

Monday, October 20, 2014

Congratulations on giving your child the opportunity to be taken seriously in our community and make difficult and impactful decisions through their participation on the 8th Grade Tzedakah Board!

There are a few things that you need to know about regarding their participation in the board.

1. Participation in the board requires a contribution of \$100 from them to the group fund. These monies will be matched by a group of donors in the community and distributed to organizations that the board chooses. This \$100 contribution can come from their recent B'nai Mitzvah gifts or some kind of savings that they have. If you as the parent needs to supply these funds, please work out with you child how it can be paid back over time. Please bring the \$100 to the first or second session.
2. Each board member will receive a binder with their name on it. This binder will have all the learning materials, activities, and grant proposals. In order for them to participate in each session, they need to bring their binder every time. As they are just beginning to discover personal organizing strategies in their life, we are relying on you to help them remember to bring it.
3. We will have our annual **Tzedakah Board Retreat at Camp Hess Kramer in Malibu, CA on January 30 - February 1, 2015**. This retreat is done in conjunction with the Bureau of Jewish Education's 8th Grade program and is a **mandatory** component of our 8th Grade Tzedakah Board. It will be an opportunity for a deeper bonding experience with our group and an opportunity to build relationships with Jewish 8th graders who live all over Orange County. The cost of the retreat to the BJE is \$350, but your tuition subsidizes it for Temple Beth El members for a cost of \$195 for the weekend. We realize that this is an additional expense, but as the experience is integral to our program, we are committed to helping any families who have difficulty affording it.
4. Please note in our schedule that we meet approximately two Sundays a month. One Sunday is from 4-7 pm, as we integrate our program with the 9-12th grade Teen Leadership Program having an additional all teen programming component and a community pizza dinner. And, one Sunday a month, we meet from 4-6 pm with no dinner included. The schedule is attached. Please incorporate it into your calendars.
5. Being part of the 8th Grade Tzedakah Board provides access to all BESTY teen activities. These activities are wonderful social opportunities to have fun and connect not only with fellow 8th graders, but will older teens in the Temple Beth El community. Please check your monthly BESTY email newsletter for upcoming events.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with questions about our exciting year.

Blessings,

Rabbi K'vod Wieder

**8th Grade Tzedakah Board Dates 2014-2015**

October 26	4-7 pm
November 16	4-7 pm
November 30	4-6 pm
December 14	4-7 pm
January 11, 2015	4-7 pm
January 25	4-6 pm
January 30-Feb 1	Retreat (returning Sunday at noon)
February 15	4-6 pm
March 15	4-7 pm
March 29	4-6 pm
April 12	4-6 pm
April 26	4-7 pm
May 10	4-6 pm
June 5	Mitzvah Recognition Evening/Tzedakah Board Community Presentation