

Early Childhood Newsletter

Yeshiva Toras Chaim Toras Emes

Parashas Vayera

October 18, 2013
Candle Lighting 6:31 P.M.

Music Month: Morah Zelda

String instruments were the focus of our Music unit this week. We were lucky to find a broken ukulele and were able to learn so much about string instruments and how they work by seeing the inside of the broken ukulele. Did you know that the inside of string instruments are hollow?

A violin is a string instrument that is played with a bow. It looks like a magic wand, but is made from wood and hair from the tails of white horses. We learned that you have to hold the bow very carefully so that you don't ruin the hairs, and that you have to hold it by the part that is called the "frog."

We had a lot of fun learning about the balalaika. We learned that it only has three strings and that it is shaped like a triangle. You can adjust the tightness of the strings by turning the pegs on the side of the instrument. When you tighten the strings, the pitch of the balalaika is changed. We enjoyed learning songs on the balalaika. A famous Yiddish song was taught to the children

Strumming, strumming, strumming along
Let's all sing a Yiddish song.
Tum balalaika, shpiel balalaika,
Tum Balalaika,
Freilich zol zein.

We played an Aleph Beis song on the balalaika to the tune of "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star."

That's not all. When we were finished learning about the balalaika, we started to about the dulcimer, which is a string instrument that is a trapezoid shape with a lot of strings. We had a chance to play it using special mallets made of flexible bamboo. It was fun to hear the tones as we tapped softly on the dulcimer.

If you would like to play a musical instrument for the children, please call the school office.

THANK YOU

Mr. Arthur and Shelly Laks for donating educational equipment to the Pre-KII class in honor of Avi's fifth birthday.

29th Annual Journal and Dinner

Our annual campaign is underway! Please see the attached flyer for an exciting update!

REMINDER:

Keep up the good work and continue ordering your gift cards. We currently carry gift cards to Publix, Winn Dixie, Target, South FL Kosher and Amazon and are constantly working to expand the list of stores.. All current purchases will be applied to your 2013-2014 Spend and Raise gift card obligation. You can order gift cards online at ytcteam.org/giftcards.

The Spend and Raise Program was initiated last fall to help raise necessary funds for the Yeshiva. We have teamed up with the stores mentioned above and they donate to the Yeshiva a healthy percentage of revenue from purchases made with their gift cards.

NURSERY – MORAH TAMI

If you happened to pass by the Nursery this week, you might have heard strange noises coming from behind the doors. Chickens, ducks, sheep, cats, dogs and horses were some of the animal sounds that we heard. A new fingerplay about ducks was taught to the children:

Five little ducks went out to play
Over the hill and far away
Mother duck said “Quack, Quack”
Four little ducks came back...
And the daddy duck said “Quack, Quack”
Five little ducks came waddling back

Percussion instruments were the theme of our unit on music. We learned about the different percussion instruments and made our own tambourines.

We listened to many different kinds of music. Some music makes us happy, or makes us giggle. Some music makes us sleepy and other music makes us want to jump up and dance.

For Parashas Vayera, we talked about the mitzvos of “Bikur Cholim” and “Hachnasas Orchim.” **We learned that Avraham Avinu’s tent had four doors so that guests could enter from all four directions.** We discussed how we can perform this mitzvah and listened to the Uncle Moishy song “Hachnasas Orchim.” **As our parsha project, we made a tent just like that of Avraham Avinu.**

New Hebrew vocabulary word taught this week focused on classroom objects. The children learned the phrases:

אני ילד
אני ילדה
זה כדור
זה שלחן
זה ספר
זה ספר גדול
זה ספר קטן

NURSERY – MORAH SUSAN

Music month was so much fun this week. Creating a class orchestra was one of our musical **activities. The children made a conductor’s baton and pretended that they were conductors as they listened to the music of the “Nutcracker Suite.” We also reviewed the song “Do, Re, Mi.” Another instrument that we created and used in class this week was a humming cup.** When using the cups, we talked about the vibrations that we heard and felt in our mouths.

We marched around the school in a marching band just like they did in the book The Little Band by James Sage. The class was so excited to be able to act out the stories that we read in class. To reinforce our fine motor skills, we laced paper plates together. We also created a bracelet using beads.

As one of our circle time activities, we sang the **song “The Wheels On The Bus” and illustrated the story with flannel board pictures.**

PRE-KI & II MOROT HEIDI & NECHAMA

For Parashas Vayera, we learned about many important mitzvos. Hashem visited Avraham when he was not feeling well. From here, we learn the mitzvah of Bikur Cholim. Avraham and Sarah loved to have guests in their tents. From this example, we learn how important it is to invite guests into our homes. We discussed that the mitzvah of Bikur Cholim can be done in many different ways; you can visit someone, call them on the phone or send them a card or a gift to help them feel better. Avraham had the doors to his tent open in all directions. He would welcome people graciously and bring them food and water to drink. He would also try to teach his guests about Hashem.

The children sang the following song (to the tune of "This Old Man."):

In the Chumash, we often read
How Avraham Avinu did many good deeds
He would sit outside his tent all day
and wait for guests to come his way.

Avraham had a wife, Sara was her name
They were very happy when three malachim came
To give them a message from Hashem
That a baby boy would be born to them

And so it was, the time had come
Sara had a baby and it was a son
They called him Yitzchak, a tzadik was he
Can you imagine such a happy family!

A new unit-Bakitah, was introduced this week.
We learned the words:

בית ספר
הנה דלת
הנה כסא
הנה שלחן
הנה חלון
הנה ספר

Our Hebrew letter of the week is Gimmel. Some vocabulary words that we learned that start with the letter gimmel include:

גשם
גיר
גן
גלידה
גזר
גן חיות

PRE-KI & II- MORAH JUDY

Learning about musical instruments continued to **be the focus of our week's activities.** This week, the spotlight was on the woodwind and brass families. We listened to several pieces by famous composers. The children were amazed to hear about the lives of those composers who were child prodigies. Did you know that Mozart, at the age of four, wrote his own compositions?

We enjoyed playing different instruments and pretending to be in an orchestra. We realized that our names have rhythm and clapped according to the number of syllables in each name.

Some of the stories that we listened to this week were Woodwinds by Dee Lillegard, The Little Band by James Sage and The Music In Me.

In art, we created our own woodwind and brass instruments that are a nice addition to the other instruments that the children created.

Our math activity this week was putting objects in graduated order from shortest to tallest. We also focused on writing the numerals one and two.

As a pre-reading skill, the children created many different patterns by arranging objects in a variety of ways. They can create patterns at home, the patterns that they made.

The Pre-K children enjoyed learning the rhyme "Little Boy Blue."

Little boy blue, come blow your horn.
The sheep's in the meadow, the cow's in the corn.
Where's the boy who looks after the sheep?
He's under the haystack, fast asleep

They were able to sound out the rhyming words and add their own ideas of why "Little Boy Blue" was asleep, as well as add their own thoughts to this rhyme.

KINDERGARTEN I, II, III & IV
MOROT BAYLA, HEIDI & RENA

What a great week we had! Our housekeeping center turned into Avraham Avinu's tent to inspire us in our dramatic play activities. In connection with our unit on Bakitah, we used gears and magnetic tiles to form a shulchan, a kisai and a luach. New Hebrew vocabulary words taught this week focused on objects in the classroom. The children learned the phrases:

ילד הולך
ילדה הולכת
אני יושבת על הכסא
אני יושב על הכסא
הנה עפרון גדול
הנה עפרון קטן
מה חסר
הכסא חסר

The letter ד was taught this week and we emphasized the concept of "Dibbur Yafeh". Many words were added to our ד page including:

דלת
דג
דגל
דבש

We played many games reviewing our letters and the sounds that they make. Thank you for reviewing the letters with your child as they complete the alef bais homework sheets.

Parashas Vayera was full of many beautiful stories about Avraham Avinu. We can learn so many great lessons from his behavior. Avraham Avinu is so well known for his Hachnasas Orchim that even his nephew Lot practiced this important mitzvah while living in the wicked city of Sdom. We learned about the mitzvah of Bikur Cholim and how Hashem came to visit Avraham when he was recovering from his Bris Milah.

"Emor me'at V'aseh Harbeh" was the midah tova that Avraham possessed which was so apparent when Avraham offered his guests bread and water and then came back with a sumptuous meal. We learned about the many challenges with which Hashem repeatedly tested Avraham, from sending away Hagar and her son Yishmael to Akeidas Yitzchak. The children were amazed at Avraham's continuous love for Hashem. They enjoyed listening to the complete story of The Ten Tests Of Avraham by Shoshana Lepon.

Project Derech taught us that it is a mitzvah to say "I'm Sorry" when we do something wrong.

KINDERGARTEN I, II, III & IV
MOROT BERNEY, PEARLY & TALIA

Great news! This week was filled with grand activities. We zeroed in on the hard "Gg" sound and completed the letterbook "Gg." Among our favorite books this week was The Three Billy Goats Gruff. We learned to listen for the final sound as well as the beginning sound of the letter "Gg" (bag, egg, plug). Of course, we played lots of games.

We combined our math activities with the letter "Gg" as we continued to graph different topics of interest to our class. We learned that a graph is a math picture.

Our unit on music is in full swing. We reviewed the percussion and string families and were introduced to the brass family. We learned that the trumpet is the smallest of the brass instruments and the tuba is the largest. We listened to several pieces by famous composers. Our composer of the week was Ludwig Van Beethoven. The children were amazed to learn that Beethoven was a famous pianist who at the age of thirty began going deaf. In spite of his deafness, he composed some of the greatest music. We enjoyed playing different instruments and pretending to be in an orchestra. We realized that our names have rhythm and clapped according to the number of syllables in each name.

Our unit on "All About Me" is still in progress. We are working on interviewing the children about things that are important to them. This information, along with the children's illustrations will be compiled into a big book for the class to share.



Erev Shabbos Parashas Vayera 5774

Dear Parents,

When we think of the *Akeidah*, the binding of *Yitzchak*, we naturally focus on the seemingly super human faith of *Avraham Avinu* that propelled him to the pinnacle of greatness in his subservience to *Hashem*, ready to sacrifice his beloved son. Within the events leading up to the *Akeida* there are also other lessons to be gleaned that speak to every generation of our people and especially to us, in our Yeshiva.

Roshei HaYeshiva
Rabbi Benyomin Luban
Rabbi Yisroel Y. Nisman
Rabbi Mordechai Palgon
Founding Rosh HaYeshiva
Rabbi Benzion Chait

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As *Avraham*, *Yitzchak* and their entourage entered the hills adjacent to their destination, the *Pasuk* tells us (*Bereishis 22:4*) “.... *Vaya'ar Es Hamokom MeRachok*” ...and he saw the place from afar. The *Daas Zekeinim* brings a *Medrash* that says *Avraham* asked *Yitzchak* what he saw. *Yitzchak* saw what *Avraham* saw – the cloud of the *shechina* (divine presence) hovering over the mountain. The others in the group were also asked the same question – they answered that they saw nothing.

There are places that have a special uniqueness, but not everyone can appreciate that quality. Just as the *kedusha* of *Shabbos* is only felt by one steeped in its observance, so too the atmosphere of a *shul* or *Beis Medrash* will only elevate one sensitive to the closeness of *Hashem*. This holds true for us and for our children who come to school daily to learn, *daven* and grow in their appreciation for and sensitivity to *Kedusha*.

Upon entering the Toras Chaim Toras Emes campus, one sees young children playing happily, running and laughing. Initially, this school scene may resemble other early childhood and elementary school programs. However, what is not very obvious at first glance, is the extraordinary uniqueness of our school and the purpose for which this institution was created and continues to flourish. Toras Emes is a *Makom Torah* that not only has the inherent sanctity of any Torah institution, but has an elevated sense of purpose, as well. We would like all who enter our campus to recognize they are entering more than a child's playground and school, but rather a location that represents a higher calling and a greater level of sanctity.

One manifestation of this aspect of the school is the standard for dress we set for adults, that reflects the dignity and holiness of our sacred Torah. Personal standards of modesty are each individual's right to choose, but one who comes to a place of Torah should dress in a manner consistent with sanctifying the Torah, a manner of dress that reflects the *Kedusha* requisite to invite *Hashem* into our establishment.

We urge each parent, family member and friend to keep this in mind when visiting our campus, whether for a quick delivery or pickup or for a school program. While it is clearly unintentional, men in shorts or without head covering or in open shirts are not demonstrating respect for our *Makom Torah*. Women in pants, low cut tops, short skirts, very short sleeves or tight fitting or clingy attire are inadvertently demonstrating a disregard for the sanctity of a Torah school. We are convinced that no adult would willingly and purposefully act in a way that undermines the very values they work so hard for their children to achieve.

Toras Chaim Toras Emes is a place where children and adults can be inspired to learn and grow. We want our children to perceive holiness where it is to be found, as our forefathers did. If we are unified as parents and educators and strive together for greater accomplishments, we will, in turn, inspire our precious children to reach their vast potential in knowledge, values and spirituality.

Have an inspired, sanctified *Shabbos*,

Rabbi Kalman Baumann
Principal

Yeshiva Toras Chaim Toras Emes

Bais Medrash Zichron Ezra Dr. Abe Chames High School Rohr Middle School Klurman Elementary School Early Childhood Division

Yeshiva Toras Chaim Toras Emes
takes great pleasure in announcing our
29th Annual Dinner Journal Campaign

Guests of Honor

Rabbi & Mrs. Yisroel Y. Niman

Parents of the Year Award

Mr. & Mrs. Seth Entin

Please join us as we pay special tribute to these extraordinary individuals who have given so much of themselves to the Yeshiva in a most unassuming way.

Save the Date

Sunday, January 5, 2014

Treetop Ballroom at Jungle Island

Stay tuned in the coming weeks as we build momentum towards making this our most successful campaign ever!

Have a great Shabbos.