

The Gan Shalom Gazette



Gan Shalom Early Childhood Program

Volume 7, Issue 1
October/November, 2007

Director's Corner



A belated Welcome to everyone. This is Gan Shalom's 8th year of operation. On behalf of the teachers and myself, I would like to thank all the parents for their support in getting the school year started. We had so many parents who surprised us with Starbucks, muffins, cookies and much more. Other parents brought in craft supplies, hats, bean bags, and books. Your thoughtfulness is much appreciated. I 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; **Megan** and **Judy** are in the Preschool Room, **Susan** and **Christina** are in the Early Preschool Room, **Amy** is in the Toddler room 1 and **Larissa** is in the Toddler room 2. **Gloria** and **Sheri** are so wonderful and everyone wanted to work with them so we decided to have them be the float for both toddler rooms. Our Afternoon teachers are **Denise**, **Sheri**, **Monica**, **Callie** and **Jessica**. We are so happy to have all of them with us, they are doing a great job.

The Parent Board has been very busy and we really appreciate all of their efforts. It is so wonderful to have the support of our families, this is what makes Gan Shalom such a special school.

Thank you to all the parents who worked at getting together the school directory. Everyone is very happy with the finished product. I am sure it will come in handy when you are planning play dates, birthday parties etc.

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 16th is the start of early pick-ups on Fridays as the sun sets earlier signaling the beginning of Shabbat. The early closings schedule is posted on the entrance door so that you can make the necessary arrangements.

As always we are available for your comments or questions.

Amy Howe



יום הולדת
שנה טובה!

Important Dates in October:

<i>Anastasia</i> 14 4 years	<i>Caroline C.</i> 25 2 years
<i>Noa</i> 15 4 years	<i>Dahlia</i> 29 2 years
<i>Matai</i> 15 2 years	
<i>Owen</i> 24 2 years	<i>Ms. Denise</i> 12
<i>Wayne</i> 25 4 years	



Important Dates in November:

<i>Katherine</i> 18 3years
<i>Mollie</i> 22 2 years

Please let us know if you are interested in starting a fish tank or adding to your existing tank. Our tank in the Preschool room has too many fish and we need to find new homes for a few to keep the others healthy.



Remember!

Early Friday pick-ups start November 16th



It is hard to believe that it has been a month since I was warmly welcomed into the Gan Shalom family. During the transition time between Ms. Melissa and I, the children were learning about Sukkot and Simchat Torah. We read many books, ate snack and made a lot of crafts to hang in the sukkah. From the very beginning, I was so impressed by how wonderful the children were. They are very bright and so fun to be around.

In the past month we have been very busy in the classroom. The children are

Preschool Room News

working hard on learning how to spell their own names as well as their classmates'. We have also begun learning the different sounds that letters make. The children really enjoy rhyming which we have been practicing with autumn poems. They love identifying the rhyming pairs.

Number recognition has been another skill that we have been working on. The children can count to 10 in both English and Spanish and soon we will be learning to count to 10 in Hebrew as well. Along with recognition, the students have also been practicing writing their numbers. We are using poems to introduce the concepts of addition and subtraction.

Our art activities have revolved around the beautiful autumn season that has finally sprung upon

us. We have made Torahs, fruits, and other crafts which have reflected the recent holidays. We went on a nature walk and the children really enjoyed being outside and exploring beyond the playground. Each child had their own nature bag and we collected artifacts that we later used to make bird feeders and collages.

As the next few months approach we will be learning about and participating in activities surrounding Thanksgiving and Chanukah. We will continue working on pre-reading skills and mathematical concepts.

Thank you again for the warm welcome and I really appreciate the opportunity to spend time with your wonderful children.

Ms. Megan and Ms. Judy



Early Preschool Room News

We're off to a great start in the Early Preschool Room. We have all made some adjustments as we have gotten to know each other. Some of the new things we are learning are... how to walk in a line, how many children to an area at a time, and how to put away an activity before starting a new one. We are also working on voice levels, table manners, and caring for one another.

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

Our next unit was Music. We marched all over playing instruments and singing as well. The children

made kazoos and maracas. They learned to listen very carefully to the music and could tell what instrument was playing.

Next as the High Holiday's approached we went on to dip apples into honey for Rosh Hashanah. We enjoyed the apples that we made so much that they are still hanging in our windows. The children made their own shofar and had lots of fun practicing to blow them during one of our favorite songs, "I Like to Hear the shofar Blast" It was also a lot of fun to hear Rabbi Cohen blow the real shofar during Shabbat.

We worked together on painting a whale and putting Jonah in the middle for Yom Kippur, as we talked about how we can make better choices to become a better person.

The children did such a good job on helping to decorate the sukkah for Sukkot.

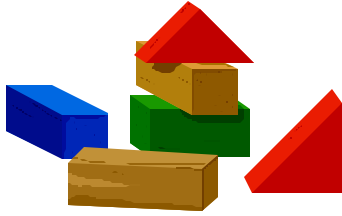
They made fruit, doves, leaves, apples and lots of other items to hang in the sukkah. We enjoyed each other's company as we came together in the sukkah.

The children did a wonderful job soaking up all information during Fire Safety week. You should ask them what to do if their clothes catch on fire! I bet they'll show you. "Stop, Drop & Roll" it was certainly popular during this unit. We talked about when to dial 911 and how to feel the door to see if it's hot. We also practiced how to "stay low and go" and to not be frightened of firemen in all their fire gear. Of course the unit would not be complete without making a Dalmatian dog, too.

We have lots of interesting items planned during the next few months.

Happy Fall!

Ms. Susan, Ms. Christina



TODDLER ROOM 2 NEWS

The Toddler # 2 Class has gotten off to a great start this year- we are in a new room and we have some new students as well! So far this semester we have learned about everything from Nursery Rhymes to Rosh Hashanah, from Simchat Torah to Farm Animals and coming up is our camping theme where we will be setting up a tent inside the classroom- pretty cool! The Children are really enjoying the lovely weather, so we are spending lots of time on the playground and chalking the sidewalk with beautiful artwork. Blowing bubbles, finger-painting and doing sensory activities like playing with shaving cream are also very popular in our class. The "Jump So High" song that I made up last year has a new group of fans so we sing that at least ten times a day, it is even popular in some of the other classes as well. Wow, who would have known? We have almost memorized "The Itsy Bitsy Spider" complete with hand motions! We are looking forward to lots of fun Autumn activities like taking nature walks, pumpkin painting, leaf collecting and more!

Ms. Larissa, Ms. Sheri & Ms. Gloria

Toddler Room 1 News

It has been a very exciting fall semester in the early toddler room. Not only did we have a brand new room, but we also had lots of new friends join us. Even the teacher was new! We started out the year learning all sorts of exciting things like our colors, shapes, and much more. We got to learn and celebrate the Jewish High Holidays. For Rosh Hashanah we made apples and honey placemats and learned that it was the world's Birthday. On Sukkot we went to visit the Sukkah and hang the decorations we made. Then on Yom Kippur we talked about Jonah and the Whale. We had a lot of fun during this very busy holiday.

We also learned a lot of new songs and dances. "If You're Happy and You Know It" is everyone's favorite. Anytime it is played we all love to sing and dance to it, and after its over Elliott always says, "more!" Matai's favorite is "The Wiggles" cd. He goes crazy for the "Bow Wow" song. The kids also love to sing songs, too. Some favorites are "Old McDonald", "The Itsy Bitsy Spider" and Olivia's favorite "Baa Baa Black Sheep". The "Jump So High" dance is very popular as well. Caroline is not only good at doing the dance, but also singing it for the other children as well. The Toddler 1 room is never lacking on smiles and laughter, especially when we are singing and dancing!

It has been great having some diversity in the classroom as well. Every Friday we go to the preschool room to celebrate Shabbat. We are learning songs, colors and some of our body parts in Hebrew. We also enjoy sharing challah (sweet bread) which everyone loves. The children really enjoy Fridays and are getting to know Rabbi Cohen very well. They are always excited when we tell them it is time for Shabbat. With Gloria and Ricardo in the room the kids have also picked up some Spanish. They often ask for "agua" at snack and greet each other with "hola" thanks to Ricardo.

We were fortunate enough to get two new friends this month. Ryan and Olivia have been great additions. They are both quickly warming up to everyone at Gan Shalom, and the other children in the room have been so good about making them feel welcome. Their very first day they made beautiful sunflowers!

There have also been many birthdays to celebrate this fall. Caroline, Dahlia, and Matai all turned 2! For every birthday we sang "Happy Birthday" and some friends even brought treats. Caroline brought her new toy purse into school and shared it so nicely with the other kids.

We have had a great start to the school year! With the holidays approaching there is so much to learn about and celebrate. There will be new songs, dances and activities, and even a new baby sister for Matai! We have such bright talented kids in our room it will be wonderful to watch them grow and learn over the next few months.

Ms. Amy, Ms. Gloria and Ms. Sheri

Gan Shalom Early Childhood Program

2048 Edgewater Court
Lexington, KY 40502

Phone: 859-335-9922

Fax: 859-268-3357

Amy Howe, Director:
director@ganshalom.com

*Susan Elliott, Assistant Director &
Early Preschool Lead Teacher:*

early.preschool@ganshalom.com

<http://www.ganshalom.com>

Early Closings Schedule in Honor of Shabbat

Friday, November 16 4:45 pm

Friday, November 30 4:30 pm

Friday, December 7 4:30 pm

Friday, December 14 4:30 pm

Friday, January 4 4:45 pm

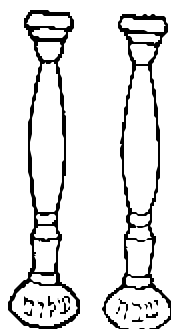
Friday, January 11 4:45 pm

Friday, January 18 5:00 pm

Friday, January 25 5:00 pm

Friday, February 1 5:15 pm

Friday, February 8 5:15 pm



Dates to Remember

- ? ? November 7-9 (CLOSED) NAEYC conference
- ? ? November 16—Early Friday Pick-up begins
- ? ? November 16— Gan Shalom Shabbat service
- ? ? November 22& 23—Thanksgiving. Gan Shalom is closed
- ? ? December 9-Chanukah Party 2-4 pm



PAST BIRTHDAYS

August

Aidan -4th (3)
Ms. Amy -4th :)
Emma -16th (2)
Max- 20th (4)

September

Meena-2nd (3)
Abigail-13th (2)
Caroline M - (4)
Elly D-28th (3)
Ms. Callie- 2nd
Ms. Monica-14th

Update on Kroger Gift Cards

We are doing well this fall with the Kroger gift card rebate. We've seen a check every month (compared to last year when it was every other month) - so this is a great start! Since August, we've received a total of \$654.95! The Kroger rebates are being used for instructional materials and scholarships.

For those of you using your Kroger gift card -- many thanks! If you've not yet purchased a gift card for your household, and other family/friends, please stop by the office to buy one (\$5/each - cash or check payable to Gan Shalom). The holidays are approaching, and we all tend to have to buy more groceries, so please consider participating in this easy fundraising event. If you have questions, please contact Jaclyn Headings 536.8657 or jshheadings@yahoo.com

Jaclyn will be selling gift cards in the G.S hallway the morning of Wed, Nov 14th.

Amy Howe and the Parent Board are working on curriculum enrichment for 2007-08. We hope to have a music teacher come in once week and possibly some gross motor movement classes. We've come up with a creative way to raise funds to pay for the classes. The **Malone's restaurant** group has a special fundraiser for organizations. Between Nov 23 and Dec 24, if someone purchases a gift certificate and states they are with Gan Shalom, we will get back 20% of the total dollars purchased!

This is an easy fundraiser, and we can raise a good sum of money in a short time.

More details to come out soon— but please keep this in mind as you start to plan your holiday shopping list, and holiday dining plans. We will have a sign up sheet and will even take care of picking up the gift certificates for you.

We are excited about adding music and movement classes, as we know the children will love it.