



AMERICAN COMMUNITIES HELPING ISRAEL

Begin the academic year with a class or school wide vote dedicating one day a week with “Israel Snack Day”. All snacks served or brought in on that day should be from Israel.

The following are suggestions to extend the “ACHI” Israel weekly snack program and enhance learning using the calendar year.

By reading through all the suggestions for the various levels you will realize that you can adapt the ideas to the age group you are working with as well as to the number of times you meet with your group and integrate the ideas with your curriculum.

Upper Grades (7 – 12)

Orientation to introduce and implement “ACHI” program – Project manager (staff member) and student liaison start the school year with an assembly program highlighting the goals the school undertakes for the year.

Chodesh Elul - Design a greeting card to sell with proceeds to yearbook and to ACHI’s “Nourish a Child – Nourish a Mind” mitzvah program.

Origin of the shofar and learning to blow one – understanding the significance of the different sounds.

Yamim Noraim – Rosh Hashana – Yom Kippur – Understanding these national and religious holidays in Israel, Collective wish list for Israel, Honey, sweets, and tea from Israel campaign with proceeds to both a local and Israeli charity. Create a menu for a Rosh Hashana dinner and break your fast meal - including products and sweets from Israel. A Machzor from Israel – how is it different? A new fruit – try to find one from Israel if possible.

ACHI613, Inc.

AMERICAN COMMUNITIES HELPING ISRAEL

P.O. Box 550 Monsey, NY 10952; E-mail: ACHI613@hotmail.com; Fax: 845-426-5392; Tel: 646-463-2531

Website: www.ACHI613.org

Succot – Build and decorate a Succah – utilizing decorations from Israel or craft them representing the Shivat Minim and Israeli themes.

Simchat Torah – Invite a vocalist and dance teacher to learn Torah songs and dances

Chanukah – Have a goods and services auction with proceeds to Israeli sister/brother school and GO. Connect with Israeli vendors and plan for a Chanukah Boutique – percentage of proceeds go to a toy drive for sister school in Israel, bring in olive press to make oil for lighting the Chanukiyah

Tu B’shvat - Plan for the Tu B’shvat seder – all F and B (food and beverage) should be products of Israel

Post Tu’B’shvat announce a community mishloach manot campaign – package and send to the entire membership for a nominal fee. Think of UPSing to affiliate members or those who moved away – a great gesture. Announce that the package will contain delectibles from Israel – a great way to introduce new products to consumers.

Purim – Bring in and display a Megillah written by a Sofer in Israel and illuminated as well. If you were to interview the sofer, what questions would you ask him? The personal manot you send should focus on an Israel theme.

Pesach - Bring in an assortment of illuminated Haggadot from Israel to display and review. Understand the different customs at the seder as well as different foods considered Kosher for Passover based on your origin (kitniyot). Tefillat “geshem” said on the holiday – who and for whom?

Lag B’omer – What do you need to build a bonfire? Its significance on this day. Virtual hiking and jeeping through Israel. The counting of the Omer and the significance of this day (considered a break in this time of mourning). The importance of “Veahavta L’rayacha Kamocha” and “Achdut” amongst the Jewish people.

Yom Ha’atzmaut – design of school T-shirt, caps, head band, bandana for parade, compare July 4 to this day, Israel fair – proceeds to school yearbook

Yom Yerushalayim – Understanding the walls and gates of Jerusalem, variety of synagogues, cultures in J-m, variety of restaurants in J-m and the differences in their menus, recreation in J-m.

Virtual visit to the Knesset in J-m – understanding the political parties and government of Israel

Shavuot – Chag Habikurim – understanding of the agriculture in Israel – what grows best – what do they export, what can we consume? Sources of water, seasons and weather patterns in the country, when is the best time to travel to Israel, virtual tour of an agricultural Kibbutz. Z’man Matan Torah – where did it happen, map study, getting there and touring in the area today. Create a dairy menu for the holiday dinner – utilizing cheeses and sweets from Israel whenever possible.

Concepts

Giving the children an opportunity for leadership role in implementing creative projects that involve consumption of imported products from Israel. Instilling in the children a better understanding for the diverse cultures in the state of Israel and our responsibility to all of its people. The bond and loyalty to our fellow Jew will be enhanced and hopefully will follow the students into their adult years. Helping children and their families become aware that by visiting Israel, consuming their products, connecting with its people via phone fax or e-mail, we boost the economy of the country and the morale of its people.

Alternative Approaches

1. Concept from Portion of the Week – follow the portions of the week and highlights that lend themselves to a better understanding of the land of Israel, biblical sites, customs of the Jewish people, cultures, housing, hospitality, kashrut observance, source for mitzvot

Bereshit – source for text for Kiddush – Israeli wine and grape juice, gift giving (Kayin and Hevel)

Noach – Kosher Animals in the Ark – signs of kashrut today, Rainbow – blessing – colors of the rainbow – rainbow in the commercial world – candy, stickers, fashion

2. Israel Culture of the Month- to help create understanding and unity through knowledge- choose one culture of Jews in Israel each month- perhaps to be introduced on Rosh Chodesh. Students to learn about customs, observances and daily life, and food of this cultural group. When possible – this can be introduced with guest speaker wearing traditional costumes. When available, students to sample food of this culture imported from Israel. Examples of cultures- Jews of: Yemen, Morocco, Ethiopia, Iran, Iraq, Bucharria, Germany, Eastern Europe, India, Spain, Portugal, Italy, South America, Syria.

3. Israel Fact of the Week - Each week on snack day present a short “interesting fact about Israel” that would appeal to specific age groups. Facts could be about schools in Israel, games played, sports, favorite foods, political parties, demographics, important dates to remember, famous people from history, famous and fun sites to see- on and off the beaten track, life on a kibbutz. These facts can be collected on cards for the entire year, and made into an “Israel facts (trivia) game” at the end of the year. In addition, this provides an opportunity for students to do their own “interesting Israel facts” research.

4. Current Events of the Week – On designated Israel snack day, students and teachers follow an “Israel in the News” approach to stay current with happenings in Israel. Map study, political parties, economic situations, business deals, import/ export updates, and – the efforts to peace. Summary statements can be added to a bulletin board. Snacks from Israel can be served as the discussion is taking place.

5. Multi-media approach – Each month entertainment from Israel is brought to the school followed by a collation of imported foods from Israel. Entertainment can include – a dance troupe, vocalists, klezmer group, pop concert musicians, artists, video photographers, student skits and talent show, etc

