

The Gan Shalom Gazette



Gan Shalom Early Childhood Program

Volume 3, Issue 2

May 7, 2003

From the Editor

Here comes the second issue of the newsletter. There will be one last issue published somewhere around the end of the school year. This issue is coming out a little later than we had originally planned (so we missed a congratulation on Sam's birthday. You get an extra one, then!). As usual, this issue will also be available online so do visit our website. And as always, we welcome your input and feedback.

Ziggy Rivkin-Fish

Director's Corner

Dear Parents,

Our teachers have been busy this month, not only with teaching, but also learning themselves (and not just from your children). Some of our teachers went to childcare classes and came back with plenty of new and exciting ideas. We look forward to incorporating some of these into the learning programs. Otherwise, I have been busy with finalizing the transition and beginning yet another one—to next year. Our enrollment is already significantly up what it was this time last year, so if you have not yet registered, or know someone who is interested, this is the time before the slots fill up!!!

We have now implemented a referral program, so you get \$50 off your child's first month's tuition

for each child you refer and we sign up (so spread the news about our great program!).

Both classrooms had visits from Cindy Wilson with the *Kids Now* program, who talked about "Stranger Danger". More visits are scheduled in each room ("Going to the Dentist" for the toddlers and "Poison Prevention" for the preschoolers).

May is a busy month with lots of events, so be sure to remember all the important events coming up, which you should have received flyers about by now (and you can always check our website on the calendar for reminders), including our annual picnic on the 18th, our annual graduation ceremony on the 28th, and teacher

(Continued on page 4)

Important Dates in April:

Sam 27
5 years



יום הולדת
שנתי!

Important Dates in May:

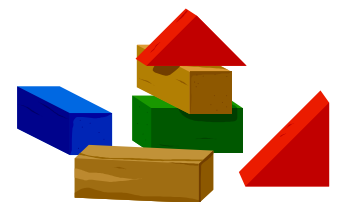
Veronica 22
4 years

Brittany 29
5 Years

Remember!

Last day of class is now June 5th!

Did you sign up for a conference? Please do so soon!





Dear Parents,

Here we go again with another newsletter. Boy, where did April go? We have been learning so much and having so much fun doing just that. We would like to share some of the highlights with you. We have learned about Opposites: Big and Little. We started with a tiny Alligator (whom we named Ally), and put it in water to watch it grow. The children were amazed to come to school each morning to see how big it had gotten over night. We measured it each day and kept a chart. It started at 3 inches and grew to 12 inches in 4 days. We also did hand comparing to see who had the biggest and smallest hands in our class.

Next came our Spring unit which was so fun we extended it to 2 weeks. At the beginning of the week, we took a walk to see all the changes that were beginning to happen. We noticed the buds on the trees, birds singing, warmer weather, green leaves, more rain, and people

mowing. Our favorite thing we were able to do was to feed the ducks bread. Brittany told us how important it is to not feed the ducks very often because they will expect you to always be there to feed them and they will get sick. Yeah, Brittany! We also made flowers, mud paintings (some of us enjoyed the feeling of mud on our fingers and some of us did not). We also made kites and butterflies. We learned about the life cycle of a butterfly. I am sure you heard some of the words they enjoyed saying (larva, pupa). Did you know there are 15,000 to 20,000 different types of butterflies? In the science area we all practiced planting seeds. This was a good fine motor skill. We ended our Spring unit to enter into Passover. Boy what a fun and busy week we had learning the meaning of Passover. We made beautiful candleholders, afikomen

holders, Seder plates, Seder place cards, & pillows to keep us comfortable during our Seder meal. These turned out so cute. I told the kids they could bring them back for nap if they wanted. Thank you so much to Rabbi Cohen and Ziggy for coming to school and doing a Seder meal with us. We tasted all the different foods on the plate and learned what each food stood for. We ended the day eating the chocolate covered matzah that we made the day before in class. Yum, we all loved this! We each made our own Haggadah and searched for the Chametz. We also taught the children about cleaning for Passover and they helped us "clean" our room (what wonderful helpers we have). This week we are learning about "Pets" We have had "Puppy Chow" for snack (Chex mix) Each child also made an aquarium out of blue Jello and put gummy

(Continued on next page)

Annual Picnic

Sunday, May 18, 3:30-4:30pm
at Shillito Park



Bring your kids, your selves, your friends and
your spirit.

TODDLER ROOM NEWS

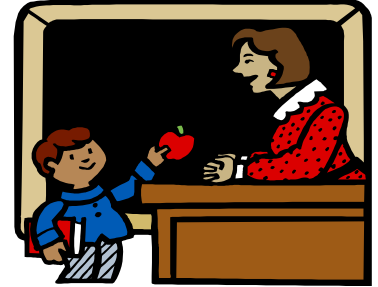
The Children in the toddler room have been very busy learning. We studied about the ocean for a two-week period. During that time, we learned all about ocean life. We stuffed a puffer fish, decorated a sea turtle, had fun with sand art, made dolphins, jelly fish, and learned about different shells. I brought in my daughter's hermit crabs to let the children see them, and showed them how they lived and what they needed in their habitat. I also let the crabs crawl around on my hands. The children were so excited!

We then studied about Passover. We learned about Baby Moses in the water and how he grew up to say "Let My People Go." We also went shopping for

Passover, made a Seder plate and place cards, made a beautiful flower centerpiece, and a special cup. We also made a chocolate covered matzah. As you can imagine they enjoyed not just making it, but also eating it - they kept asking for more. We learned several new songs about Passover. I'm sure you've heard some - "Frogs Jumping," Pharaoh saying "No, no, no, I will not let them go," and "Bang, Bang, Bang" with our hammers.

We are definitely enjoying going outside these days. We're ready for the warm weather to stay.

Susan Elliot



**Teacher
Appreciation
Week!!
May 19-23**

Bring a thank you, a fruit, or other small item to your child's teachers!!



Graduation is Coming!!!
*Mark your calendars and bring your cameras! Wednesday, May 28
6:30pm-7:30pm in the Social Hall*



Special Thanks!!

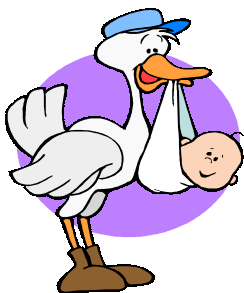
To
Dana Manning & Scott
Diamond,
and
Allison & Bret Caller
for donating toys

Thanks to
Karen Barnes
for her donation
in memory of Esther
Greenfield and Lucian
Barnes
generous support!

(Continued from previous page, "Preschool Room")
fish in it for another snack. This was a big hit. We made calico kittens, puppy cards and my favorite, Pet Rocks! The children did a great job! We had a call in to the Humane Society to see if they could visit but it seems this is a busy

time of the year and they will try at a later date. We will keep our fingers crossed! I hope this finds you and your families doing well!

Amy Howe



It's a Boy!!!
**Congratulations to
Jennifer & David Goldman
On her new addition to the family.**

2048 Edgewater Court
Lexington, KY 40502

Phone: 859-335-9922
Fax: 859-268-3357

director@ganshalom.com

(Continued from page 1, Director's Corner)

appreciation week.

Also remember the extended school-year (until June 5th instead of May 30th) and that we are closed on Memorial Day.

There will be one last newsletter at around the end of the school year, which will wrap up the year and let you know about some of our plans for next year.

And on a very happy note... Congratulations to Jennifer Goldman on a healthy boy on Saturday!!! We send our warmest wishes and thoughts to the entire Goldman family.

Oh. One last thing... Please don't let your children bring Gan Shalom toys home. We do need them here!

Take care,
Amy

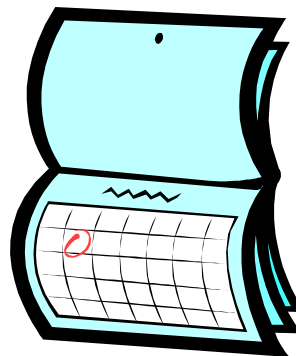
Remember to enroll for next year if you have not done so already. Tell your friends about our program!



Calendar Issues



Our survey polling parents for interest in extending the end-of-year to June 5th was a smashing success. There was overwhelming support for pushing the last day of class to June 5th. Since this method was particularly effective in incorporating parents' needs into our decision-making process, we are asking you to participate in yet another survey. We know Passover was a bit hard on some of the parents (mainly those whose child had a sibling or two enrolled in the Fayette County school system) with the Fayette spring break, and Passover break coming after each other. Next year, Pass-



over comes even closer to Spring Break and we decided to put the various scheduling options to you, so you can let us know which solution is the most convenient. Please let us know your preferences. We will let you

know next year's school schedule by the next newsletter.

Website update

We have revamped and redesigned our website.. This means new design as well as content. Please visit us and let us know what you think.

www.ganshalom.com