

The Gan Shalom Gazette



Gan Shalom Early Childhood Program

Volume 5, Issue 2
January, February, 2006

DIRECTOR'S CORNER



Welcome back, I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday break and enjoyed spending time with their families. It is so hard to believe that 2005 is over and what a year it was!

Thank you for attending parent-teacher conferences for your child. 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.

Our Holiday Gift's Galore Fundraiser was a success, resulting in us raising over \$900.00. We had 12 vendors who participated with many different items to sell. Many people enjoyed the Falafel and Pizza lunches that we sold. We could not have done our Silent Auction without the hard work of Joan Scales and Margaret Hill, Thank you, thank you! The Silent Auction was my personal favorite! Each of the three classrooms painted a plate and we had it glazed by The Mad Potter. They turned out absolutely adorable! The Preschool room made a Sunflower plate, Early Preschool room made a Flower plate and the Toddler room made a ladybug plate. (I wanted "ALL" of them) Congratulations to the highest bidders. I want to personally thank Jennifer Kash, Trudi Howard and Mark Rubin for the many hours they spent with me planning this event.

We had a full house at our annual Chanukah party on Dec. 18th. The children enjoyed hearing the story of Chanukah, singing songs and lighting the Menorah with Rabbi Cohen. Performing at the party was Kevin Crane, comedy magician. I enjoyed watching the children get so tickled at him. Between Sabrina laughing so hard and Brennan (Anakin) it was a night to remember! Thank you so much to Barbara and Mark Rubin for donating the donuts and a special thanks to Ziggy, he spent most of the evening in the kitchen making the wonderful Latkes that we all devoured.

Several families wanted to help sponsor the Chanukah party. I can't tell you how much this means to all of us working so hard to make Gan Shalom such a wonderful program. You are all simply "THE BEST!"

Last but not least, I am very excited to let everyone know that with a portion of the money we raised, I was able to purchase a couple Jewish CD's, a wonderful train table for the Preschool & Early preschool rooms as well as a Manipulative table for the Toddler room. The children are really enjoying them.

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

Amy Howe



יום הולדת
שנה טובה!

Important Dates in January:

Ms. Cathy 2
3 years
James 9
3 years



Important Dates in February:

Emilie 3
2 years
Judah 7
2 years
Gillian 19
5 years

Important Dates in March:

Brennan 8
4 years
Sayuri 11
4 years
Charlotte 29
4 years
Benjamin 31
2 years

Please dress warm!
Don't forget your warm coats, hats and gloves!



If you need to talk with your child's teacher during the day please call the Teacher's Line at 269-0453. This has a special ring that teacher's answer if there is no one in the office. Otherwise you may leave a message on the office number at 335-9922.





My, oh, my! It is hard to believe the semester is over. The children have been constantly searching for new challenges each day. They are such a kind and caring group toward each other.

A favorite activity has been to feed the ducks when the weather has been warm enough for us to go on a walk and stand on the bridge. The smiles on the children's faces give you an instant lift. Another favorite has been learning the chants, "Little Sally Walker," and "Chitty-Chitty Bang- Bang." Both of these have motions that go along with the chants.

We had units on fall and Thanksgiving where we

Preschool Room News

talked about the changing colors and what it means to be thankful. We made a class book on "How to cook a turkey." Some of the recipes were so funny and typical of the children and how they really talk and explain things. When we did our unit on emotions we also made a class book of "Monsters with Emotions." The class took turns taking the books home to share with their families. We hope you enjoyed reading them.

Right after Thanksgiving we had a transitional unit where we read stories written by Robert Munsch, who is one of my favorite authors. This has made the children more aware of authors and they now ask when a story is read who wrote the book.

We are just finished our unit on Chanukah. The children enjoyed hearing about the miracle of the candle oil that was only enough for one day lasting for eight days. The also had a lot of fun learning how to play dreidel.

We read many Chanukah stories, some were silly and some were more serious but they enjoyed them all.

The children have been working hard on writing their names. They have also been listening for and making up their own rhyming words. We have also been working on pre-reading skills of recognizing not only their names but their classmates' as well.

We are so very sad to say good-bye to Sabrina and Hiro. Sabrina's family is moving to New York and Hiro's family is moving to Alabama. We will miss you both so very much! Remember the happy times and we will do the same.

We know that 2006 will bring great experiences and opportunities for all and we are excited about the challenges that we will face together.

Ms. Melissa
Ms. Cathy



Early Preschool Room News

Where has the time gone? I can't believe it's a new year. We've been having so much fun, the time just goes so fast and the children are maturing more and more each day!

Since our last newsletter we learned about the Fall Jewish Holidays. The children worked together and painted a large whale to hang in the hall along with a lot of personalized Jonah's for Yom Kippur. During Sukkot we had many decorations for the sukkah- it looked beautiful. Although the weather was a bit wet this year, limiting our time in the sukkah; we still enjoyed singing songs and eating snack with our friends. They are already talking about our sukkah next year.

We then went on to learn what could possibly be in a pumpkin. We has lots of guesses - some thought eggs would be in the pumpkin and others thought turtles or chickens. Some dug right into scooping out the seeds and enjoyed their hands sticky, while others needed a little encouragement to scoop some seeds out.

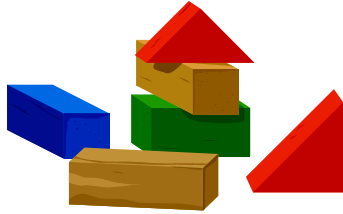
The children had so much fun with our unit on Transportation! Tractors, trains, trucks - I didn't think they would ever get tired of talking about them.

Thanksgiving was also a big hit with the children. We really focused on "The Pilgrims and the Native Americans," as well as the Mayflower and of course - turkeys! We made a circle of hands together with the children explaining that we all look differ-

ent, but we are all the same inside. They also enjoyed the thought of being together with their family during Thanksgiving.

I really enjoyed teaching the children about "The Miracle of Hanukkah". We read stories and sang our favorite songs together. I had such fun seeing all the smiling faces at our annual Hanukkah party. I was so glad that most of our families were able to come. The children worked very hard making decorations for the Hanukkah party. We made the Star of David, menorahs, dreidels, paper chains and much more. They did a great job in making the social hall look festive. We have a lot more to come in the new year!

Ms. Susan & Ms. Denise &
Ms. Pim



Wow!! What an exciting Fall we had in the Toddler room. I cannot tell you how proud we are of all the children. Many of them came to us in August, never having been to school before, now they look forward to seeing their friends each day. It has been great to see how the kids have matured. Watching them develop their own personalities is one of the most rewarding parts of working in the Toddler room.

TODDLER ROOM NEWS

Looking back over the semester, we worked on so many things. Some examples would be learning and following rules, playing nicely with our friends, and concentrating on a task for increasing lengths of time. We also focused on gross motor skills such as running, jumping, and throwing. For the most part the children have really picked up on these skills and are ready to move on to new activities. This spring we will continue to work on social skills as well as focusing on fine motor skill activities. To help with this, Ms. Amy has provided us with a new manipulative table that the children love. We will also be working more with

puzzles, coloring and playing with Play-doh. In addition we will be working more with the children one-on-one to help them in areas such as counting, singing the ABC's and recognizing their names when printed. Please be patient with us as we start our semester. After the break it will take us a few days to get back into our routine. In addition we will be gaining two new students. Please help to make them feel welcome. I expect our Spring semester will be as fun and rewarding as the Fall semester was.

Ms. Kristi , Ms. Gloria & Ms. Denise

Early Enrollment

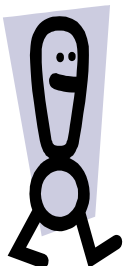
Believe it or not, the time has come to begin thinking about registration and enrollment for the 2006/2007 school year.

Please register early. We expect to fill completely in all of the classrooms just from our own enrolled families!!!! We already have **many** other parents who have filled out applications for the waiting list ! Thank you for your continued support of our wonderful program. Entrusting your child in our care is a privilege we don't take for granted.

In our efforts to continue to best serve the needs of our parents, we will continue to have three options (Full Day, Half Day & Lunch and Fun) for the Toddler Room and two options (Full Day & Lunch and Fun) for the Early Preschool and the Preschool Room. As you know, we have three age groups: The Toddler Room (18 months-2½ years), the Early Preschool Room (2½-3½) and the Preschool Room (3½-pre-K). Please remember that these are rough guidelines, and that we will assign your child to a room based on age, developmental needs, and availability. We will also continue to offer a 15% sibling discount to the tuition rates (applied to the younger child) and a 50% discount on the registration fee for siblings.

I will be sending out the early registration form in February. A discounted registration fee of \$60.00 (+ \$30 per sibling) will need to be paid by **February 28th** along with the application form in order to secure a spot for your child(ren). (This fee increases to \$100.00 as of March 1st, 2006.)

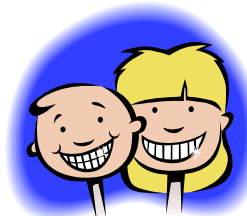
Our preliminary calendar for next year is in the works. As usual, we try to follow Fayette County Public School calendar as closely as possible, making exceptions for Jewish holiday closings.



Update:

*Our Holiday Gifts Galore was a wonderful success!
We raised over \$900.00*

A big Thank You to everyone who made it possible!!



Reminder!

We will have Spring pictures taken on March 1st & 2nd.

The photographer will begin taking photos at 9:00 am each day, please have your child here no later than 8:45 am.

Gan Shalom Early Childhood Program

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Dates to Remember

- ♦ January 16th– Martin Luther King Day (closed)
- ♦ February 20th– President's Day (closed)



Catesby & family– trucks and Noah's Ark

Caroline & family– puzzles, share-wear, books & CD's

Sophie R-F & family– CD's & flash-cards

Connor & family– book

Michael & MaryCarol & family– books

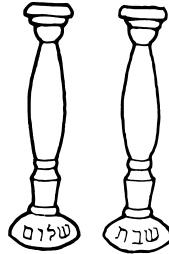
Marguerite & family– Cooler

Sharewear– We are in need of clothing!!
Preschool size– Boys and Girls pants & shirts.

Toddler size– Girls pants & shirts

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR HELP

Early Closings Schedule in Honor of Shabbat



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

November

Hiro -13th (4)
MaryCarol– 20th (3)
Michael– 27th (4)

December

Gabriel– 4th (4)
Chloe– 23rd (2)
Ms. Gloria– 27th (?)
Ms. Erin– 28th (?)
Ms. Susan–30th (?)



Quotable Quotes:

“My Mom said I couldn't have coffee until I am sixteen.”

-Sabrina, 4, Preschool room

“ We forgot our rainbrella.

-Sophie K, 3, Preschool room

“Do you have a fortunate cookie?”

-Gillian, 4, Preschool room

“I need to bring my talkie walkie with me.”

-Michael, Preschool room