SAR’s Schoolwide Enrichment Program

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Dear Parents,

With excitement we announce an Enrichment Program for First Grade. This program affords every child the opportunity to participate in a weekly E-slot, or Enrichment slot. This broad enrichment initiative reflects our deep commitment to enabling each student to discover and take pride in the gifts and talents with which she or he is endowed.

This program allows your children to explore an area of interest, talent, or passion in depth, while in a small multi-age group with other students and a facilitator who also share this interest. Enrichment Clusters are organized around major disciplines, interdisciplinary themes, or cross disciplinary topics. They are built on inquiry and advanced content and methodology, which allow students to secure and then apply new skills to real-world issues that are personally meaningful. Many clusters will have a visiting speaker who is a professional in a related field of study to act as both a resource for the students’ inquiry as well as to model what is possible as a 21st Century real-world problem-solver. The challenging learning pursued is in consonance with the project-based learning approach, and as such has a driving question (which accompanies each cluster description) that “drives” the
exploration. These explorations are grounded in the production of a product, performance, or service for an authentic audience.

Our program is also modeled after the Schoolwide Enrichment Model designed by educational researcher, Dr. Joseph Renzulli, who has been championing a broader conception of giftedness since the 1970’s. He directs The National Research Center On The Gifted & Talented, which works to design high-end learning experiences for all children. In his model, Enrichment Clusters are a delivery vehicle for disseminating enrichment pedagogy to every student and is founded on the belief that everyone has the potential to demonstrate gifted behavior.

Our Enrichment Cluster Program, as Dr. Renzulli suggests, aligns with Multiple Intelligence Theory, and our many varied enrichment learning offerings address the diverse abilities and strengths children possess. Our ultimate goal is to help children develop their interests and talents and understand how they can share their gifts with the world.

In addition to our enrichment program being an exciting opportunity for children, it is also a wonderful chance for you, the parents, to share passions and interests with our students. Perhaps you would like to share your expertise and passion for a related
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discipline at one session as a visiting speaker.

Please feel free to be in touch with Sharon Marson at marsos@saracademy.org or at 718-548-1717 x1212 if you would like to be involved in this program or if you have any questions.

Throughout the year, information about enrichment learning including articles, photographs, and video clips about our Schoolwide Enrichment Program and of our students in action can be found on our website.

We are excited to send along our Enrichment Cluster Brochure for you and your child to together consider their talents and interests. Then please fill out the Student Selection Form to indicate his or her choices among the offerings.

Enjoy!

Rabbi Binyamin Krauss
Principal

Sharon Marson
Schoolwide Enrichment Program Coordinator
SAR’s Schoolwide Enrichment Program

How Can I Help My Child Choose?

To help your child explore his or her interests and strengths, you may want to consider the accompanying list of Multiple Intelligences. Along with each multiple intelligence description is a numeric list of the Enrichment Clusters in which that intelligence is engaged. There is also a Venn Diagram on the next page to guide your child in making selections among the offerings.

We are asking that each child select 3 enrichment learning opportunities in which he or she is interested.

Please fill out the online Student Selection Form for each of your children in Grade 1 by Thursday, March 15th.
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Use this Venn Diagram as a tool to consider your child’s talents, strengths, and interests:

Talent

Interest

What did you discover?

_______________________________________________

_______________________________________________

_______________________________________________

_______________________________________________

_______________________________________________
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Multiple Intelligences

Linguistic Intelligence (Word Smart)
Using language, spoken or written, to make connections and derive meaning.
You may like to read, play word games, tell stories, discuss ideas, or learn foreign languages.
See Enrichment Clusters: 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18

Logical-Mathematical Intelligence (Logic Smart)
Using numbers and reasoning to make sense of information.
You may like to play chess, decipher strategy games, brainteasers, or logic puzzles.
See Enrichment Clusters: 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 15, 16
Spatial Intelligence (Picture Smart)
Using mental pictures to learn and remember information.
You may like puzzles, mazes, creating art, or building models.

See Enrichment Clusters: 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 13, 15, 16

Kinesthetic Intelligence (Body Smart)
Using movement to express thoughts and ideas.
You may like physical activity, sports, dance, role-playing, acting, or hands-on activities including building things.

See Enrichment Clusters: 2, 6, 7, 9, 13, 14
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Interpersonal Intelligence (People Smart)
Understanding and caring about relationships and people and their moods and feelings.
You may like group games, working cooperatively in a group, or have the ability to motivate people and communicate well with them.

See Enrichment Clusters: 1, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 14

Intrapersonal Intelligence (Self Smart)
Using thought and reflection to understand information.
You may like to be alone, are self-motivated, enjoy your independence, and know yourself very well.

See Enrichment Clusters: 3, 10, 11

Naturalist Intelligence (Nature/Science Smart)
Understanding natural patterns and cycles to explain how things work in nature and science.
You may like to learn about nature, enjoy being outside, or appreciate the environment.

See Enrichment Clusters: 2, 4, 7, 8, 9
**Musical Intelligence (Music Smart)**

Using rhythm, musical patterns, tones, sounds, or melody to understand information.

You may like to sing, play an instrument, compose songs, remember songs, or are sensitive to noises or sounds, and typically have strong language skills.

**See Enrichment clusters: 14, 17, 18**

**Existential Intelligence (Religious Smart)**

Some proponents of multiple intelligence theory proposed spiritual or religious intelligence as a possible additional type. It certainly reflects our learning community and environment.

You may like to learn Torah, think about G-d, pursue dedication to *mitzvot*, consider the workings of the universe, and make connections between Torah and life.

**See Enrichment Clusters: 4, 7, 17, 18**
Welcome to our Enrichment Cluster Program!

Semester Dates: April 17th – May 29th

Have fun selecting among the offerings!

1. www.doyouloveiPads.com

What do you love? Trains? There’s an app for that. Animals? Hebrew games? There’s an app for just about anything. Which apps do you think are the most interesting and what makes them fun? Come use ipads to discover various apps and explore those that you find exciting. Then use the iPads to create a video blog reviewing what you discover. Have everyone you know read about it on blogger. You will decide which are the best apps to have fun and gain knowledge and recommend them to other first graders.

Facilitator: Morah Alana Gelnick

Alana Gelnick received a dual Masters from Bank Street College of Education in Literacy and General Education. She has a passion for exploring new technology and a special love for the iPad. When not teaching children, she enjoys finding new apps and trying them out!

Multiple Intelligences: Logical-Mathematical, Linguistic, Interpersonal

Driving Question: What makes an app a good one for first graders?
Enrichment Cluster Offerings . . .

2. Invention Prevention: Big Bones, Small Bones, Thick Bones, Thin Bones

Did you know that we have 206 bones? Is there a funny bone? How is the hip bone connected to the thigh bone? Why are helmets and kneepads important for bone safety? Which foods make our bones strong? Are you an inventive thinker or would you like to be? Here is your chance to invent something that can help protect our bones. Discover what some famous inventors created to get us brainstorming. Meet a bone doctor and an inventor and use lots of materials and ingenuity to create something new, exciting, and bone protecting in “Invention Prevention”.

Facilitator: Morah Sharmilla Klestzick

Morah Sharmilla teaches in first grade as part of the General Studies team. She loves science, is a certified lifeguard, and is curious about how the “hip bone’s connected to the thigh bone” and how to protect our bones. She even has a skeleton model that lives in her house!

Multiple Intelligences: Naturalist, Logical-Mathematical, Spatial, Kinesthetic

Driving Question: What invention can we create to protect children’s bones?
3. Precocious Princes and Princesses: An Adventure In Creating A Modern Fairytale

What is your favorite fairytale? Do you have an active imagination and like creating original stories to share with family and friends? Do you think it’s important for princesses and princes to live “happily ever after”? Have you ever wondered what would happen if the princess was in charge or if the prince changed diapers? How can we work together to create modern day princes and princesses with incredible character traits and midot? Use a computer program to turn our story into a custom-made book. Come design 21st Century precocious princes and princesses to incorporate into a yarn of your own.

Facilitator: Morah Soo Greenfield

Morah Soo has a Master's Degree in English Literature and is excited to share her love for reading and writing with children. She has been teaching at SAR for 25 years.

Multiple Intelligences: Linguistic, Interpersonal, Intrapersonal, Spatial

Driving Question: What characteristics could a modern day prince or princess have that might appeal to an SAR first grader?
4. Jellybean, Ice Cream Sandwich Science Lab

What is your favorite color jellybean or your favorite ice cream flavor? Are they both equally delicious and nutritious? Are all junk foods only filled with junk? How can we find out? Do you think “jellybean” colors in foods are important? And what about ice cream sandwiches? Does it matter what is in the middle of the bread? What goes into foods and can you figure out the numbers listed on their labels? Perhaps you would like to explore kids’ cookbooks and design a healthy recipe. Perhaps you would like to figure out how a pancake can include every food group. Come hear Rabbi Krauss speak about what the Torah tells us about taking care of our bodies. Join “Jellybean, Ice Cream Sandwich Science” and have a delicious time!

Facilitator: Morah Lisi Mandel

Lisi is a General Studies teacher with post-graduate work in education and a master’s degree from NYU. She is excited to share her love for nutrition (and ice cream!) with children.

Multiple Intelligences: Linguistic, Logical-Mathematical, Naturalist, Existential

Driving Question: What healthy, delicious snack can be prepared for first grade?
5. It's All In The Play! Become A Game Designer of a Jewish Game

Which game is your favorite to play? What makes a card game or board game very popular? What makes you want to play again and again? How can a popular game include a Jewish element? Use the SMART Board to explore these questions and discover what makes games fly off the shelves. Then apply your knowledge, and individually or with members in your cluster design the next slam-dunk original Jewish game using a variety of art materials. Come up with your own rules, cards, gameboard and pieces. Then teach your game to others!

Facilitator: Morah Ailie Schmulowitz

Ailie Schmulowitz is back teaching at SAR after living in Israel for 4 years, where she completed an Educator’s Fellowship. Ailie loves experimenting with games and figuring out what makes them great.

Multiple Intelligences: Spatial, Interpersonal, Linguistic, Logical-Mathematical

Driving Question: How can we create a game for first through third graders that is fun, educational, and has a Jewish spin?
6. Toolbox Construction Company

Do you like to build? Are tools interesting to you? Would you like to construct something useful that’s also sturdy and strong? This cluster will explore the most humble, yet most versatile element of construction: the box. With just six pieces of wood, we will discover the elements of designing, choosing materials, and building of a basic, portable toolbox. We’ll consider what it needs to look like in order to hold basic tools. You will have an opportunity to use safe, kid-friendly tools to measure, cut, sand, glue, drill, and nail. Work at a production station with a team to produce a real toolbox to take home at the end of the semester.

Facilitator: Yehuda Najman

Yehuda Najman teaches 8th grade science at SAR Academy. He enjoys woodworking and coaching little league baseball.

Multiple Intelligences: Spatial, Kinesthetic, Interpersonal

Driving Question: How can a simple box be constructed in a way that is light enough to carry around, yet big enough to hold essential tools?
7. Get In The Swim Of Things!

Do you love to swim? Do you look forward to the summer when you can jump into the pool? Now you don’t have to wait until school’s out! Get out your bathing suit and take a dive into this Enrichment Cluster. Explore pool safety, the importance of learning to swim, and what makes an Olympic swimmer like Michael Phelps so phenomenal. Visit the Riverdale Y three times to practice swimming techniques. During other sessions consider: Why is it so important to learn how to swim? Why does the Torah say a father has to teach his child to swim? How can you help other people when you are in a pool? Come explore swimming both in and out of the water!

Facilitators: Morah Aliza Ainsberg & Mr. Brad Jerris

Aliza is a certified pool operator and lifeguard. She works at the Scarsdale Pool as a pool manager during the summers and has loved teaching swim lessons for over 9 years.

Brad, SAR’s Physical Education Teacher and NASM Certified Personal Trainer has passion for all sports.

Multiple Intelligences: Kinesthetic, Naturalist, Existential

Driving Question: What’s important for a 1st grader to know about swimming and why is it so important that even the Torah says a parent must teach their child to swim?
8. Chocolate! How Sweet It Is!

Do you love chocolate? Why is it delicious and how long does it take until it melts in your mouth? Did you know it comes in lots of varieties? Do you wonder what the differences are between Israeli, American, and European chocolates? Would you like to make some chocolates of your own? Then this cluster is for you. Where does chocolate come from and what is its history? Who was Milton S. Hershey? Perhaps you will enjoy creating a computer generated brochure about chocolate, leading a chocolate tasting seminar, or inventing a chocolate project all your own to raise funds for an organization or to give away as an act of kindness. Let’s discover all about chocolate and use what we learn to make the world a more delicious place!

Facilitator: Morah Marci Kirshner

Marci Kirshner has been a member of the first grade team for four years. She has Masters degrees in both Special Education and Literacy. Marci loves to cook and learn about the history of food. She is excited to explore the rich flavors and benefits of chocolate!

Multiple Intelligences: Naturalist, Linguistic, Logical-Mathematical

Driving Question: How can chocolate make the world a better place?
9. Amazing Awesome Animal Society

Did you know ravens use tools to solve problems? Did you know howler monkeys use different calls to alert others of danger? Did you know bees do a waggle dance to communicate where to find food? Discover some amazing things animals do while planning a successful, educational, and fun zoo! Explore their behaviors, habitats, and nutrition, and then use your newly acquired knowledge to design and create your own zoo using legos and various art materials. You'll think like a zookeeper and be in charge of the animals, the information, layout, schedules, and activities at the zoo and anything else you can think of!

**Facilitators: Morot Natalie Feld & Rachel Fein**

Morah Natalie teaches 1st grade Hebrew. She studied animal behavior as part of a neuroscience degree at Barnard. She & Rachel are enthusiastic animal lovers who are excited to share this passion with 1st graders.

Morah Rachel is part of the 1st grade Hebrew & English team. Rachel has always loved animals and is extremely fascinated by them and their behaviors.

**Multiple Intelligences:** Naturalist, Logical-Mathematical, Spatial, Linguistic, Kinesthetic

**Driving Question:** What do first graders need to know about animals and their behavior in order to plan a successful and fun zoo for people of all ages?
10. *The Magic of Collage: Color Explosion*

*Silent Book Studio*

Collage is magical. It’s creative. It’s a colorful explosion where you can never be wrong because it’s all about your imagination and vision. Did you know that some of the most popular picture books are collaged and don’t have any words? Would you like to explore award-winning wordless stories and get inspired to create your own? Do you love digging into art materials and being creative? Then roll up your sleeves and come have fun using your imagination, colored and handmade paper, ribbons, photographs, magazine pictures, and found objects! Bring in anything you want to add to your collage and make it a very personalized, meaningful story.

**Facilitator: Dassi Hirschfield**

Dassi is joining us from SAR HS as part of her Senior Exploration. She has been studying art and collage for over ten years and enjoys sharing this passion with children. She is now looking forward to bringing her love and experience with art to SAR.

**Multiple Intelligences:** Linguistic, Spatial, Interpersonal, Intrapersonal

**Driving Question:** How can a story be created and told without words that can be understood by all ages?
11. **Mystery History Forum: Who Am I?**

Who am I? Am I funny? Do I love to play sports? Do I care for a pet? Who is in my family? Where do I live? What’s special about my school, SAR? How about my neighborhood? Explore all your worlds including self, family, school, and the community that you live in. Then, virtually exhibit artifacts that are important to you and that you select to represent yourself in a digital environment. Digital devices such as iPads, MacBooks, as well as traditional art techniques will be used. Join us as we journey through the many dimensions that touch our world and answer the question: “Who am I?” in revealing the mystery of our history.

**Facilitator: Debbie Schloss**

Debby Schloss, a veteran SAR faculty member will be combining her love of art and computers in “Mystery History Forum: Who Am I?”. When Debby is not at SAR Academy, she loves spending time with her family, trekking around Manhattan, or *tiyuling* around Israel.

**Multiple Intelligences:** Linguistic, Spatial, Intrapersonal.

**Driving Question:** What makes us who we are and how can we create a gallery displaying our personal history?
12. Oh Baby! How Infants Learn, Play, and Grow

Do you love babies? Do you wonder how they grow and develop in their first year of life? What do they need to be healthy? How are these needs different from and similar to a first grader’s needs? What do babies learn in their first twelve months and how do they learn so many new things? We will explore the answers to these and other questions, as we get to know the babies who go to school with us each day (in Teacher Childcare), meet with a pediatrician who keeps babies and kids healthy, and more!

**Facilitator: Morah Shira Irwin**

Shira Irwin is completing a masters in Education at Bank Street College. She has watched in awe as her own toddler has grown by leaps and bounds, and she is eager to share with others her fascination with early development.

**Multiple Intelligences:** Naturalist, Linguistic, Interpersonal

**Driving Question:** What would be the best toys for us to buy for the Infant Room in Teacher Childcare, given what we discover about how babies grow and develop?
Enrichment Cluster Offerings . . .

13. Ceramics Institute: Clay First

Did you know that one of the first human inventions were clay vessels? Do you know where clay comes from? Would you like to squish it and shape it and bang it, just so? Have you ever wondered how stone age men were able to carry food and liquids back to their caves? What is a vessel? How did Ancient Greeks, Egyptians, and Israelites light their homes and temples? In this cluster we will explore where clay is found and how it is made. We will also create different types of clay vessels that are both functional and decorative.

Facilitators: Morah Chani Jaskoll & Morah Renata Cohen

Chani, a professional artist, has been SAR’s art teacher for many years. She has studied ceramics and is currently working in a Ceramics Studio creating many different kinds of hand built vessels.

Renata is an artist, a curious math thinker, a scientist, and an innovator. She taught biology for many years and now works with all the SAR Specialty Teachers with students in grades 1-5.

Multiple Intelligences: Spatial, Kinesthetic

Driving Question: How can clay be used to create a vessel that holds liquids or solids and that can be used by a first grader?

Do you enjoy music and feeling the beat? Here’s a hands-on exploration of everything rhythm. Discover *jembes* (African drums), drum set, mallet percussions, egg shakers, tambourines, piano, and *marimbas* (wooden xylophones). Explore recorded examples of percussion groups from around the world including from Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East. Discover the history of percussion instruments as well as instruments from these three different continents, and more! Become a composer of an original musical piece. We’ll record on CD a composition that the group creates together. Each child will receive a copy!

**Facilitator: Rob Susman**

Rob Susman is a professional musician and arranger who has toured internationally. He is a freelance teacher and performer who has worked in the NY area for over 20 years. Rob is versed in many styles of music from classical to jazz.

**Multiple Intelligences:** Musical, Interpersonal, Kinesthetic

**Driving Question:** How can percussion instruments from around the world be used to create a new and interesting musical composition?
15. Reading for Construction Consortium

Did you ever wish you could create drawings, origami, and 3D constructions, but felt you just couldn't? Creating a prefabricated project is easy when you have good directions. What makes some directions good and others not? In this Enrichment Cluster you will explore iPad apps that allow you to create origami and drawings. You will evaluate and recommend the easiest ones to follow. Later on, we may build a Lego kit and maybe a piece of furniture, evaluating directions for ease of use. Perhaps we will write our own directions. Either way, we will investigate the quality of different directions and learn that we can construct almost anything with good instructions.

Facilitator: Rivka Heisler

Rivka is Technology Integrator at SAR Academy. Her 4 children’s many constructions turned her into a Lego whiz. She prides herself on her ability to build prefabricated furniture to create anything that has directions, even if she can't draw a straight line!

Multiple Intelligences: Linguistic, Spatial, Logical-Mathematical

Driving Question: How can good directions help kids facilitate creativity and build and construct things?
16. **Have A Ball!**

Which ball bounces higher: a small ball or a large ball? How many different kinds of spheres can you list and what are their functions? If we roll a ball on the carpet how far might it roll? What about on other surfaces? Did you ever examine the surface of footballs, basketballs, or softball? How do they compare to one another? Can balls be used to paint? What is the relationship between a ball and a hoop? What is the circumference of a marble? How does it compare to the size of the earth? Balls, balls, balls. Let’s play ball and come have a ball!

**Facilitator: Morah Marcia Jacobowitz**

Marcia is the Associate Principal of the ELC & Grade 1. She is personally curious about math principles and how they apply to balls. Marcia loves sharing activities with children that give them opportunities to think outside the box.

**Multiple Intelligences:** Logical-Mathematical, Spatial, Kinesthetic, Interpersonal

**Driving Question:** Given what we discover about balls what conclusions can we make about the qualities of balls to create a ball demonstration for SAR children?
17. **Alef, Bet, Vet . . . Singing Our Way Every Hebrew Day Through Shabbat**

Don’t just talk about it, sing about it. Every day Hebrew is easy to speak when music is along. Bring your voices and bring your fun as we explore Hebrew songs including those we sing on Shabbat. Explore Shabbat *zemirot* from all over the world and bring joy to the Shabbat table. Come to this cluster to share any Hebrew song you love and discover some new ones. Make singing exciting and fun throughout your day and also on Shabbat! Be sure to let everyone watch the youtube production of you and your friends.

**Facilitators: Chazan Shim Craimer & Morah Gaby Zevi**

Shim Craimer, *chazan* at the RJC, was classically trained in Britain. He performs regularly with Neshama Orchestra at concerts and events. He has performed internationally and is a recording artist.

Gaby is a 1st Grade Hebrew Teacher who loves to sing, especially with children, but sometimes even in the shower alone.

**Multiple Intelligences:** Musical, Linguistic, Existential

**Driving Question:** How can a song be created that teaches Hebrew and/or celebrates Shabbat?
18. Cherry Blossoms, Tea Ceremonies, and Sushi: Japan Exchange!

What’s It like to be a child in Japan and what is it like to live there? Did you know that there are several Japanese holidays that celebrate how special children are? Come to this Enrichment Cluster to explore these holidays and how children are celebrated in Japan. Experience Japanese folk music, traditional Japanese dress, and taste traditional Japanese (kosher) food. Perhaps you will discover that some of these holidays and events are similar to those in the Jewish tradition. Skype with an American Jew living in Tokyo to ask questions firsthand. Come enjoy experiencing close-up another culture that is halfway around the world.

Facilitator: Morah Naomi Katz Cohen

Naomi Katz Cohen is the Academy Music Director, teaching Grades 1-5 music and Grades 3-8 choir. Her travels led her to visit a dear friend who relocated with her family to Tokyo. Morah Naomi was able to explore Tokyo and neighboring cities during her trip.

Multiple Intelligences: Linguistic, Musical, Existential

Driving Question: How do the Japanese celebrate the specialness of their children and how is it different from and similar to the way children are celebrated in Judaism?
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Student Selection Form For Enrichment Clusters

We are asking the children to consider with you the 3 Enrichment Clusters they are most interested in attending. In reading through our selections with your child, please guide him or her in recognizing how he/she might be interested in several different clusters. For example, if your child is “Logic Smart” then “Invention Prevention,” “Game Design,” “Reading For Construction,” or “Brain Fitness, Inc.” might be exciting cluster selections. Or, if their interest lies in the naturalist arena (Science Smart) then he or she might enjoy exploring: “Jellybean, Ice Cream Sandwich Science,” “Get In The Swim of Things!” “Animal Society,” or “Chocolate: How Sweet It Is”.

It is also OK to explore new disciplines when it is compelling for your child.

Please make 3 selections on the online form by Thursday, March 15th.

Every student is guaranteed a place in one of his or her three selections. Students will receive their cluster registration prior to the first session.

If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Marson, our Schoolwide Enrichment Program Coordinator, at marsos@saracademy.org or 718-548-1717 x 1212.
“Every child should have the chance to be exceptional without exception.”

~Dr. Joseph Renzulli