

The Gan Shalom Gazette



Gan Shalom Early Childhood Program

Volume 5, Issue 1
October/November, 2005

DIRECTOR'S CORNER



A belated Welcome to everyone. This is Gan Shalom's 6th year of operation and we are off to a great start. We plan to keep everyone informed with a "Gan Shalom Gazette" published every two months—so be looking for future issues!

The teachers and the children have all settled into a daily routine and have adjusted wonderfully. In addition to last year's teachers we also have a few new faces; Melissa and Cathy are in the Preschool Room, Susan, Denise and Pim are in the Early Preschool Room, Kristi, Gloria and Denise are in the Toddler Room and our Afternoon assistants are Rebecca & Erin. We are so happy to have them with us, they are doing a great job.

As you will have noticed October is the major Jewish Holiday Season. This has involved several days off this year with many of the holidays falling on weekdays. Thank you for your understanding. November, however, has no Jewish holiday closings. This means we are closed only for Thanksgiving on November 24th & 25th .

We have found in the years past, October for some reason is the month of birthdays, and this year is no exception. We have 9 children and 1 teacher (Ms. Denise) who will be celebrating their birthdays this month. The teachers have focused on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Sukkot is the next holiday they will begin to learn about and celebrate. This is the holiday where Jews build small huts to commemorate the Hebrews wandering in the desert. It is also a harvest festival. This brings out two interesting themes: providing dwelling and hospitality for all, and where food comes from, celebrating its annual cycle. Homelessness, making guests feel welcome, and caring for the Earth so she will yield our food are some of the major educational objectives that derive from Sukkot - and also suggestions for topics at the dinner table.

With the arrival of Fall- Please remember to bring a coat with your child each day. Outside play is so important to children, but we must have them dressed appropriately.

Last but not least, November 4th is the start of early pick-ups on Fridays as the sun sets earlier signaling the beginning of Shabbat. We will post the early closings schedule on the entrance so that you can make the necessary arrangements.



יום הולדת
שנה טובה

Important Dates in October:

Catesby	9	Olivia	18
2 years		4 years	
Jean Paul	11	Alex	22
5 years		5 years	
Lauren	14	Sara	25
3 years		4 years	
Noa	15	Wayne	25
2 years		2 years	
Sabrina	18		
4 years			



Important Dates in November:

Hiro	13
4 years	
MaryCarol	20
3 years	
Michael	27
4 years	

As always we are available for your comments or questions regarding the children or Gan Shalom.

Amy Howe

Remember!

Early Friday pick-ups start November 4th



The preschool class has been busy enjoying a variety of units, our first unit was about coming to school and the book *Stand Tall Molly Lou Melon* by Patty Lovell became a fast favorite. We also began to talk about manners and learning to have "grace and courtesy." We have a poem about "The Goops" and being messy eaters that has made quite an impression on the children. The children have been learning their body parts in Hebrew with Rabbi Cohen when she visits for our Shabbat service each week. The children have also been bring-

Preschool Room News

ing their Tzedakah in their "special envelopes" and some of the money saved has already gone for hurricane relief.

Our next unit was titled "all about me," the children had fun with their "me books" and they liked measuring themselves with items from the room like the sorting bears and continue to measure each other and the dolls from dramatic play area from time to time.

Our third unit was on bears, the children loved the chant "going on a bear hunt." They learned about the prepositions over and under from the chant.

Our next unit was about pigs, they liked the rhyme talking about the ten little piggies that rolled in the mud. They also enjoyed the real hay in the sensory table.

Our next unit was on apples and fall. The children have decided their favorite snack is apples

dipped in honey for Rosh Hashanah. We will be doing units on emotions, nocturnal animals, and harvest.

The class is really sweet and they look after each other. If they have a friend that is upset they want to know why and what they can do to make them feel better. Each child has been working hard and having fun in the classroom with all the centers that they can visit. The two favorites currently are the computer and dramatic play. They have also enjoyed working on small and large puzzles. It is good to see them come running into the classroom to see what the day has in store for them with smiles on their faces. We know this is only the beginning to an exciting fun-filled year.

Ms. Melissa
Ms. Cathy



Early Preschool Room News

Welcome to the Early Preschool Room! The children have become accustomed to our new schedule and routine very well. They enjoy knowing what may come next and will often ask, "do we get to do 'this' next?" They have especially enjoyed our "walks" - one shape walk and one nature walk.

We started our year off by learning about farm animals. We had fun making pigs and horses on sticks, then soft woolly lambs and chicks with their eggs. The children thoroughly absorbed the idea of milking a cow by the "glove of milk" we made. We then used it to pretend we were milking. They loved it and have spoken about it often.

We went on to focus first on numbers, and then colors and

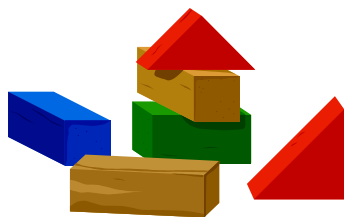
shapes. We counted everything! We counted our toes after we traced our feet, we counted cereal for our necklace, and we counted the items we would need for our Shabbat dinner. We learned about black and white, we painted with light and dark colors, we made colorful sun catchers and rainbows, and we learned the colors gold, silver and gray. During our shape unit, we painted with cardboard circles, we made shape puppets, and we colored over sandpaper shapes. We also made shapes with spaghetti on our table as well as with shaving cream! Next we went on to learn about Autumn. I'm sure some of our parents know the Autumn songs - the children ask for them again and again! The children helped to decorate our bulletin board in our room - they are so proud! We also made lots of leaf items. We matched

them, painted them, made mosaic leaves, made a leaf necklace, and painted leaves to make a leaf print. The children had fun examining leaves, Indian corn, and acorns with a magnifying glass. Then we painted with acorns and made a cute acorn out of crushed leaves, and we even made a squirrel or two.

As we learned about Rosh Hashanah, the children enjoyed the shofar that Rabbi Cohen brought for us to hear as well as sewing a shofar in class. We learned that as we celebrate the holiday, we share apples dipped in honey and Challah. Our Challah is round this week, so we practiced making a round Challah with playdough. We also made stained glass apples and cut an apple in half for apple prints.

Wonder what we'll learn next?!

Ms. Susan & Ms. Denise & Ms. Pim



Wow, I can't believe it's October. I know that the first weeks of school were difficult for some of our friends, but now we have all settled down and are having a lot of fun!

The children are doing a great job of learning the rules and our daily routine. It has been wonderful to watch everyone's personalities come out.

TODDLER ROOM NEWS

Judah likes to greet his friends with a hug. Sophie always comforts her friends when they are sad. Ben who is always smiling or laughing keeps the teachers moving when it is time for snack or lunch. Teresa likes to tell her friends "No Way" when they are doing something they should not. The children have also picked their favorite places to play. Caroline loves to play in the kitchen. Molly and Macy prefer to play with the stuffed animals, Noa and Chloe love to fix breakfast in

the kitchen while Seth and Wayne Douglas are typical boys, they LOVE the social hall.

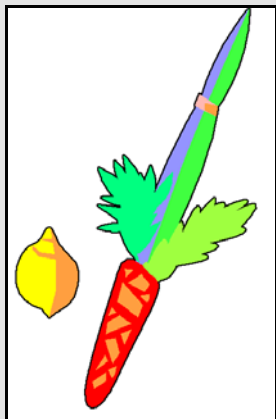
In the coming weeks we will be learning about the High Holidays and Fall. We will also continue to learn more about each other and how to play nicely and be a good friend. We are very excited to have a new friend Emilie joining us. We hope all the children are enjoying school as much as we are enjoying them.

Ms. Kristi , Ms. Gloria & Ms. Denise

October Holidays

The major holidays continue from Rosh Hashanah to Yom Kippur with the theme of atonement and introspection, and then to Sukkot and Simchat Torah. Simchat Torah ends the holiday season by celebrating the end and a new beginning to the annual reading cycle of the Torah (bible), and literally means "Joy of Torah" ('Torah' means teachings or law).

Our focus in Gan Shalom is on Sukkot. "Sukkot," derived from the Hebrew word Suckah meaning "hut", refers to the Jewish festival of giving thanks for the fall harvest as well as the commemoration of the forty years of Jewish wandering in the desert after Sinai. One tradition, which takes the commandment to "dwell in booths" literally, is to build a Suckah, and it is common practice for some to eat and even live in these temporary dwellings during Sukkot. The roof is made out of leaves and branches to allow one to see the stars, emphasizing the fragile, temporary nature of these dwellings. The Suckah is also decorated with fruits and vegetables to symbolize the fall harvest (in Israel that would be mainly grape, citrus, and other cultivated fruits). Another part of the tradition is to shake a Lulav and Etrog. The Etrog is also called a citron and resembles a lemon (but even more fragrant), while the Lulav is made up of a palm branch with myrtle and willow branches bound at each side. Interpretations vary, but in one version, the Etrog symbolizes the heart (because of its shape) and smell, the palm the spine, the myrtle leaf represents the eye and the willow leaves are the lips (the leaves really do look like eyes and mouths). The idea is then that we dedicate our entire body to the celebration of Sukkot. The origins of this, however, are more likely harvest related as symbolizing different types of plants that sustained the ancient Israelites and the temporary huts built in the fields were probably quite sensible for the busy fall harvest. Although many Jewish holidays have equivalences in holidays or rituals of other major religions, Sukkot seems to be unique to Judaism. As a celebration of the fruits of nature that sustain us, it probably has its closest equivalent in our American holiday of Thanksgiving.



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Dates to Remember

- ◆ November 4—Early Friday Pick-up begins
- ◆ November 24 & 25—Thanksgiving. Gan Shalom is closed.
- ◆ December 4— Gifts Galore



Thank you!!

Catesby & family— Ride on car for the social hall

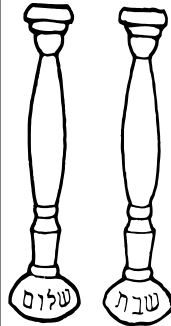
Caroline & family— Clock



Update:

Our Back to School Bash was a success! We raised \$460.00 A big Thank You to everyone who made it possible!!

Early Closings Schedule in Honor of Shabbat



Friday, November 4	4:45 pm
Friday, November 11	4:45 pm
Friday, November 18	4:30 pm
Friday, November 25	4:30 pm
Friday, December 2	4:30 pm
Friday, December 9	4:30 pm
Friday, December 16	4:30 pm
Friday, January 6	4:45 pm
Friday, January 13	5:00 pm
Friday, January 20	5:00 pm
Friday, January 27	5:15 pm
Friday, February 3	5:15 pm
Friday, February 10	5:15 pm



PAST BIRTHDAYS

August

Molly -16th (2)
Taylor -20th (4)
John Martin -2nd (3)
Amy— 4th (?)

September

Connor Headings-12th (3)
Caroline Merriman-25th (2)
Maia Sheridan-13th (3)

Quotable Quote:

“What month is it?” (Ms. Melissa asked)

“Septober”

- Sophie, 3, Preschool

“What are we going to do with our paper chains? (Ms. Susan asked)

“Put them in our suitcase (Sukkah).”

- John Martin, 3, Early Preschool Room