

Dear VTT Parents,

Part of the mission of Vancouver Talmud Torah's Parent Participation Program is to provide our families and community with ways to be able to bring the celebration of the Jewish festivals that are at the heart of our school and our people home to you. Today, we write this letter to all of our families to accompany the Jewish National Fund (JNF) Tu Bish'vat package that has been sent home. Tu Bish'vat – The New Year of the Trees – draws our attention both to the environmental *mitzvot* of the Jewish tradition and to the on-going miraculous achievements of the JNF in greening the Land of Israel, transforming it from desert wasteland into fertile forests and farmland. Each year, the PPP sets aside part of its budget for Tu Bish'vat and we would like to share our allocation decision with all of you and encourage you to join us!

This year, VTT has been asked by the JNF to support the Restoration of the Kissufim Forest Project in the Negev. This forest sits very close to Gaza border and has suffered losses as a result of the on-going rocket attacks being launched into southern Israel. Two years ago, in response to the Carmel Forest fire, the PPP made a gift to the JNF to support their campaign to purchase a new forest fire truck, a campaign which was successfully completed, with the truck now serving Israel's emergency needs. This year, in lieu of sending Tu Bish'vat gifts home to each family, the PPP has chosen to support the Reforestation Project. Our gift to the project will be for the purchase of one tree for each class of students in VTT, from Preschool all the way to Grade 7.

We are inviting each of our families to join the PPP in supporting this important project to re-green a piece of Israel's Negev Desert. For the very reasonable price of \$18.00, a tree will be replanted in the Kissufim Forest in your name. Please just open the JNF packet which you received today, complete the forms and enclose payment information, and return the package to the VTT office. This small contribution will make a big difference in Israel, which needs all of the support she can get from Jews and Jewish families around the world. We thank you in advance for joining us in the support of this important project!

Tu Bish'vat higi'a, hag la'eelanot/Tu Bish'vat has arrived, the festival of the trees!

Sincerely,

Marnie Greenwald & Joanna Wassel
PPP Co-Chairs