

School Committee 2006 - 2007

- In keeping with TJC's theme of diversity this year, the Religious School teachers received training in the beginning of the school year on becoming aware of issues related to diversity in order to become more effective educators for all students. The religious school students attended the program, "Jews of Color," in April and were taught about Jewish communities of different color and culture throughout the world.
- Our special education program was revitalized and renamed Yachdav over the summer. The program began in September under the direction of Robby Devery and is continuing to grow in number and in content. There is now a parent support group offered once a month on Sundays. There is classroom instruction each week as well as consultation to teachers and within the classrooms as needed. We have applied for a Schechter Award because of the high caliber of this program.
- The Nursery School had a very successful year of running events and fundraising in order to raise money for a new playground. It has become a reality and our new playground is here. Several new pieces will continue to arrive in the next few weeks. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony on June 4 at 10:15 am.
- The Nursery and Religious School teachers were invited to a Sukkot dinner hosted by the school committee. They were able to eat in the sukkah and share thoughts about the holiday and their connection to TJC.
- Our Tichon program was restructured into one core curriculum class for each grade and one elective for each grade per semester. This format has been successful. The Siyyum Tichon students (10th graders) participated in a community service trip to Biloxi, Mississippi over the long NJEA weekend in November. Their experiences were transformative as they were able to fulfill the mitzvah of *tikkun olam*. They report their experiences to the synagogue community on a Shabbat morning.
- A new Nursery School class was started for children from 1-2 years of age. It is called K'tontonim and meets once a week.
- A new Shabbat morning class was started for the Vav students and their families in order to help all families be more comfortable in the Shabbat morning service. It meets twice monthly and has been very well attended.
- A new Nursery Parent Association Committee was begun this year and meets once a month. The meetings have been very well attended. The

parents have come up with many new ideas and have helped to see them come to fruition.

- The Nursery and Religious Schools co-sponsored a program taught by Rabbi Feldman on “The Blessing of a Skinned Knee”. The classes met once in the morning and once at night for four weeks in February and were well attended with very positive feedback by attendees.
- Fran Amir and the Religious School teachers were honored at a Shabbat morning service in April. Each teacher received an honor or led parts of the service and the children of the Religious School were part of the service as well. There was a Kiddush Luncheon after the service and it was a wonderful event for all.