

Sample Letter to Parents

Dear Parents,

I am excited to let you know about our upcoming unit on Israel and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. We have decided to approach the topic of Israel and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict differently this year and will be using materials from *Reframing Israel: Teaching Kids to Think Critically About the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*. To learn more about its approach go to www.reframingisrael.org.

We have decided to use materials from this curriculum because we believe that it is important for students to engage deeply with the complexities of the conflict and to ask difficult and challenging questions.

We are asking them to read *Bottle in the Gaza Sea* by Valérie Zenatti as a basis for their learning. Please make sure that they read at least the first thirty pages no later than November 2. This book introduces the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in an engaging and effective way.

We understand that you might not be used to having your child read a novel that presents both Israeli and Palestinian perspectives. We believe that this book provides insight into the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and it is important for our students to try to understand the experiences of both Israelis and Palestinians. We hope that you will read the book along with your child and have conversations together outside of class.

A reminder to save the date. Our students will be working on projects throughout this unit and they will have their final presentations on December 14. Please try to join us. We'll send more information next month.

As always, let me know if you have any concerns or questions.

L'shalom,
Rabbi Laurie Zimmerman