

Look at the word, religious school, below. If you could fill-in just the right colors what would they be and what would each color represent?

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Would you have a warm blue for a nurturing environment? Would you place a dab of red for a rich ancient history or have a letter full of oranges and yellows for those sparks of ideas that come from our children? Jewish education is a

rainbow filled with memories of the past and visions of the future. It has rich colors representing our feelings and emotional connections to Judaism. Our rainbow includes a complex language and rich ideas that pore out of it in all directions connecting our rainbow to thousands of other rainbows drawn by Jewish children.

God says to Noah: "I set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of a covenant between me and the earth." Genesis 9:13

This is the agreement we made thousands of years ago to pass on to our children. God's first Brit – covenant – was with Noah and all the people of the world and then with Abraham as father of the Jews: I will maintain My covenant between Me and you, and your offspring to come, as an everlasting covenant throughout the ages, to be God to you and to your offspring. Genesis 17:7

For thousands of years we have told and retold our stories as we connect to our communities of the past and the present.

We are also reminded, in the Torah, that there are important milestones that connect us. This year our congregation will be celebrating its Yoav, 50th Jubilee year. As many of us know, who have reached this distinctive age, it is a time for looking back and learning from our experiences and also being fascinated by what may lie ahead. The 50th....

"And you shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land to all the inhabitants of it; it shall be a jubilee to you." Leviticus 25:10

All things are renewed; we are free to begin again. It is a time to stop and take stock of the past as it informs us and helps us vision for the future.

This coming year in our Religious School, we will honor our past as we vision for the future. Our children will participate in a number of wonderful projects that will celebrate our connections to each other as members of the Temple Shalom community. All our students will create their own tribute to Temple Shalom in our school art project. Music will flow through the halls as we connect our 50th anniversary with our love of music and we invite all our families to a family education program in commemoration of Jubilee year.

We have an exciting year ahead of us. Please join us throughout the year at grade level parent and child programs, at family holiday celebrations and our first Friday Shabbat dinner and Family Service. We are looking forward to filling our rainbow with wonderful colors throughout the year. Please add your special color each time you join us.

Shana Tova u'metucah, may you all have a sweet New Year!!
Lisa Pressman
Director of Education

