

Light up
Literacy



Dear Teacher,

For Hanukkah this year we are partnering with Reading Village to bring their Light Up Literacy program to our classrooms and students' families. Light Up Literacy is a resource-rich program created to help us as we bring to life the value of *tikkum olam* during Hanukkah for our students and their families.

Reading Village is a not-for-profit organization that promotes children's literacy among the poorest of the poor in Guatemala. And Light Up Literacy expands students' awareness of children in another country, creates awareness of the importance of books and literacy, and provides the opportunity to give the gift of literacy to children in Guatemala.

It begins four weeks prior to the seventh night of Hanukkah with classroom activities to bring awareness to students about impoverished Maya children in Guatemala who live on less than two dollars a day, have illiterate parents, own no books, have no public library and rarely have books at school. Only 25% of these children make it to the sixth grade and only 10% make it to high school. The possibilities for their lives are severely diminished by this.

By participating in Light Up Literacy your students will have an opportunity to give the gift of literacy to children in Guatemala. In lieu of giving Hanukkah gifts on the seventh night, we are asking parents to make a monetary gift to Reading Village to provide books for children in Guatemala. Donations will be brought to the classroom and students will receive a special hand-woven, blue and white, Guatemalan friendship bracelet.

And on the seventh night of Hanukkah, families will celebrate the blessing of literacy as they light the candles, read a story together and share their thoughts and feelings about the importance of reading in their lives with help from the Hanukkah Celebration Guide. And students will receive a *tzedakah* certificate acknowledging the donation made in their name.

Below is a timeline for implementing the program. All materials listed in bold letters are available on the Reading Village website.

Timeline and Materials

4 weeks before the 7th night of Hanukkah

Program begins. Teachers lead activities in **Lesson Plans**, explain program to students, show the **3-minute video**, hang **Posters** in their room, send home **Letter to**

Parents/Donation Form.

During the program

Remind students about the opportunity to give. Fill in the names of students who have given on the **Poster** in the classroom.

Send home with students the **Hanukkah Celebration Guide**.

7th night of Hanukkah

Remind students this is the night we celebrate literacy as we light the candles and to use the **Hanukkah Celebration Guide**.

To conclude

If you hold a school assembly for Hanukkah prior to winter break this is a good time to announce the success of the program and incorporate themes of giving and literacy in the ceremony.

After

Let Reading Village know how it went!
Email Linda@readingvillage.org with your stories, comments and suggestions for how to improve the program.