

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL & TEEN INSTITUTE

September 2010



My father, zichrono l'vracha, used to have a subscription to *Popular Mechanics*. My favorite sections of the magazine were the peeks into the future, with cars that floated and television that was in color. How could we even think that we would have the world we have today, with all of its technological wonders? Our challenge at the Religious School is to harness the technology and have it enhance our curriculum, our communication and our community. The following are our responses to that challenge:

We continue this year with the SMARTboard, and have added a dedicated computer set-up and camera, courtesy of the Legacy Heritage Fund. This will give more teachers opportunities to use it to add another dimension to their teaching. They love the variety of activities that the SMARTboard lends to lessons and appreciate the positive response from the students!

This year's Kitah Zayin, will have three teachers, and in keeping with our mission, emphasize competence, confidence and connection. Upan-styled activities will help transition from the narrow focus on the Bar/Bat Mitzvah service. There might even be some Hebrew-language "Skype-ing" with former teachers now in Israel! Holocaust studies will play a major role, as well as discussions on ethical dilemmas, with "trigger films" found on YouTube.

We want to be able to let you, the parents, know what is going on in Religious School, and we don't want to wait until the end of the month. Presenting- Acivit-e, a password protected website that enhances our communication with parents. On it you will find notes from the teachers, photos that can be ordered, library suggestions and general information, as well as a "painless" fundraising opportunity. You should be receiving information and a link to the site within the week, so that you can create your own password and get connected!

At Teen Institute we've got plans for great courses - drama, food, film, tikkun olam, art and maybe even a famous comedian... you never know! Take a minute to jump online and register. It will help us make our plans for a great year! Oh, and we're on Facebook- check our TBAY TEEN INSTITUTE and click "like."

As you can see, we've gone beyond the dreams of *Popular Mechanics*. We are learning the ancient messages of Torah with the help of modern innovations. See you in school and in cyberspace!

Shalom,

Gail Buchbinder, Education Director