

MATAN HANDBOOK

2012



The gift of Jewish learning at TBI

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Ph: 03 9510 1488
www.tbi.org.au



Temple Beth Israel



HANDBOOK 2012

When a seed is sown, the Tree of Life takes hold.

Dear Families,

Welcome to our exciting MATAN Program, a community where learning takes place and whilst we have great fun. MATAN has provided a growing number of children with a strong sense of Jewish identity and wonderful social opportunities to meet other Jewish children. Families continue to embrace our program as it gives their children Jewish knowledge of festivals, values and culture.

Students become equipped with Hebrew knowledge that will ultimately assist them complete their Bar/Bat Mitzvah. MATAN will certainly assist in achieving these aims. It is imperative to note as you plan your child/ren's Bar/Bat Mitzvah that **all students who are to be Bar/Bat Mitzvah at Temple Beth Israel must attend MATAN for two years prior to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah date if the child/ren attend a non-Jewish day school.** In the event that your child/children attend a Jewish day school but at some point they move to a non-Jewish school, attendance at MATAN is required from the time they move outside the Jewish day school system regardless of their level of Jewish and/or Hebrew knowledge.

Temple Beth Israel caters for all families and the changing needs of our community. On behalf of the staff and the Board at Temple Beth Israel, it is with great pleasure and pride that I have the opportunity to welcome you and your child/ren to one of the most dynamic Jewish learning programs in Melbourne.

Through our MATAN program we want our children to feel great about being Jewish. Together with a team of talented teachers, we know that MATAN is a positive and rewarding experience for students, parents, teachers and the wider community.

We hope the following information will be of assistance to you. Please do not hesitate to contact the Office on 9510-1488 regarding any matters, queries or concerns.

We look forward to a great year ahead!

B'Shalom

Monica Hyams
Education Director

Please note: Separate Booklet also available on the TBI website:

✧ MATAN Enrolment Form





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No one is entitled or obligated to learn more continuously,

reflectively and joyfully than teachers themselves.

MATAN's Leadership Team

Rabbi Fred Morgan

Senior Rabbi

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Education Director

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Temple Beth Israel



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Just as a tree needs water and sunlight to grow, we need learning to sustain us.

About Temple Beth Israel

MISSION STATEMENT

Temple Beth Israel is an Australian Progressive Jewish Congregation that provides a spiritual community through a contemporary approach to Jewish practice and a commitment to Jewish tradition, culture and education.

VISION

Our vision at Temple Beth Israel is to:

- ✧ Maintain a congregation that is sensitive to the diverse needs of our Progressive Jewish community.
- ✧ Provide services of worship embracing Progressive Jewish values and practice for those Jews who subscribe to these values and who choose to practice Judaism in this manner.
- ✧ Provide facilities consistent with the current and future needs of the entire membership of Temple Beth Israel.
- ✧ Institute programs and activities that foster an ongoing thriving community, welcoming and supporting Jews who are building commitment through all cycles of their lives.
- ✧ Guide our community as it seeks to develop the spiritual, religious and communal expressions of Progressive Judaism.
- ✧ Maximise participation in all forms of Progressive Jewish life.
- ✧ Encourage and support Progressive Jewish education and study for adults and youth.
- ✧ Promote opportunities to become involved in all aspects of community life.





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About MATAN

Temple Beth Israel takes much pride in MATAN. Catering for children from Transition Prep to B'nei Mitzvah, our dynamic teachers acknowledge the variety of learning styles and needs of our students. These learning styles are met through an integrated approach to education, utilising art, music, movement, drama, story-telling and song, as well as engaging texts and books. Our program is designed to integrate the many aspects of Jewish Education into a cohesive program. We use the internationally acclaimed 'Chai' and 'Mitkadem' curriculum documents published by the Union of Reform Judaism. The curriculum incorporates Jewish customs, holidays, culture, ritual, text and history.

MATAN encourages all students to take pride in their Jewish identity. We strive towards enabling our students to understand their role in the wider Jewish community of Melbourne, the Diaspora and Israel. Our curriculum aims to create knowledgeable and devoted Jews, and instill in our students a sense of love and belonging to their religion, history, culture, traditions, family and community.

The dedicated teachers at MATAN encourage a hands-on approach to learning, including opportunities for our students to participate in excursions as well as in events within the Temple Beth Israel community. We promote a three-way partnership between the students, their families and our school. To ensure we maintain a superior level of education, all teaching staff participate in regular professional development sessions and work together towards creating a learning environment which is encouraging, nurturing and stimulating.

At MATAN we aim to enable everyone to feel a strong part of our community. We aim to provide our students the opportunity to form life-long friendships. Parents become involved in meaningful discussions about the joys and struggles of raising Jewish children.

In order to facilitate connections among parents and to help them grow and develop their Judaism alongside their children, Temple Beth Israel holds Limmud sessions on a diverse range of topics on Sunday mornings and at other times.

For more information on the Limmud Program and Adult Education Topics, please contact
Oonagh Thomas in the office on 9510 1488.





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The Torah is a living tree which can only blossom with the teaching and practicing of its ways.

Goals of MATAN

At Temple Beth Israel we believe there is more than one way to be Jewish. We are deeply committed to learning, living and “doing” Jewish, and we follow the fundamental principles of Progressive Judaism.

- ✧ To nurture and develop a strong and positive Jewish Identity.
- ✧ To create a fulfilling Jewish experience as part of the Temple Beth Israel community.
- ✧ To enable students to understand their role in the wider Jewish community of Melbourne, the Diaspora and Israel.
- ✧ To encourage our young people to form social relationships with other young Jewish members in their community.
- ✧ Our curriculum aims to create knowledgeable and devoted Jews, and instill in our students a sense of love and belonging to their religion, history, culture, traditions, family and community.
- ✧ To educate the children to develop an understanding of a range of Jewish values including ‘Gemilut Chasadim’ (kindness to others), ‘Tzedakah’ (righteous action) and ‘Tikkun Olam’ (the repair of our world).
- ✧ To model learning as a life-long pursuit and an important Jewish value.
- ✧ We seek to bring Jewish values to life through the study of Progressive Judaism and interaction with the broader Jewish and non-Jewish community.
- ✧ To provide students with developing opportunities to decide how to live as Progressive Jews, by educating them on various traditional and modern approaches to mitzvot, in order to be equipped to make informed choices.
- ✧ To allow the students an opportunity to prepare for their role as ‘adults’ within the Jewish community and to understand global issues that affect Jews all over the world through enjoyable yet meaningful media.
- ✧ To establish a sense of belonging in the synagogue and in the home, as the places where students can fully express their Jewish identity.
- ✧ To equip our students to participate in prayer services in any Jewish community and to develop each individual’s comfort with prayer and personal spirituality.
- ✧ To acquaint the children with the cycle of the Jewish year, help them establish a personal relationship to Shabbat and the Jewish festivals, and introduce them to the meanings and observance of the life rituals of Jews.
 - ✧ To develop a basic Jewish literacy in the Torah, history, rituals, holidays, the Hebrew language and prayer.
 - ✧ To provide our students with a greater understanding of their place in world Jewry as part of the unique Australian Jewish experience, including our relationship to the Holocaust and the State of Israel.





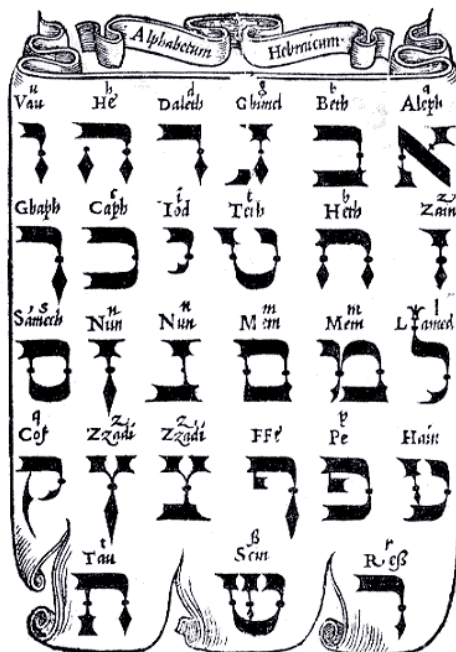
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*Do not forsake God's Torah.
It is a Tree of Life for those who grasp it and happy are those who support it.*

‘Mitkadem’: Hebrew Education at MATAN

At MATAN, we aim to:

- ✧ Develop an understanding of Hebrew necessary for rich, meaningful and intellectual Jewish living.
- ✧ Develop an enthusiasm for the Hebrew language through holistic and creative teaching methods.
- ✧ Familiarize the students with the prayers for Shabbat and holidays, and to allow the students to understand and recite key blessings.
- ✧ Allow the students an opportunity to learn to read and recite a variety of prayers, and to understand their meaning and significance.
- ✧ Integrate the prayer book Hebrew curriculum in order to develop and appreciation and identification of Hebrew as a living language.
- ✧ Develop a basic understanding that Hebrew is the language of the Jewish people.
- ✧ Develop a basic conversational Hebrew vocabulary and to give the students the skills necessary to assist in achieving their B’nei Mitzvah.





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Mitkadem': Hebrew Curriculum at MATAN



Mitkadem is an exciting five-year Hebrew curriculum that will generate enthusiasm and excitement from your children. They will learn to read Hebrew and enjoy a sense of accomplishment as they progress through a series of well-organized, stimulating, and self-paced ramot (levels). Mitkadem is unique because it was created to address, in a realistic way, the challenges of learning Hebrew within a congregational school setting. Mitkadem offers a new approach to teaching and learning Hebrew and prayer by building on the positive commitment parents have made by enrolling their children in MATAN. Mitkadem's self-paced and child-centered approach allows each student to achieve according to his/her own ability, so students feel successful as well as very motivated. The Mitkadem approach helps every student feel capable and confident of enjoying this program. It accommodates all different kinds of student learners, identifying those students who need additional help early on. The content of the program should seem familiar to other Hebrew programs; the approach is new.

☆ The Mitkadem program is constructed of 23 ramot, or levels. Students may work independently, with another student at a similar level, or with another student in a "tutorial" relationship. On average, students can complete between four and six ramot per year depending on MATAN hours and the students' pace.

The following is a limited description of the prayers and skills mastered and concepts introduced or reinforced in each ramah.





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RAMAH	PRAYERS	CONCEPTS INTRODUCED AND REINFORCED
3	Mechinah/Preparation	Names/Attributes of God
4	Short blessings	Thanks and Praise; Blessing Formula; Mitzvah; Miracles; Gender Issues
5	Shabbat Kiddush	P'tichah/Chatimah; Holiness; Creation; God as Redeemer; Chosen People
6	Torah blessings	Blessing Formula; P'tichah/Chatimah; Chosen People; Giving of the Torah
7	Barchu, Yotzer Or, Ma'ariv Aravim	Creation; L'olam va-ed; Times for Prayer/Variations; Minyan
8	Sh'ma, V'ahavta	Names/Attributes of God; Mitzvah; Symbols and Signs; Brit/Jewish Continuity; Love of God
9	Mi Chamocha	Names/Attributes of God; Thanks and Praise; Miracles; God as Redeemer; Times for Prayer/Variations
10	Avot V'Imahot	Names/Attributes of God; Mitzvah; Gender Issues; God as Redeemer
11	G'vurot	Miracles; Creation; Faith
12	Shalom Rav, Sim Shalom, Oseh Shalom	L'olam va-ed; Times for Prayer/Variations; Am Yisrael; Peace
13	Shabbat K'dushah, V'shamru	Holiness; Symbols and Signs; L'olam va-ed; Times for Prayer/Variations; Brit/Jewish Continuity
14	Amidah overview	Am Yisrael; Peace; Eretz Yisrael
15	Aleinu	Names/Attributes of God; Thanks and Praise; Chosen People; Messiah
16	Kaddish, Chatzi Kaddish	Names/Attributes of God; Thanks and Praise; Holiness; L'olam va-ed; Minyan; Faith
17	Torah service	Names/Attributes of God; Giving of the Torah; Eretz Yisrael
18	Haftarah blessings	Names/Attributes of God; Thanks and Praise; Blessing Formula; P'tichah/Chatimah; Holiness; Faith
19	Reading from the Torah: Genesis 1:1-8	Chanting; How text appears in the Torah
20	HaTikvah	Eretz Yisrael
21	Havdalah blessings	Blessing Formula; P'tichah/Chatimah; Holiness; Symbols and Signs
22	Birkat Hamazon	Thanks and Praise; P'tichah/Chatimah





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Do not forsake God's Torah.

It is a Tree of Life for those who grasp it and happy are those who support it.

The Torah is a living tree which can only blossom

with the teaching and practicing of its ways.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is Temple Beth Israel's Learning Program called MATAN?

MATAN comes from the word in Hebrew "Matanah", meaning gift. We believe that learning truly is a gift. By placing your child in our program you have given your child the ultimate gift of Jewish education. Our program aims to enable all children to better understand their background, history, culture and festivals in an enjoyable environment. This gift of learning applies to all of us, regardless of our age, and plays a critical role in the health and well-being of our community.

When we stop learning, we stop expanding our minds and truly maturing. At Temple Beth Israel, we have committed ourselves to renewing ourselves, to refreshing our methodologies and to reinvigorating what we do in our learning program with a renewed sense of purpose. We aim to reach members of all ages in our growing community to ensure we develop and learn together.

When can we enroll our children?

We welcome enrolments anytime during the year and any enquiries are warmly received. All prospective and interested families are encouraged to visit us at any time during the school year. Please contact the office on 9510-1488 to make an appointment.

What time do we meet each week?

Students are required to arrive at MATAN each Tuesday of the MATAN School Term (except Public and Jewish Holidays- see calendar for full listing). MATAN's afternoon Program begins at 4:00 pm for all children. Children will complete their program at 6:00pm.

Our children must be safe! We therefore ask that you to personally drop off and collect your child from the door. No child will be permitted to go to the car park without adult supervision.

What if I have a concern and need to reach my child's teacher?

Call the teacher directly or leave a message at our Office during business hours to arrange a meeting.

The Office number is 9510 1488. Teachers are at the foyer ten minutes before school commences and briefly after class is dismissed. Staff are available to talk to parents or family members during those times.

What supplies does my child need for MATAN?





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Temple Beth Israel, through MATAN, will supply all the materials your child will require for our educational program. The books which your children receive are the basis of their Jewish Library. We hope that you will keep them in a special place at home and continue to read them

Should I provide a snack for my child?

No, we are very pleased to provide each child with a light snack before our program starts. However, if your child has specific dietary needs or would like to bring their own snack, feel free, however please ensure you do not provide meat-based foods.

Can my child bring a visitor to class?

We encourage visitors on a one-time basis to see what our MATAN Program is all about. We would appreciate advance notice so please call our office on 9510 1488 so that we can notify the teacher. Personal and medical details must be provided to the office prior to the visit.

Can a parent or family member visit the class?

We have an open door policy. Parents and relatives may sit in on any class and participate in all activities at anytime. Please inform the teacher that you will be joining the class in advance. Families are particularly encouraged to attend classes on festivals, family days and excursions.

What if my child is going to be away from class?

We would appreciate it if you could let the office know when your child is going to be away prior to the commencement of the Program.

What commitments does my child have with MATAN outside of the normal Tuesday sessions?

Students and parents are expected to attend special Shabbatonim, Chaggim and the end of year Shabbat Service. We encourage all families to attend Shabbat and holiday services at Temple Beth Israel. These activities are an extension and reinforcement of the curriculum and will ensure your child gains a true sense of belonging to a vibrant Jewish community.

Does my child need to wear a Kippah?

It is expected that all boys wear a kippah during school hours. Girls are also welcome to wear a kippah if they wish. Please remember to send a named kippah with your child each week.

What about discipline at MATAN?

Children are required to behave with derech erez - in a respectful manner toward teachers, other students and MATAN property. We work extremely hard to make sure that children show respect and care at all times to ensure that effective and respectful learning is maximised.





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What are the fees?

Fees are payable on a per term basis in advance. Accounts will be sent at the start of each term and differ according to the year level and membership status of families. More specifically:

ITEM		MEMBER	NON-MEMBER
Administration fee for 2012 payable with your Enrolment form. This fee is non-refundable and is per family. This fee includes books and materials		† \$74.40	\$ 100.00
Fee per term – Prep & Year 1	† †	\$163.20	\$200.00
Fee per term – Year 2-4	†	\$192.00	\$224.50
Fee per term for Year 5- Year 7	†	Member only \$192.00	N/A

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE ABOVE FEES APPLY THROUGH TO END TERM 2, 2012. ANY REVISIONS TO FEES WILL BE CIRCULATED IN MID 2012

What if my child needs extra tuition in Hebrew?

If you wish your child to receive extra assistance in Hebrew all of our qualified staff are most happy to assist. Please speak directly with our Education Director and she will ask the staff member of your choice. Please note this is at an additional cost.

Will my child/ren be fluent in Hebrew?

Please take into consideration the limitations of students learning Hebrew for such a small period of time each week. Although the students may not be fluent in Hebrew, our program is aimed to ensure students become familiar with vital prayers and are able to read and recite key prayers and blessings. We aim to equip our students with the tools to assist them in their preparation for their Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Any support and assistance at home is most appreciated and valued.

What does the Jewish Studies Program focus on?

In order to ensure our students are constantly challenged and stimulated, we have a diversified Jewish Studies program that is aimed at developing your children's understanding of their role in the Temple Beth Israel community, the wider Jewish community in Melbourne, the Diaspora and Israel. The Jewish Studies curriculum focus changes each term. Study is based upon the 'Chai' curriculum and supplemented at various stages of the year with additional programs. We aim to enable our students to discover and develop their Jewish identity and understand a range of Jewish values through the exploration of Jewish customs and rituals, the cycle of the Jewish year, as well as Jewish festivals and traditions.





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B'nei Mitzvah

Students who are embarking on their year of B'nei Mitzvah focus on elements of their personal Torah study, and as a group will explore the B'nei Mitzvah journey. Students have a chance to examine Jewish values, ethics and concepts relating to their B'nei Mitzvah year and beyond whilst strengthening their Hebrew and Jewish Studies skills. The B'nei Mitzvah students also have special duties assigned to them in the school environment to be role models for the younger year levels and to assist the teaching staff in whole school activities.

The B'nei Mitzvah program at Temple Beth Israel is a comprehensive series of events for both you and your child to be able to truly understand and enjoy the B'nei Mitzvah year. All students enrolled in the program are expected to participate in all events combined with the private mentoring they will receive from the tutor assigned to them. The program for 2012 includes:

- ✧ B'nei Mitzvah social action project "B'Mitzvotav"
- ✧ Family Education opportunities
- ✧ Social action activities and events

There will also be a series of B'nei Mitzvah parent orientations. These sessions are specifically for parents/grandparents who want to learn more about the B'nei Mitzvah process and Temple Beth Israel.

We welcome all those who wish to participate.



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MATAN Calendar 2012

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
FEBRUARY	APRIL	JULY	OCTOBER
Tuesday 7 th Feb	Tuesday 17 th Apr	Tuesday 17 th July	Tuesday 16 th Oct
Tuesday 14 th Feb	Tuesday 24 th Apr	Tuesday 24 th July	Tuesday 23 rd Oct
Tuesday 21 st Feb	MAY	Tuesday 31 st July	Tuesday 30 th Oct
Tuesday 28 th Feb	Tuesday 1 st May	AUGUST	NOVEMBER
MARCH	Tuesday 8 th May	Tuesday 7 th Aug	Tuesday 13 th Nov
Tuesday 6 th Mar	Tuesday 15 th May	Tuesday 14 th Aug	Tuesday 20 th Nov
Tuesday 20 th Mar	Tuesday 22 nd May	Tuesday 21 st Aug	Tuesday 27 th Nov
Tuesday 27 th Mar	JUNE	Tuesday 28 th Aug	End of Matan year
	Tuesday 19 th June	SEPTEMBER	DECEMBER
	Tuesday 26 th June	Tuesday 4 th Sept	No classes
		Tuesday 11 th Sept	

