



May 17, 2009 / 23 Iyar 5769

Dear First Grade Families,

You are receiving this letter because your son/daughter will be in the Consecration Class of 5770! You are in for a special treat and will certainly *kvell* when you see your child marching through the sanctuary holding his or her Torah and singing with joy and pride.

Consecration marks the special time when our first grade students and their families enter the study of sacred texts with joy, celebration and love. Consecration is traditionally linked with the holiday of *Simchat Torah*, the occasion on which the last words of *D'varim* (Deuteronomy) are read with the first words of *B'reshit* (Genesis). *Simchat Torah* also includes festive music and traditional dancing with our Torahs, to help us rejoice and celebrate the renewal of reading the end and beginning of Torah back to back.

This year, Consecration falls on Saturday, October 10, 2009. Please mark your calendars and watch your mail this summer for more details. The attire for consecrants is white dresses or skirt and blouse for girls, white button down shirts and dark pants for boys. We provide bow ties for the boys to wear. In the past, parents have appreciated the opportunity to begin looking for white dresses during the summer.

In preparing for the Consecration ceremony we will have a special program for our first grade students and parents on September 27th from 9:30 - noon. This program includes the decoration of Torah covers and a session with one of our clergy. Enjoy your summer and please do not hesitate to email (scohen@fairmounttemple.org) or call (216-464-5890) with any questions or comments.

L'shalom,

Staci Cohen
Assistant Director