
Sunday, March 8 th	School in session
Sunday, March 15 th	School in session
Sunday, March 22 nd	Model Matzah Bakery
Sunday, March 29 th	School in session
Sunday, April 5 th	School in session
Sunday, April 12 th	No School – Passover Break
Sunday, April 19 th	Spring Break
Sunday, April 26 th	School in session
Sunday, May 3 rd	School in session
Sunday, May 10 th	School in session
Sunday, May 17 th	School in session
Sunday, May 24 th	No School – Memorial Day Weekend
Sunday, May 31 st	School in session
Sunday, June 7 th	Hebrew School Graduation