

Director of Youth and Family Programming Report to the Board of Trustees November, 2022

- It's been a busy start to the year. While we do not have a kindergarten class this year we gained 6 new school families (1 was already a member) with 10 kids plus younger siblings who did not enroll. We welcomed back a family who was not comfortable being here in-person since Covid. One of our Religious School families moved their child to SSDS!
- We have had a lot of Family programming so far.
  - The first day of Religious school began with a breakfast prepared and sponsored by our Brotherhood. It was the first one since 2019!
  - On the High Holy Days we offered an early childhood service, a family service for families with children in k-7 and a teen service. All of them went really well. We made use of our outdoor spaces on Rosh Hashana and needed to be inside for Yom Kippur.
  - We did Tashlich at SSDS this year. Families participated in 5 self-guided activities. Then we gathered by the water to perform Tashlich. Rabbi Small spoke and explained while Cantor Risman sang a few songs. Josh Cohen secured the Kona ice truck to be there for a treat at the end
  - We had pizza in the sukkah during sukkot.
  - We danced on Simchat Torah!
  - Rabbi Small, Cantor Risman and I facilitated a program for the 7<sup>th</sup> graders and their families on Coming of Age.
  - We did the Haunted Shul again! With the help of parents we decorated Koret and made it spooky. We started the program in the lobby where the Witch from Endor conjured up the spirits of all of Israel's enemies. The kids were given hero cards that were used to fight 9 different biblical enemies of the Israelites. At each station, a teacher became the enemy- they told the story, but left out how the enemy was defeated. Some stations had an activity that helped the kids to figure out who the hero was, while others they just had to use the clues in the story. We ended the program with the story of the Rabbi and the 29 witches. While this was during Wednesday religious school time we had a few day school school families and younger kids join us!
  - We held tot Shabbat and began a new Shabbat program for our early childhood families called Shabbat Jams
  - Sass led family services
  - With the help of Cantor Risman and Josh Cohen we keep doing Kibbitz and Nosh weekly.

- I am working on winter and spring programming with PJLibrary and potentially the Children's Museum