



Your Guide to the Gesher Community

Dear Gesher Parents and Children,

It is my honor to welcome your family to a new year in the Gesher community at Dor Hadash.

Our goal is to create wonderful Jewish memories that will fill you and your children up with Jewish pride. We strive to instill a love of the traditions, holidays, stories of our ancestors, and Jewish history.

Children want to belong. We all do! You will find community at Dor Hadash, a safe place to be yourself, ask questions, and feel the joy that comes with Jewish celebrations. You will also be called upon to be there for others in times of need.

At Dor Hadash you have a place to explore your own identity within the year-long cycle and to live a life of Jewish values that we pass on from generation to generation, *l'dor vador*,

With your input and involvement, together we will create special Jewish memories that your children (and you) will proudly take into their futures.

Betsy Schneider

Director of Education and Engagement

Who's Who?

Dor Hadash Staff:

Rabbi: Yael Ridberg

Director of Education and Engagement: Betsy Schneider

Administrator: Julie White

Teen Educator: Zev Sorokin

Parent Connection Co-Chairs: Suzi Cohen and Janene Bacica

Gesher Teachers:

Gan (Pre-K, K) Sheri Brown

Alef, Bet, Gimel (1st, 2nd, 3rd) Maiya Haberman

Daled, Hey (4th, 5th) Mindy Nnambi and Holly Baumann

Vav, B'nai Mitzvah (6th, 7th) Holly Baumann and Mindy Nnambi

Who Comes When?

PreK – 5th grades Sun 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

6th and 7th grades Sun 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., Tues on Zoom 4:30–5:30 p.m.

All families:

- *Kehillah* Gatherings, Sundays 9:00 – 9:25 a.m.
- First Friday Shabbat Services, once per month
- *Shabbat B'Yachad* (Shabbat Together) Saturdays, several per year

Teens: *Madrihim* (teen helpers) Sundays 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Sicha: Teen Ed with Zev Sorokin on Gesher Sundays 12:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Gesher Sunday Schedule:

9:00–9:25 a.m.	<i>Kehillah</i> Gathering — for parents too!
9:30 10:30 a.m.	Gesher <i>havurah</i> (class time)
10:30-ish a.m.	<u>Hadash Nosh</u> (break, outside)
10:45–11:55 a.m.	Class time
12:00–12:10 p.m.	Dismissal from the front parking lot, far end

Gesher Sunday Dates:

Sept 11

Oct 2, 30 (Oct 9 at Coastal Roots Farm)

Nov 6, 13

Dec 4

Jan 8, 15, 29

Feb 12, 26 (Feb 5 at Coastal Roots Farm)

March 5, 19

April 16, 30

May 7, 21

June 4

Gesher Tuesday dates on Zoom for 6th and 7th graders:

Oct 25

Nov 1, 8, 15

Dec 6, 13

Jan 10, 17, 24, 31

Feb 7, 14, 21, 28

March 14, 21

April 4, 11, 18, 25

May 2, 9, 16

Additional Information

Ma Hadash (What's New?) is Dor Hadash's weekly e-newsletter. Each Wednesday, parents will receive this e-newsletter that Betsy and Julie prepare especially for you. Please read it! Any changes in the weekly schedule will be listed there.

What Should My Child Bring on Sunday Mornings?

- *Tzedakah* (charitable giving) money (any amount)
- \$1 or so to spend at Hadash Nosh (outside at break time) Water bottle or cup, labeled!
- Sweatshirts/jackets (Please label ALL sweatshirts/jackets. They are often left behind.)
- Gesher *shekels* on *shuk* (market) days (watch *Ma H*adash for reminders)

Kehillah (Community) Gatherings. On most Gesher Sunday mornings, parents, students, and teachers gather as a community in the Rehearsal Room to connect, learn, sing and share. Parents are encouraged to participate and lend their voices, talents, and ideas as we spend this time together each week.

Parent Connection (PC). All Gesher parents are members of the Parent Connection. Suzi Cohen and Janene Bacica will give Parent Connection updates throughout the year at *Kehillah* Gatherings. If you have ideas or comments, you are encouraged to stay at 9:30 to continue the conversation.

Social Sundays. All Gesher families are invited to Social Sundays (one part Social Action, two parts FUN) several times a year. There is no Gesher at CDH on Social Sundays. If you have an idea for a Social Sunday, please let [Suzi](#) know.

Gesher Fundraising. If you have a fundraising idea, we welcome your suggestions. So far, PC is planning for our Hamantashen Bake and to sell beautiful Hanukkah candles from Tzfat, Israel.

Hadash Nosh. Throughout the year, parents are asked to provide bagels and healthy snacks for *Hadash Nosh*. All parents are requested to sign up with the Parent Connection to bring 1.5 dozen SLICED bagels (with *shmeer*–cream cheese–separately) once or twice a year. Families are also asked to bring healthy snack items during your assigned months (below). One or two large boxes of snacks should be plenty every 2–3 months; however, if you’d like to bring more, please do.

Snack Schedule:

September and October	Student’s last name A–F
November, December, and January	Student’s last name G–K
February and March	Student’s last name L–R
April and May	Student’s last name S–Z

Tzedakah. Your child should bring *tzedakah* money (any amount) each Sunday. Teachers will facilitate conversations about *tikkun olam* (repairing the world), and collect *tzedakah* each Sunday. We will all vote at the end of the year on where to donate the collection.

Gesher *Shekels*. Students earn Gesher *shekels* (wooden nickels) for participating in Jewish activities outside of Gesher. Each Sunday, *shekels* are handed out after the *Kehillah* Gathering. Several times throughout the year, students spend their *shekels* at the *shuk* (market): December 4, March 19, June 4

Bringing Visitors on Sundays. Children and parents who are interested in touring or visiting a Gesher Sunday, should contact Betsy to make arrangements as well as to get their questions answered. We ask that students refrain from bringing friends or relatives to class, as this can be disruptive to the classroom community.

Gesher Curriculum

We rotate the Judaic curriculum on a two-year basis, studying about Israel and Torah stories every other year. This year our focus is on Jewish values through Torah stories. Students revisit these themes at an age-appropriate level every other year. Holidays, as they occur, are celebrated with the Dor Hadash community as often as possible.

Hebrew is taught as a new language through learning the names and sounds of each letter and how to read prayers and other liturgy. Throughout the years in Gesher, students learn the Shabbat prayers on a cumulative basis.

***Vav, B'nai Mitzvah* Class.** On Tuesday afternoons, our 6th and 7th grade students will be learning about the Prophets and Jewish Values, in addition to working on prayers and blessings in preparation of their bar/bat/b mitzvah. Students will also have “Ask The Rabbi” sessions with Rabbi Yael throughout the year on various Tuesdays.

***B'nai (Bar/Bat/B) Mitzvah* Requirements.** To become a *b'nai mitzvah* at Dor Hadash, students must be thirteen years old (either according to the Hebrew calendar or the Gregorian calendar) and have attended religious school for a minimum of three years, beginning at CDH no later than Vav (6th grade).

Holocaust Studies. The students in 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th grades will be learning about the Holocaust through videos, stories, and discussions.

Homework. Teachers may assign homework to encourage progress in reading Hebrew. The assignments may be interactive or on-line and may require parent participation.

Independent Learning Program (ILP). Each student in *Daled* (4th grade) through *b'nai mitzvah* (7th grade) participates in a self-directed program of Jewish learning, participating in a minimum of 10 activities per year (attend Jewish events, read a Jewish-themed book, etc.). Students will prepare to share one of their ILP activities in January or February at *Kehillah* Gatherings. All students are encouraged to participate.

First Fridays The Dor Hadash community will welcome Shabbat together on the first (or other) Friday of most months from 6:30–7:30 p.m. During each First Friday, a group of Gesher students will lead the Kabbalat Shabbat service with Rabbi Yael and song leader, Hilly Rubin. All birthdays for that month will be celebrated. Each grade level will lead three services this year. The Gesher curriculum expectation is that students and their families attend monthly, or as often as possible.

Class Assigned First Fridays:

Gan	Dec. 2, March 10, June 2
Alef, Bet, Gimel	Nov. 4, Feb 3, June 2
Daled, Hey, Vav, B.Mitzvah	Oct. 7, Jan 6, April 14, June 2

Shabbat B'Yachad (together). These are everybody-friendly Shabbat morning or evening experiences on a few Saturdays with Rabbi Yael and our song leader, Hilly Rubin. We will pray, learn, and connect through song, Torah, art, and schmoozing.

Dates:

December 10 at 9:00 a.m. followed by a potluck lunch
January 21 at 4 p.m. at La Jolla Shores, Campfire *Havdalah*
April 22 at 4 p.m. at La Jolla Shores, Campfire *Havdalah*

For Little Ones: *Todah Shabbat*

Once each month, *Todah* the sloth (puppet) joins Betsy, along with his other furry friends, for a Shabbat celebration at the JCC. Babies, young children, parents, and grandparents are invited to join the fun!

Gesher Hebrew and Prayer Expectations

***Gan* students will know:**

Shabbat blessings (3)
Hanukkah blessings
Sing along with the Four Questions
Leḥa Dodi (chorus)
Oseh Shalom
The *Shema*
The *Barehu* (with bowing)

***Alef, Bet, Gimel* students will be able to recite and sing the above plus:**

V'Ahavta
V'Shamru
Eliyahu Ha'Navi
Mi Hamoha (chorus)
Havdalah blessings
Mi Shebeirach

***Daled, Hey, Vav* students will be able to recite and sing the above plus:**

Shalom Aleichem
Kiddush for Shabbat
Opening of the *Amidah* (with bowing)
Hatzi Kaddish and Mourners' *Kaddish*
Aleynu (Reconstructionist version — with bowing)
Sheheḥyanu blessing

***B'nai Mitzvah* students:**

Focus on Shabbat morning blessings
Torah and Haftarah blessings
Selected additional Shabbat morning prayers and blessings

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