

# ChaiLights

## *A Family School with Family Traditions: Matan Siddur*



The NEMJDS is a family school, and like any family, we have our own special traditions. One of those is the first grade matan siddur party. Every year, our first graders receive their very own school prayer book with a special message from their family. First grade parents write a note to their student on the first page of their prayer book. These personal notes are full of love, joy, and wisdom for the future. These notes are also a surprise for the kids. This is a tradition at the NEMJDS that has been going on for years, and both alumni and parents can fondly remember this special morning!

Our Matan Siddur Ceremony of 2016 took place in May, and this event was full of love and pride. Parents and NEMJDS siblings joined the students for a meaningful morning of tefillah and celebration. Each student read a prayer and explained what it meant to them in front of the group. Then Morah Sari shared special words about each student, recognizing them each for their strengths and what they bring to the group. Morah Sari also gave each student their own milk carton and jar of honey as a symbol of the sweetness of learning Torah and doing mitzvot.

We cherish this sweetness, love of learning, and sense of community unique to our school, and we are so thankful our first grade and their families could be a part of such a special morning.