



Welcome Back G.S. Newsletter!

After a very long break, we welcome you back to the Gan Shalom newsletter. The newsletter will be published at least twice more before the end of the school year. We hope you find the contents interesting and informative. Please let Amy Howe know if there is anything in particular you would like to read about. Thank you for your patience as we regroup.

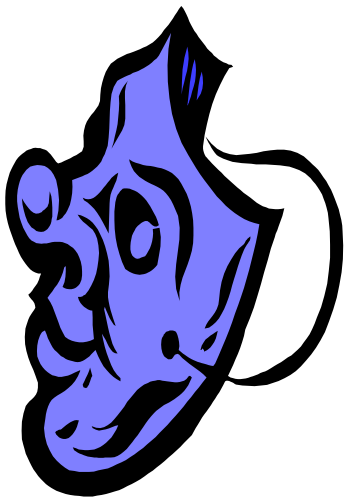
Important Dates in March:

Kiley 21
2 years



יום הולדת
שנתי!

Purim Fun



The Story of Purim is the story of how the Jews of Persia were able to thwart the evil actions of Haman and ultimately survive a plot to destroy them. It is customary to dress in costumes and have fun on this holiday. Gan Shalom students this week are making hamantaschen (three cornered cookies filled with jam reminiscent of Haman's hat).

Last Friday, the Rabbi visited the classroom and showed the children the ancient scroll that the story is written on, called the "megillah". Another symbol of Purim, the noisemaker or "grogger" is used to drown out the name of Haman when the story is read. You may see some of these symbols coming home this week.

Important Dates in April:

Itai 1
4 years

Layla 15
3 Years

Remember!

Passover will be April 16-24 this year. Gan Shalom will close early on the 16th (11:30am) and will reopen the 25th.

News from the Preschool Room

Dear Parents,

The past few weeks have been busy in the Preschool Room. We have been working on a Alphabet book and a Aleph Bet book since the beginning of the school year. We would focus on five letters a week and do activities related to those letters. Such as make yellow yo-yo's for the letter "Y". Well, we finally finished our books and the children were very excited to take them home and share them with the parents.

We also had a unit on "Love and Caring for Others". We talked about what things we could do to show other people that we care for

them. Different ways to be nice and how that would make them feel; does it make us feel good or bad when we are nice to others.

Music and Movement was another topic. The children learned about different instruments (Violin, Trumpet, Tuba, Flute, Guitar etc.) I brought in a real guitar to let the children have a try at it. We listened to different types of music such as classical and country. We listened to the tempo of different music and the difference in how it makes you move your body. We enjoyed having our very own "Marching Band" outside. I think our favorite thing to do was "The Hokey Pokey".

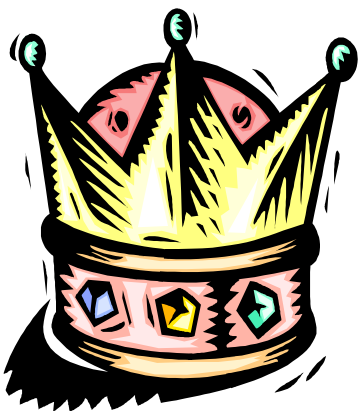
Another week we focused on Fruits and Vegetables. We talked about their many different types, colors, and shapes - and most importantly - the taste. The children decided they like the fruit more than the veggies. We learned that if it has seeds, it is a fruit. They were surprised this meant even tomatoes. We had beans in the sensory table and we had potato stamps, which

turned out very good. (Thanks Kelly!) Another favorite was playing "Hot Potato".

Last but not least we have had much fun celebrating Purim. We made Purim Flip masks, Haman Shakers, Groggers, We played pin the crown on Ester, and we made crowns so we had many little Queen Esthers and King Ahashveroshes. We had a parade and had fun shouting, shaking our noise-makers and stomping our feet when Haman's name was spoken. We all tried some hamen-tashen (some of us liked it, some of us did not). Thanks to Rabbi Cohen for teaching us about the story and a new song "Ha Kova Sheli Shalosh Pinot" ("My Hat has Three Corners").

Well, as I said it has been busy in the Preschool Room, no wonder your children are tired when they get home! The weather is so unpredictable this time of year so you may want to send in a light coat so the children will be more comfortable when it warms up.

Amy Howe



TODDLER ROOM NEWS

The children in the Toddler Room have been learning lots. Recently we studied about Space. They talked about the planets all day! We then learned about Wind and made several art projects that move with the wind. We just finished learning about Purim. They loved making crowns, masks and necklaces. They really enjoyed being loud with their "Hootin Haman Noise-

makers" and groggers.

The children enjoy going to the Social Hall to run and "get their wiggles out." Hopefully, soon we'll be able to go outside more. They also enjoy learning new songs. So far, their favorite is "Twinkle Twinkle Traffic Light."

Susan Elliott

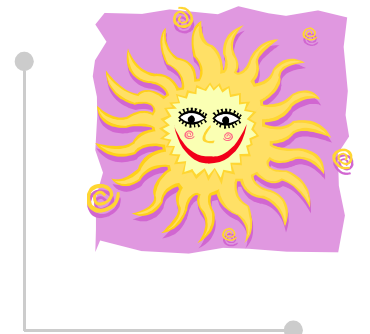


Special Thanks!!

To Brittany's parents who have donated so many paper goods and teaching supplies to Gan Shalom.

To Lisa Satin for her work on Passover fundraising.

Thank you so much for your generous support!



so already!

Director's Corner

Although this has been an exciting month for me it has also been very busy. It has been a very smooth transition for moving into the responsibilities of Interim Director.

I have had much help from many people. Just to list a few, thank you to Jennifer Goldman for her guidance and all of my questions. She helped the transition go as well as it did. Thanks to also to Kathy and Dorothy for teaching me some important things on the computer and in the office, Thanks to Ronit for helping with the budget and so many other things, Thanks to Judy and Ziggy for all their support and willingness to help me.

In addition, I would like to extend special thanks to Brittany's family for donating so many paper products and teaching supplies, Lisa Satin, who almost single-handedly assured a success for our Passover Candy Fundraiser. She was the reason it was a big success. And thanks to Susan for donating yet more books, and Carol Kaplan for donating books as well. But most importantly, thank you to all our wonderful parents for being patient and understanding.

Amy Howe

PS Remember to register for next year if you have not done

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The Ice Storm: Epilogue

For those of you who may not be aware, the ice storm left the synagogue without a functioning sump pump, allowing 5 feet of water to make its way into the basement, which is used primarily as a youth lounge for teenagers. All of the carpeting and furniture needed to be discarded. We know the smelly entranceway in the week following the storm was unpleasant. Multiple industrial fans ran around the clock to dry it up and there is no structural or other remaining damage. Thanks for your understanding during that week of emergency.



Policy Changes for Snow Days Next Year

We have decided that for next year, academic year 2003-2004, the Gan Shalom Calendar *will not* be identical with the LFUCG school calendar. The high number of snow days made it especially difficult this winter for parents to manage their schedules. For next year, each day, snow day will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and the director will reserve the right to: cancel school; start school late; or keep school open. We

will be setting up phone trees next year in order to help you get your information as soon as possible in case of snow and icy conditions.



Remember to enroll for next year if you have not done so already. Tell your friends about our program!