



July, 2015

Dear Parents,

As part of the preparation for B'nai Mitzvah at Or Hadash, students do a mitzvah project. The project involves the following:

1. Choose a project.
  - a. Find something meaningful to your child. Students are allowed to do a project in pairs as long as each student fulfills the requirements.
  - b. Use the attached Jewish Values sheet to determine the mitzvah that corresponds to the project.
  - c. Make sure that the project is something that your child can actively engage in. For example, it should not be simply organizing a book collection, but, instead, could be reading to young children at the Ronald McDonald House so that the B'nai Mitzvah child connects with the recipients in some way. We require that the mitzvah project focus on hands-on activities, including face-to-face time with the recipients of the assistance.
2. Complete and return the proposal sheet to the Mitzvah Project Coordinator of the Education Steering Committee (ESC) for approval. (Incomplete proposals will be returned.)
  - a. **Please note that the ESC meets monthly during the school year, so it may take up to five weeks to receive a response from the committee. ESC does not meet during the summer.**
  - b. **Wait until you receive ESC approval before starting the project.**
  - c. Remember, the proposal is **due 12-15 months prior** to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah date.
  - d. Submissions must be on the Mitzvah Project Proposal form. The form is also available on the Or Hadash website.
3. Begin the project.
  - a. Students are required to spend at least 12 hours on the Bar/Bat Mitzvah project. Please do not schedule project volunteer hours during Sunday School hours.
  - b. A Project Log must be kept to track service hours, and to help students remember their thoughts and feelings as they actively participate in this mitzvah. (See attached.)
  - c. When the project is completed (at least 3 to 6 months prior to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah date), the Reflection Questions and Project Log must be submitted to the Education Steering Committee one month prior to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah date. This will help the students prepare their thoughts to share at their Bar/Bat Mitzvah service. (See attached.)

I am happy to discuss ideas with you and/or your child **prior** to the proposal submission. Please contact me with any questions. Questions may also be directed to our Mitzvah Project Coordinator: Debra Schaeffer at [debra.schaeffer@gmail.com](mailto:debra.schaeffer@gmail.com)

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,  
Barbara Weisman  
Education Director