

The Gan Shalom Gazette



Gan Shalom Early Childhood Program

Volume 6, Issue 2

April/May, 2007

Director's Corner

Dear Parents

Luckily, this year Passover falls on the same days as Fayette County Public School's calendar for Spring Break. This means less days of missed school. However, we will be closed on April 9th & 10th for the last 2 days of Passover. We will reopen on Wednesday, April 11th. I hope the children shared with you the details of our Model Seder that we enjoyed with Rabbi Cohen and Barbara Rubin. A few of the children enjoyed some of the food on the Seder plate and others said, "No thank you." It was very exciting when Ms. Barbara hid the Afikomen (matzah) for all the children to find. I hope many of you will be able to take some special time to enjoy your wonderful children over the break.

When we return from our Passover and Spring Break, we will be in full swing planning the end-of year events, including parent conferences, graduation and our annual picnic. Please look for the postings so you can sign up. It is so hard to believe there are only 7 more weeks of school.

We are also putting the final touches on our summer program. Melissa and Christina will be the teachers for the Senior campers and Larissa and Sheri will be the teachers for the Junior campers. They have a lot of exciting and fun ideas planned for the summer.

We are making some exciting changes for the 2007/2008 school year. We are expanding Gan Shalom with an additional

room. We will be adding another Toddler room and also making some room changes.

We will of course keep you up-to-date on our plans for the new year, but please do stop by and chat if you have any questions.

Amy Howe

Congratulations



to the Dyer family on the birth of their daughter. Evelyn was born Saturday, March 17th.



Important Dates in April:

Sarah Grace	1
Jake B.	3
Julianne	5
Macy	17
Alice	21
Grady	29
Miles	29

Important Dates in May:

Eli	9
Amblen	15
Ms. Melissa	21
McCain	24

Remember!

SIGN UP for Conferences
May 1st-4th (sign-up sheets
will be in classrooms)

Picnic,
Sunday, May 20th
Shillito Park (Shelter #2)

Graduation,
Wednesday, May 16th

Summer Session starts
Wednesday, June 4th

Ms. Krista asked: **"What colors are in the sky when the sun sets?"**
Connor replied: **"Beautiful!"**



We started the semester by easing back into the schedule and routine of coming to school. Our first unit that we talked about was winter weather and the cold, although at that point the weather was not exactly cooperating. We next continued on with the theme of snow and the children made lots of snowpeople, snowflakes, and converted a large box into an igloo. They also enjoyed a big penguin pillow to rest with while reading books. Still thinking of the cold we then had a unit on polar bears.

Next we moved into February talking about Groundhog's Day with the children insisting on calling the groundhog a hedgehog. We then did a unit on penguins and the children discovered through a story we read that when you mix the colors yellow and blue you get

Preschool Room News

green. This led to what other colors you can make when you mix them together. We then moved into talking about the Jewish holiday Tu B'Shvat and the planting that takes place in Israel because spring comes earlier there. The children planted their own seeds and some are continuing to grow in the classroom. We also talked about hearts and love. We finished learning all the alphabet letters and the children are now working on completing their very own alphabet book that they are writing in and gluing pictures that begin with that letter. We next talked about the Jewish holiday, Purim with the children learning about brave Queen Esther, Uncle Mordecai, and "mean" Haman. The children still talk about how Haman "was not a nice man."

In March we did a unit on bears and the children worked on recognition of prepositions and opposites. They love the story/chant "going on a bear hunt." We next had a unit on pigs with the children working on re-telling the story of "The Three Little Pigs." They also liked

Olivia, the pig stories and enjoyed working on an Olivia puzzle we had in the classroom. Before our Spring Break we are learning about the Jewish holiday, Passover. The children have already decided King Pharaoh is as "mean" as Haman.

The children are growing each day and we are amazed at the progress they continually make.

Ms. Melissa/Ms. Krista

**Remember to sign up for
our 7th annual
Gan Shalom**

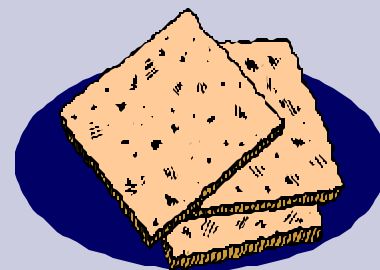


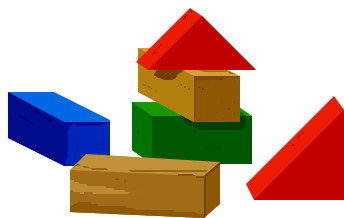
Picnic!

**Shillito Park
Shelter #2
Sunday, May 20th,
3-5pm**

Pesach (Passover)

Passover celebrates the liberation of the Jews from slavery in Egypt. The name of the holiday derives from the plague of the death of first borns that "passed over" the Houses of the Israelites. Passover is celebrated for eight days (seven in Israel). During that time no leavened food can be eaten to commemorate the haste with which the Jews left from their captivity, leaving them no time to let their breads rise. Instead of bread, or Challah, matzah (flat bread that was baked on hot stones) is eaten on Passover. Since no traces of leavened food should be found, Passover is also a time of major spring cleaning. The dinner meal on the 1st night of Passover is called "seder" meal. Seder means order, and refers to a specific order in which the story (Haggadah) of Passover is recounted. The actual content, however, leaves a lot of room for innovation and creativity. Many Haggadas emphasize liberation of all peoples, but some use current themes of the day (pacifism, civil rights, tolerance). Just about any theme will do. The point is to retell the story of Passover in one's own voice and make it as relevant as possible.





TODDLER ROOM NEWS

Wow! What a great Spring Semester this is turning out to be! Some pretty exciting things have been going on in the Toddler Class. We have learned about everything from Community Helpers to Transportation, from Purim to Passover! But I think our favorite theme was when we learned about Colors and everyone dressed in the "color of the day." We had a very monochromatic class thanks to a lot of very supportive parents!

The most popular time of day is still Opening Circle when we talk about our theme, read a story and sing our "Start the Day" song. We also really enjoy singing "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes" (sometimes we even touch the corresponding body parts at the right time) and "Jump So High." We all sit in a circle and the child in the middle jumps up and down while we clap and sing, "Jump, jump, jump so high, jump so high Macy..." Everyone

gets their own turn and then we all jump together singing "Jump so high everybody!"

The most popular thing to play in the Toddler Room right now is "Mini Van." The children line all the chairs up and sit in them as if they were riding in a car. Julianne is the driver and she tells everyone they are "going to Kroger!" "Dinner Time" is also a popular game. The children place all the chairs around the table and put various dolls and stuffed animals in them. Maeve and Elly set the table and make wonderful feasts for all of those present and then Elly leads everyone in the Hebrew prayer.

We have been using the Sensory Table a great deal lately. Sometimes we put water in it and splash around and other times we use dry rice with measuring cups to scoop and pour. Shaving cream is also a very popular sensory activity. Ms. Gloria sprays huge amounts of shaving cream on the table and teaches the children how to draw pictures and write their names in it.

Outside Time is starting to be a lot more fun now! We have enjoyed some lovely weather lately so we have been playing on the playground more and more and going to

visit the ducks to feed them lots of yummy Cheerios. We are still using the "magic rope" to keep us together when we go for nature walks and we are learning how to "sneak up" on the ducks so we don't scare them away before we get to the bridge by calling "Here Ducks!"

Music and Movement Time is still a very popular part of the day! We are teaching our little friends lots of fun songs and sometimes we even pull all of the dolls and stuffed animals out of the toy basket and let them dance with us!

All in all it is shaping up to be a great Spring Semester. We are looking forward to a relaxing Spring Break and making exciting plans for Summer!

Ms. Larissa, Ms. Sheri and Ms. Gloria

Afternoon Program News

Spring has sprung and the Toddlers could not be happier. We've enjoyed this weather as much as possible and look forward to every sunny day. The children as well as the teachers like to take our "book of the day" to the playground and read it outside in the beautiful weather. The children also enjoy rainy days because they get to play in the social hall and ride on the tractor which is very popular.

Springtime has brought up a very interesting subject, BUGS! We have been reading about them, using our nets to catch them and even pretending to take them home.

We have also been learning about trains, which is perhaps the most popular afternoon unit that we have done. The children are fascinated by trains. They love making paper train cars and linking them together with yarn- you could hear the "Chugga, Chugga, Choo Choo's" from anywhere in the school. One book called The Train Book became so popular that it was requested by the group everyday.

With each new fun and exciting thing happening in our afternoon program, we all continue to learn, grow and have a lot of fun!

Ms. Sheri, Ms. Jamie,
Ms. Christina and Ms. Meagan

EARLY PRESCHOOL ROOM NEWS

The Early Preschool Room got off to a great new year by learning all about winter. The children helped decorate our bulletin board by making a snowman. They work so well together! We also made lots of "snowy" artwork. They enjoyed ice painting and making icicles as well as puffy snowmen made of glue and shaving cream. We learned about sledding and some wonderful songs about "a chubby little snowman" and "a little snowflake."

We then went on to learn about numbers. The children enjoyed this week as well, counting and singing and making "chocolate chip cookies" by counting the chips on each cookie.

Next we learned about TuB'Shevat, the birthday of the trees. We sang a new song in English and then in Hebrew. We had fun making green Jell-O trees to eat for our lunch!

Our next theme focused on love and friendship. We made lots of heart creations and learned how to be a good friend. The children are still making hearts with their hands!

We went on to learn about the alphabet.

The children did such a good job on their letters and sounds. Most of the children can spell their names now, and some of their friend's names as well!

Our next theme was Purim. The children enjoyed making dress up items to use for our Purim parade. They also had fun making lots of noise when they heard the name of Haman, and learning about brave queen Ester.

We then began a theme on kites and wind. We made a new bulletin board in our room, and several different kinds of kites. We blew bubbles in the wind, and we are still enjoying our new fan in our room. We learned several songs and the children are still requesting them.

Spring has 'sprung' in our room! The children enjoyed our theme focusing on spring. We have made lots of art for our room, and planted some grass as well. The children are watering the grass daily, and can't wait for some to start to sprout.

Our next unit will be all about Passover. I'm sure the children will have something to tell you about it. I hope you ask your children what they do each day. I'd love to hear some of their responses.

Ms. Susan, Ms. Denise, Ms. Jamie

Gan Shalom Early Childhood Program

2048 Edgewater Court
Lexington, KY 40502

Office Phone: 859-335-9922

Teachers Line: 859-269-0453

Fax: 859-268-3357

Amy Howe, Director:
director@ganshalom.com

*Susan Elliott, Assistant Director &
Early Preschool Lead Teacher:*
early.preschool@ganshalom.com

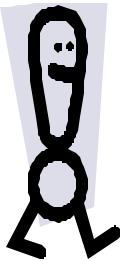


Ms. Amy's Trip To Israel

My trip to Israel with the OZS tour group was an incredible experience! After returning home and recovering from the jet lag, I began to think of all the wonderful things I was able to see and do in 10 days. Independence Hall, Beit Guvrin Caves, Caesarea, Rosh Hanikra, Safed, Golan Heights, Zippori National Park ...and that was just in the first 5 days! The final 5 days spent in Jerusalem were fascinating and passed far too quickly. We explored the Old City, David's Citadel, the Knesset, Yad Vashem, and of course the Kotel, which was absolutely amazing. We also went to Masada and the Dead Sea. The weather was a little chilly but that did not stop us from getting in and experiencing the weightlessness of the water. I also visited the Massorti School in Jerusalem that we are donating money to in order to help them build a new playground. Many of your children may have told you that a portion of their Tzedakah money was used for the school's new playground. They will be sending photos of the project when it is completed. I was also invited to join the children from the school in learning an Israeli dance. What fun that was. I wanted to thank the parents who offered to substitute while I was away and certainly thank the wonderful Gan Shalom teachers who made it possible for me to go on this amazing trip! It has been exciting for me to be able to share a part of Israel with the children and teachers of Gan Shalom.

Remember!

Gan Shalom will be closed for Passover/Spring Break from April 2nd-April 10th. See you on Wednesday, April 11th. Have a wonderful break!



As the weather is getting warmer and we are spending more time outside it is still necessary to bring a light jacket to school. Mornings on the playground are chilly.



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.



Quotable Quotes:

Putting on a wrist watch, looked at Ms. Jamie and said, "It's yesterday o'clock"

-Ben, 3, Toddler room

"When I go home I will ask daddy to buy some seed & when we go on vacation we will catch a starfish and plant them in my flower pot"

-Jake, 3, Preschool room

"I don't want that potato cream" (cream cheese)

-Eli, 4, Preschool room