

The Gan Shalom Gazette



Gan Shalom Early Childhood Program

Volume 4, Issue 3

December, 2003/January, 2004

DIRECTOR'S CORNER



יום הולדת
שנה!

As we are fast approaching the holiday season and Winter Break, we are entering into a dizzying frenzy of events and activities. Conferences for your children should be over. If you could not find a time that fit your schedule please talk with your child's lead teacher to find another time. The conferences are a wonderful opportunity to check on your child's progress, development, and interests in all kind of areas, and serve as an aid to us and to you.

The Hanukkah "Gifts Galore" Bazaar is this Sunday. Please bring not just yourselves but friends, neighbors, prospective parents, and anyone else you can cajole into coming. We also have picture days on the next Tuesday and Wednesday. Remember to fill out the permission sheet (and there is of course no obligation to buy any of the pictures). And there is the Hanukkah party itself, on the 14th. The children will sing and Cambo the Clown is coming to entertain so bring the kids (with siblings!) for a fun afternoon. Just remember to sign up how many you think might come so we can make enough latkes (potato pancakes) for everyone.

And lastly, I would like to introduce to you our new Afternoon Lead

Teacher. Susan Caldwell joined us to develop and strengthen the afternoon program. She is a writer, and has published many short stories and a novel. She has a Masters in English and has taught and conducted workshops in creative writing as well as art.

As always, let us know if you have questions or suggestions. And I hope to see you all at the "Gifts Galore" bazaar on the 7th and the Hanukkah party on the 14th.

Ziggy Rivkin-Fish

Remember!

Hand in permission slips for the photographer

Sign up how many of you will come to our Hanukkah party (sheet above the sign in/out table)

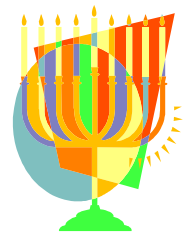
Important Dates in December:

Jenna 4 years	3
Isabelle 4 years	5
Marah 5 years	30

Important Dates in January:

William 2 years	4
Nadia 5 years	18

"I can't do the hard ones because the hard ones aren't easy"
Jacob while attempting to string beads





Hello,

We have been busy as usual this past month. We had a unit on Fall/ Pumpkins. The children enjoyed going on a Nature Walk and finding many different items to put in the sensory table (Colorful leaves, acorns, and pinecones). We put peanut butter on the pinecones, rolled them in birdseed and sent them home to hang from a tree. The children enjoyed playing a game where they were squirrels and they needed to go and find their acorns (wrapped up marshmallows), which were hidden, around the room.

We also worked on fine motor

Preschool Room News

skills by lacing pumpkin cards. Cutting our pumpkin was very exciting, as we had to clean out the insides and then counted the seeds. Many of the children did NOT like touching the insides of the pumpkin! After counting over 800 seeds, we did a craft with them. My personal favorite craft was torn paper trees, which we have hung in our room. We had an exciting day of dress up; we had a clown (Nadia), Bride (Jenna), Ghost (Itai), Witch (Alex), Dorothy (Caylin), Fireman (Jakob), Princesses (Marah & Veronica) Unicorn (Isabelle), Tiger (Louisa), and a Care Bear. (Meghan). We played games on this day and had a lot of fun.

Our next unit was on Letters. We played Letter Bingo, Letter matching games and made Coconut Trees stamped with our names. We worked on Upper and Lower case Recognition. Many of the children really surprised us with how well

they are learning to put the sounds of the letters together to form a word.

In preparation for Thanksgiving, we decorated our room with the wonderful art that the children completed (Turkey's with feathers, Cornucopia's, a Thanksgiving quilt that we will hang in the room as soon as it is complete). We also made Indian bands, Pilgrim hats and had a slice of Pumpkin Pie. However, more importantly we discussed the Pilgrims coming to America on the Mayflower. We talked about the friendship between the Pilgrims and the Native Americans and how thankful we are for everything we have.

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving and enjoyed your families.

Amy Howe

Afternoon Program News

I would like to thank you all for the warm welcome you have given me. It is a pleasure to work with your children. I love this age. They are curious little sponges, arranging and rearranging reality as we adults know it. Short attention spans don't allow for extended lessons or activities, they allow for many. So while giving them time for free play in their own individual pursuits, I will

present them with activities to complement Amy's morning lessons. Sometimes these will be crafts, and sometimes other types of activities. For example, one afternoon we strung beads and talked of the Indians and how they were artists and created from nature.

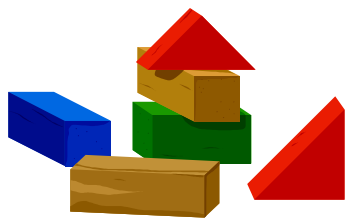
In December, for the afternoon students, I am going to do a project that will involve some information from home. We will be

working on an "I Am" book as a holiday gift. Please send the information back as soon as possible.

Thanks.

Susan Caldwell

Name:
Address:
Birthday:
Place of Birth:
Parents name and birthplace:
Grandparents name and birthplace:
Siblings and birthdates:



Hello!

The children in the toddler room have been getting ready for autumn. First, we went on a nature walk and collected lots of things for Mom and Dad to see. We learned all about leaves

TODDLER ROOM NEWS

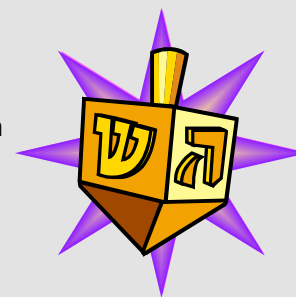
and trees. We decorated our board with an autumn scene. We made leaf prints and a leaf necklace. We then continued with pumpkins. The children enjoyed discovering what was in the pumpkin. We then used the seeds for art the net day. We made a pumpkin puzzle, painted pumpkins, and made our own pumpkin patch. We then went on to colors.

The children have worked very hard on their colors. We painted a lot during this unit. We also colored coffee filters, used glitter for our sun catchers, made a brown bear, learned about black and white with a Dalmatian, and made rainbow crayons. And with Thanksgiving, we have lots of other projects planned.

Susan Elliott

Hanukkah

Hanukkah – meaning rededication – has seen its fortunes go up and down as a Jewish Holiday. Hanukkah - also called the festival of lights - commemorates the triumph of a small band of Jewish rebels, the Maccabees, against the repressive Syrian empire of Antiochus IV in 185 BC. It also celebrates the miracle of lights - when the one-day supply of consecrated temple oil used to light the candelabrum lasted the eight days it took to produce more pure oil and consecrate it. It is this rededication of the Temple from which the holiday derives its name. From a religious standpoint Hanukkah is considered a rather minor holiday. There is no day of rest involved, nor are there special readings from the Torah. In fact, the story itself is recorded in the Book of Maccabees, which is not even accepted as part of the official Jewish canon constituting the Torah. The holiday was probably kept alive in the beginning by the priestly classes since the revolt installed the Hasmoneans (the Maccabees) and Pharisees into the priestly leadership, and the story of the Maccabees served to legitimate their elevated stature. Moreover, as a symbol of national self-determination and religious freedom it probably served as source of inspiration and hope in the later Roman occupation. However, after the destruction of the Temple by the Romans and the dispersal of Jews, the rabbis felt uncomfortable about the overt rebellious message of Hanukkah and purposely deemphasized the nationalist and emancipatory aspects of the story in order not to provoke the authorities of their host countries in Europe and North Africa. Instead the rabbis emphasized the miracle of lights. Two major events, however, have served to elevate Hanukkah to a major holiday. The establishment of Israel suddenly made the story resonate, with its themes of nationalist revival, and an outnumbered nation prevailing over militarily superior forces. And the enormous growth and presence of Christmas has forced the holiday to compete. Many Jews now give presents on each of the eight days of Hanukkah.



Besides the lighting of the Hanukkiah (the 8+1 candelabrum used for the holiday), fried foods are traditionally eaten to symbolize the consecrated oil. Also, spin-top called a dreidel is used to play for nuts, pennies or M&Ms. The Hebrew letters on the dreidel form an acronym spelling "a great miracle happened there".

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Dates to Remember

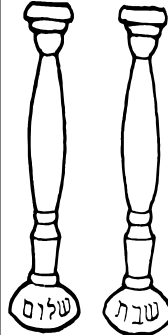
- ◆ December 7 —
Holiday Gifts Galore, 12-2 pm
- ◆ December 9-10 —
Picture Days
- ◆ December 14 —
Hanukkah Party 3-5 pm
- ◆ December 22-January 2 —
Winter Break

Wish List



- **Movies (VHS)**
- **Musical Instruments**
- **Girl panties**
(for share-wear)
- **Dress-up clothes**
(such as shoes, purses, dresses, shirts)

Early Closings Schedule in Honor of Shabbat



Friday, December 5	4:30 pm
Friday, December 12	4:30 pm
Friday, December 19	4:45 pm
Friday, January 9	5:00 pm
Friday, January 16	5:00 pm
Friday, January 23	5:00 pm
Friday, January 30	5:15 pm



Summer Program Update

The results of the surveys are in and there seems to be very strong support for a part-time program. The critical mass is now sufficient to sustain a 3-day-a-week lunch and fun program for the summer. So in the coming couple of months Amy, Susan E. and I will develop a plan to implement such a program. We will of course keep you abreast of the developments in this area.

Thanks, Ziggy



- ◆ *Powers* for the puzzles, bead, stacking game, and cars
- ◆ *Ms. Kelly* for donating books
- ◆ *Rudders* for the measuring cups, and the Elmo Holiday tape
- ◆ *Jouéts* for the Brazilian CD