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JEWISH LEARNING IS HAPPENING AT OHEV BETH SHOLOM

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For our teachers and their students

And the students of their students:

And for all who study Torah

In this place and in every other place:

May there be abundant peace for them and for you,

Grace, compassion and mercy,

Long life and ample sustenance,

And salvation from their God in heaven and earth

And let us say, Amen.

These words are from a prayer called “Kaddish D’rabanan.” If we were to look at the prayer in its entirety and not just at the section I quoted here, there would be much that is similar to the Mourner’s Kaddish, the prayer that we say to honor and remember those who have died. But the “Kaddish D’rabanan” is different; it is a prayer that celebrates that special and unique relationship between a teacher and their students.

Known as the “Scholar’s Kaddish,” traditionally the “Kaddish D’rabanan” is recited at the conclusion of the reading of a Talmudic or midrashic passage. However, today, we also use it as a sort of finale, saying it as we finish a course of study. It is a thank you of sorts, acknowledging the teaching and learning that has occurred by teacher and student alike.

As we reach the end of the school year, I am grateful for the commitment, dedication, and hard work of our religious school teachers. They show up on Sunday mornings and Wednesday afternoons with smiles on their faces, ready to embrace our youngest students. Todah Rabbah to Emily Fitzpatrick, Talia Hagler, Laura Silverman, Taylor Kundel-Gower, Miriam Apalsch, Maayan Sigler, Atara Karabelo and of course Rabbi Courtney Berman for giving so much of themselves to our community. Mazel tov on the completion of another great year of learning!

In-person religious school classes may be on hiatus, but Jewish learning never ends. Stay tuned for more information regarding opportunities to “brush up on our Hebrew” and to celebrate summer in uniquely Jewish ways.

And for the rest of us non-religious school aged learners? Adult learning is still on the docket—with so much more on the way! This month, please continue to join us at Online Torah Study (every other Thursday at 10 a.m.), Regular Adult Learning Classes (every Tuesday at noon), the Tikkun Leil Shavuot on the first night of Shavuot when we honor the tradition of engaging in Jewish Learning.

Truly, Jewish learning is happening at Ohev Beth Sholom! I look forward to continuing to learn and grow together.