

The Gan Shalom Gazette



Gan Shalom Early Childhood Program

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December/January, 06/07

Director's Corner

We are only a few days away from our holiday season and Winter Break. It has been a very busy time for all of us here at Gan Shalom...Parent/Teacher Conferences are 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 and development. Our Gifts Galore Fundraiser is over and I really appreciate everyone who was involved in the success of the fundraiser. Whether you helped with the many calls to vendors, setup, helped serve food, clean-up or came to purchase items from the vendors. Because of all of you we managed to raise about \$1,100. As always we have many items on our list to purchase. To name a few... 2 Playhouses; one for each side of the playground, a new carpet for the Preschool room, and some new educational toys for all three classrooms. THANKS AGAIN!! We had our annual Hanukkah party and I hope everyone had a wonderful time. I especially enjoy the Hanukkah Party; I feel like it is a time for Gan Shalom to do something special for our wonderful families. The children seemed to enjoyed the magician, the latkes (potato pancakes) , applesauce and donuts. A BIG Thank You to Jennifer Kash for spending

her time in the kitchen making all the Latkes, they were wonderful! And lastly, I would like to let you know that Michelle our awesome assistant in the Pre-school room will be leaving us to do her student teaching. Although she is sad to leave the children, she is also very excited to be finished with school. We wish her well and look forward to having a new "friend" in the classroom.

As always, let us know if you have questions or suggestions.

Amy Howe

Remember!

Gan Shalom will be closed for Winter Break from December 21st - January 2nd.
See you on Wednesday, January 3rd

HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON!
See you in 2007



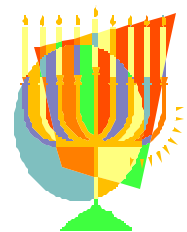
יום הולדת
שנה טובה!

Important Dates in December:

<i>Jake</i>	1
2 years	
<i>Sophie</i>	8
2 years	
<i>Chloe</i>	23
3 years	
<i>Madeline</i>	30
5 years	
<i>Ms. Gloria</i>	27
<i>Ms. Susan</i>	30

Important Dates in January:

<i>James</i>	9
4 years	





It is hard to believe the semester is over! Where did the time go? The Preschool class started the year off talking about coming to school, learning new routines and schedules, as well as making new friends. The introduction of learning a new letter a week and incorporating that into Share Day has been a huge success. All the children and their families have been very creative in what is being shared with friends on Thursdays. The children visit the synagogue children's library each Monday, they really enjoy sitting on the couch, the Jewish holiday circle carpet and bean bags chairs while reading their books. Fridays are always a hit because the chil-

Preschool Room News

dren visit with Rabbi Cohen and of course eat Challah. The children also enjoy asking Rabbi Cohen how to say different words in Hebrew.

Our next big unit was fire safety with the children learning the Stop, Drop and Roll technique if their clothes ever caught on fire. The highlight of the unit though was the fire truck and firefighters coming to the school for a visit.

We then learned about the Jewish holiday, Rosh Hashanah and the children quickly decided their new favorite snack was apples dipped in honey. We next learned about another Jewish holiday, Sukkot. The children enjoyed eating snack out in the big Sukkah and had fun playing in the small Sukkah that they decorated for our classroom.

We then did a unit on fall and studied about nocturnal animals. The children enjoyed going on nature walks and seeing the leaves change colors. They all enjoyed when we brought in a pumpkin that they were able to

use a rubber mallet and pound "nails" (golf tees) into.

We did a unit on favorite stories where the children could help tell the stories as we read together. After that we did a unit on Thanksgiving and what it means to be thankful. We also were able to donate our Tzedakah monies to two different organizations, one that helped prepare Thanksgiving baskets for needy families and the other to an orphanage where the children's parents have died from AIDS in Africa. The children also each told us their thoughts on how to cook a turkey. We all had a great laugh from reading what they had to say. The last unit we have studied is Chanukah. The children have enjoyed making menorahs, dreidels, and the Star of David. We have also had much fun singing our favorite Chanukah songs.

We have had a wonderful semester and know the next semester will be even better!

Ms. Melissa, Ms. Krista, Ms. Michelle

TODDLER ROOM NEWS

Wow! What a great Fall Semester this has been. Some pretty exciting things have been going on in the Toddler Class. We have learned about every thing from Insects to Cooking, from Sukkot to Hanukkah! But I think our favorite week was when we learned about Farm Animals and got to make all the different farm animal sounds! Sometimes we still make those sounds...

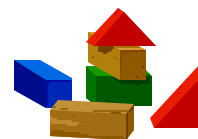
The most popular time of day is Opening Circle when we read a book and sing our "Start the Day" song. We also really enjoy singing "Itsy, Bitsy Spider" (Julianne's personal favorite) "Baa, Baa, Black Sheep" (Ben loves that one) "If You're Happy and You Know It" (that's Macy's song) and "Happy Birthday" (that's for Elly - her birthday was in September but the party's still going!).

Arts & Crafts Time is enjoyed by all the children and they love to line up by the art table and say "My Turn!" (even when it isn't). It's really nice to see them so excited about learning. In the first few weeks Ms. Larissa did a lot of

art projects that involved painting the children's hands and then stamping them on the paper to make different animals - we knew it was time to stop when the children sat down at the art table and held up their hands before we even asked! Recently we started doing art projects that involve covering things in glue and then shaking glitter all over them. This is very popular and the children (and sometimes the teachers) go home with lots of glitter on them, no matter how many times we wash our hands!

The children's vocabulary has been increasing daily and now almost all of our little friends are verbal enough to chat with each other - it's really fun to hear the conversations they have. Our meal time prayer (in Hebrew) is also adorable to listen to. The children try very hard to get all the words just right. Some of them have become very linguistic indeed. Maeve loves to answer, "of course" and if you ask Glenn to repeat himself he will just shake his head and say, "never mind."

Outside Time is very popular with the children. We have a "magic rope" that we all hold onto when we take walks. It helps keep us together and the children love to



take it with us when we go on nature hikes to see the ducks and look for squirrels. We also enjoy playing on the playground and watching the "big trucks" that drive by.

Music and Movement Time is probably the most exciting part of the day. Ms. Sheri or Ms. Gloria put in the "Animal Song" CD and all the children get to dance like different animals. They also love to sing a song called "Jump So High!" Each child gets a turn and everyone claps and sings, "Jump, jump, jump so high, jump so high Sophie!"

We know it's almost Nap Time when Ms. Jamie comes in. She puts out the cots, turns on some quiet music and reads a story. This is a wonderful time of day - some of the Mommies and Daddies come to pick up the children and some of the children get to take a well-deserved rest.

All in all it has been a wonderful Fall Semester. We are looking forward to a cozy Winter Break and have lots of exciting things planned for the Spring!

Ms. Larissa, Ms. Sheri, Ms. Jamie



EARLY PRESCHOOL ROOM NEWS

Wow, what fun we have in the Early Preschool Room! Ms. Denise, Ms. Jamie and I enjoy working with the children everyday. The children work and play so well together. They are always helping each other pick up and encouraging others by saying "lets pick up so we can do something else." They are very thoughtful and caring also. They watch and worry for someone who may be sad or has bumped their head. And oh, they are so mannerly! "Thank you" is said so often in our day. We are also working on our lunchtime

manners. If anyone would like to join us for lunch, I am sure you will be impressed with the children's wonderful manners.

The children have learned so much this year. They are so proud to know exactly what to do when we have an earthquake drill and that they know to stop, drop and roll when their clothes catch on fire. We enjoy circle time each morning, we talk about what we'll do that day and they usually share a story or tell us any plans they may have. Sometimes, they'll tell us about what they did yesterday, and the day before that, and the day before that – you never really know what they are go-

ing to say! If they ever want to share an item with the class, feel free to let them bring it in. One child brought in the biggest leaf we had ever seen! That was very exciting and we all enjoyed it. The children also like to join together with the other classrooms when we visit with Rabbi Cohen on Friday mornings. We sing songs, eat Challah and we are even learning some words in Hebrew. We can't wait to see what the next year brings for us in the Early Preschool Room!

Ms. Susan, Ms. Denise and Ms. Jamie

Afternoon Program News

With the cold weather beginning to set in, we have not had as much time outside as we would have liked. We have managed to filled the time with many fun activities and games in the Social Hall. Over the past few weeks we have read several popular children's books that your children are familiar with. Some of the stories were liked more that others, Eric Carle, Dora the Explorer, Winnie the Pooh, and Dr. Seuss were big hits. During art they made backpacks, treasure chests, and of course we could not read Cat in the Hat without making our very own red and white hats. The children love hearing their favorite books and learning other subjects that go along with them. The children have a new "favorite" song, "The Animal Song" It is the most requested song of the day. We **ALL** have such fun pretending to be many different types of animals. We always have such a wonderful time not only teaching the children, but learning something new about them each day.

Ms. Sheri , Ms. Jamie, Ms. Krista

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 Hanukkah (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 21– January 2 —
Winter Break
- ?? January 3 —
School re-opens
- ?? January 15 —
School closed (Martin Luther
King Day)



- ?? Merriman's for the many books, pumpkin bowl, and science projects
- ?? Clay's for donating the playground climber and many Jewish items (Sukkah, Rosh Hashanah kits)
- ?? Sajadi's for the stickers

Early Closings Schedule in Honor of Shabbat



Friday, January 5	4:45 pm
Friday, January 12	5:00 pm
Friday, January 19	5:00 pm
Friday, January 26	5:15 pm
Friday, February 2	5:15 pm
Friday, February 9	5:15 pm
Friday, February 16	5:15 pm



Quotable Quotes:

“When a butterfly goes into a cartoon it turns into a beautiful butterfly.”

-Isabella, 4, Preschool room

“ My daddy has heavy ears”.

-McCain, 2, Toddler room

“My Dad Achoo’s when cat whiskers touch him.”

-Celia, 4, Preschool room

Ms. Susan took off her jacket after coming in from the playground and a child asked, “Are you going to put that in your cubbie?”

-Caroline, 3, Early Preschool room

Judah was asking where Ms. Jamie was and I replied, she is on her Honeymoon. Amblen then said, “I had honey on the moon too”.

-Early Preschool room

After nap Egor was looking for his socks, Ms. Larissa asked, “What do they look like?”

“They’re white and they look like my feet.”

-Egor, 4, Preschool room

When asked, “How many legs does a spider have?” “All of them”

-Amblen, 2 Early Preschool room