

THE WEEK IN WORDS



YESHIVA
TORAS CHAIM
TORAS EMES
EARLY
CHILDHOOD



September 12, 2014

7:10

יז אלול תשע"ד
פרשת כי תבא

CALENDAR NOTES

Speech and OT Screening-

Week of September 15

Rosh Hashana-

Wednesday, September 24- Friday, September 26

NO SCHOOL

Classes Resume-

Monday, September 29



Music Program

We are so excited to welcome our new music teacher, Mrs. Chanale Harrel. Morah Chanale is a singer/songwriter with a strong musical background and many years of experience teaching music to children of all ages. Morah Chanale plays guitar and teaches music by incorporating story-telling, singing, dancing, finger-play and other musical activities that keep the children involved, engaged and thoroughly entertained. We feel very fortunate to have her on staff! The children spent the first week learning Morah Chanale's greeting song and other great songs in preparation for Rosh Hashana.

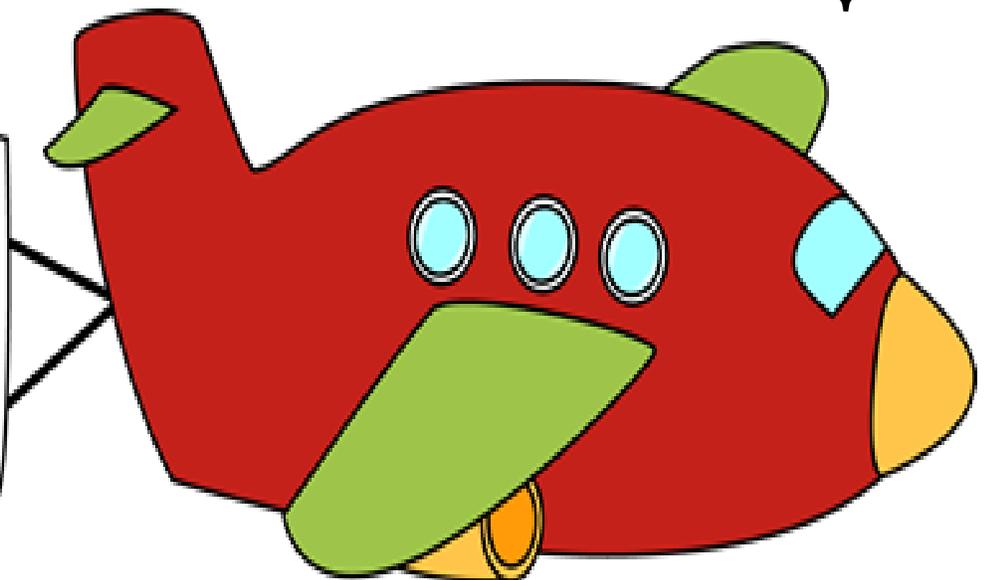
HONEYBEE WORKSHOP

We had a very exciting workshop this week. Rabbi Shumly G. from the Chabad Youth Network entertained our students with The World of the Honey Bee. Rabbi Shmuly began by talking about all of the different foods that we eat on Rosh Hashana and discussed the many different minhagim that are done, including dipping apples and challah into honey. We learned all about the different kind of bees and how they make honey. After learning about the process, the children had the opportunity to dress up as bees and make believe that they were busy bees collecting nectar and pollen to bring back to the hive to make honey. Rabbi Shmuly explained that we are allowed to eat honey even though it is made by a non-kosher animal. He explained that the honey is not part of the bee; the bee is just doing the work to process the honey. The children had the opportunity to see live bees in action and examine old frames used by the bees to make honey. As a very exciting culminating activity, each child had the opportunity to turn the silver extractor and make their own honey. We watched the honey come out of the silver extractor and each student got to take home a cup of honey that they made.



LEAVING EARLY?

Please inform the school office if you will be leaving early for Yom Tov so that the teachers can prepare your child's bag.



NURSERY NEWS

JUDAIC STUDIES- MOROT SHULAMIS & TAMI

The yeladim in Nursery have adjusted beautifully to school. They are making new friends and are having fun exploring the classroom and outdoor play areas.

We started our unit on Rosh Hashana with a "big blast" - the blast of the shofar. What fun we had trying to make the special sounds of the shofar-Tekiah, Shevarim, and Teruah. We learned that it is very important during Chodesh Elul to do as many mitzvos as possible. Our Nursery children are trying very hard to daven with kavannah, give tzedakah, share their toys with their new friends and say the brachos before they eat.

The yeladim also learned about the many minhagim associated with Rosh Hashana such as blowing the shofar, eating tapuchim b'dvash, round challos, and the head of a fish. We sang many songs about Rosh Hashana. Our favorite book was Shofy and Blowfy by Malkah Danziger.

As we familiarized ourselves with the classroom, the yeladim learned the following Hebrew words and phrases:

אני ילד

אני ילדה

אתה ילד

את ילדה

מי אני?

מי אתה?

הנה כסא

הנה שלחן

מה זה? זה שלחן אדום

מה זה? זה שלחן כחול

מה זה? זה שלחן צהוב

SECULAR STUDIES- MOROT SHULAMIS & SUSAN

Welcome to our new Nursery class. We had a very exciting week. The children enjoyed greeting one another each day during the afternoon meeting. To start off circle time, the children learned a new song:

Touch your head

Touch your shoulder

Pat your heart

Our group time is about to start!

The children learned lots about bees during circle time. They really enjoyed learning how bees make honey and pollinate apple trees. As a follow up extension activity the children painted apples at the art center.

We started a unit on feelings. We discussed various feelings that can be expressed such as happy, sad, angry or lonely. The children were shown many pictures expressing different feelings and had the opportunity to play with "feelings puppets." We made a happy/sad face project using paper plates.

In conjunction with our feelings unit, the book My Teacher My Friend by P. K. Hallinan was read to the children. Other stories read to the children included, I Was So Mad by Mercer Mayer, Sometimes I Feel Like A Mouse by Jeanne Modessitt and Nobody Asked If I Wanted A Baby by Martha Alexander. The children looked through books from the class library on the topic of feelings.

During music time, we learned the action song "Rolly Polly Polly"

Rolly Polly Polly (roll hands)

Up, Up, Up (put hands up)

Rolly Polly Polly

Down, Down, Down (put hands down)

Rolly Polly Polly

Out, Out, Out (put hands out)

Rolly Polly Polly

In, In, In (put hands in)

PRE-K PAGES

JUDAIC STUDIES– MOROT HEIDI & NECHAMA

We started off the week getting comfortable in our new classrooms, making new friends and being reunited with our classmates from last year. We played the game "Hasheim Sheli" as we each had a turn to introduce ourselves.

We discussed Chodesh Elul and concentrated on doing more mitzvos in preparation for Rosh Hashanah. We learned the word "Teshuva" and how it pertains to all of us. We learned that a shofar comes from a ram's horn and we listened to various sounds of the shofar. Our favorite two stories this week were Showfy and Blowfy by Malka Danziger and Sammy Spider's First Rosh Hashana by Sylvia A. Rouss.

We have been learning about the many different minhagim that we do on Rosh Hashanah such as eating challah and apples dipped in honey, eating the head of a fish and eating a rimon. We tried counting how many seeds are in a rimon. We learned many different Rosh Hashanah songs and completed many projects for Yom Tov.

Additionally, we are focusing on a Hebrew Language unit that consists of phrases related to the Yomim Tovim such as:

יש לי תפוח אדום
יש לי תפוח צהוב
יש לי תפוח ירוק
שנה טובה מורה
שנה טובה אמא
שנה טובה אבא
שנה טובה אח
שנה טובה אחות
שנה טובה ומתוקה

SECULAR STUDIES– MORAH JUDY

Pre K children welcomed the year with enthusiasm. They are quickly acclimating to their daily routine. It is wonderful to observe their development in so many areas. The first few weeks of school, the children spent lots of time familiarizing themselves with their new surroundings and new friends. Each day they began class with a reassuring smile, a greeting and a welcome song, helping to promote a sense of belonging.

This week we began our unit called, "Apples, Bees and Honey". The children discussed their favorite color apples during circle time. Although there are so many choices, red apples are the most popular in our class. They enjoyed snacking on apples with their friends. It was fun to slice the apples and find a star shape in the center. They also loved counting the seeds.

Our favorite book this week was "Apples On Top", by Dr. Seuss. The children enjoyed the humorous story about animals trying to balance many apples on their heads, and keeping them from falling while faced with different challenges. We reenacted the story by balancing beanbags on our heads and trying to walk through an obstacle course. The children loved the activity and did a great job balancing the beanbags. We also completed a math and art extension activity to go along with the book. All the children expressed pride in their accomplishments!

We had lots of rhyming fun this week. We listened for the rhyming words in the nursery rhyme, "Humpty Dumpty". After hearing Humpty Dumpty's story we brainstormed together to come up with a project to help him. The children decided to figure out a way to put him back together again! Through an art project, each child in Pre K worked on gluing Humpty Dumpty back together again. HOORAY for their success!

This week the Pre K children welcomed their pets to the class. First they rescued a spider that fell out of a tree. They agreed on the name Sammy for the Pre K spider. He is well cared for in an enclosure in our classroom. He promotes lots of conversations, observations, and art creations. Along with Sammy we also have two pet Hermit Crabs. After much thought the children came up with the names, Greeny and Speedy for their new pets. To learn a little more about the Hermit Crabs we read the story, "A House For Hermit Crab", by Eric Carle. The children are captivated by the pets and they are truly enjoying the experience of caring for them.

It has been a successful and rewarding start to the school year. Thank you to all of the parents that helped with that success!

KINDERGARTEN CORNER

JUDAIC STUDIES– MOROT BAYLA & RENA

Bruchim Habaim L'Kitah Gan! The first week and a half we welcomed new and old friends and accustomed ourselves to our classroom routine in our brand new building. The children came up with a list of goals that they hope to accomplish this year in kindergarten. They also thought about the rules that must be followed in order to accomplish these goals. Then we practiced and reviewed classroom procedures and rules. The students have almost mastered the rules and routines already.

Chodesh Elul and Rosh Hashanah is the hot topic in our classroom. We explored the meaning of Teshuva and we practiced saying Teshuva, Tefila, Tzedaka. We compared the shofar that we blow each day in Elul to an alarm clock waking us up to do Teshuva. The sounds of the shofar can be heard throughout the school as the yeladim and morahs blow the tekiah, shevarim, and teruah sounds. As the mitzvah notes arrive each day we see first-hand how the mitzvah side of the scale is getting heavier and heavier. Songs, stories, and projects are creating an exciting atmosphere for the upcoming Yom Tov of Rosh Hashanah.

In our listening center, the children enjoyed listening to the story of Shofy and Blowfy by Malka Danzinger.

The Aleph Beis was introduced to the class this week. Aleph is a silent letter when it doesn't have a nekuda under it. Elul, Aba, Ima, and ayil are some of the words that we know start with the letter Aleph. We also realized that many of our friends in the class have names that begin with an Aleph. Emes was the midah that was stressed in conjunction with this letter as well as the importance of always answering amen when hearing a bracha. For Parshas Ki Savo, we discussed the beautiful and important mitzvah of bringing bikurim to Yerushalayim. We discussed how entire villages would go up to Yerushalayim saying Tehillim and playing flutes. We enjoyed acting out this scene in our classrooms.

SECULAR STUDIES– MOROT HEIDI & PEARLY

What a great first full week of school. The children have adjusted nicely to the classroom rules and daily routine. This week we spent time getting to know one another. We learned about each other's favorite colors, favorite foods, and favorite activity. We graphed number of sibling for each child in the class. We looked at our graph to see who has the most and least siblings in the class. The children enjoyed sorting themselves according to their eye color, hair color and favorite color.

The children were so excited to start on their new letter books. We began with the letter Cc. We met the first Superkids character, Cass. Cass loves to cook. Just like Cass, each child in the class also has something that they love to do. We discussed everyone's hobbies and interests. The first book also introduced positional concepts such as top, middle, and bottom. These are important to learn when writing letters. The reading series uses an ice cream cone with three different flavored scoops of ice cream to teach these positional concepts. Strawberry is on top, vanilla is in the middle and chocolate is on the bottom. These three lines guide the children when forming letters. We practiced writing the upper and lower case letter C correctly.

This week the children had fun reviewing numbers 1-10. They cut out their own hand prints and placed numbered balloons in numerical order on each finger. They also practiced recognizing number 1-10 by putting the correct amount of bows on to the strings of numbered kites. We all had a fun week and we look forward to many more exciting weeks ahead.





Principal
Rabbi Kalman Baumann

Director
Mrs. Talia Levine

Early Childhood Consultant
Mrs. Naomi Bloom

Erev Shabbos Parashas Ki Savo 5774

Dear Parents,

The reading of the *Tochacha*, the warnings and admonitions of what will ensue if the Jewish People veer from the path of the Torah, are a potential source of fear and uncertainty. Reading it this *Shabbos*, two days after the 13th Anniversary commemorations of the tragic and still shocking events of 9/11, and following a summer of heart wrenching tragedy for our nation and shocking and frightening events within our community, a parent would do well to ponder how or if to share bad news with children. Should they shield or should they share?

As a wise person once said – a good question has more than one correct answer – but one needs to find the answer that's more correct. Shielding has the benefit of keeping a child away from anxiety and disturbing thoughts. It avoids dredging up fundamental questions of faith, fairness and justice that a child may be too young to tackle. On the down side – there's always the probability that the child will hear the news anyway – from a source that will bring greater anxiety and more confusion.

Sharing with a child has the benefit of being able to bring a measure of comfort and perspective, and the all-important reassurance that you are still here, the core of the child's life is secure, no matter what 'monsters' may be circulating nearby. On the other hand, sharing may also bring unnecessary fear and awareness of evil at a point in life that's too early for a child to digest in a healthy manner.

When confronted with such a question, the answer must be – it depends. There are so many factors to consider, not the least of which is, how close the child is to the situation. The child's age, emotional maturity, your self-confidence in sharing, the purpose in sharing and your ability to project a brave, resolute and calm demeanor, despite your sadness, are important points to consider.

If the situation warrants sharing, the next question will be – how to give over the information. Speak calmly, choose your words carefully, show it's OK to cry when you're sad, but don't lose control of your emotions. Have a clear vision of how much you want to share, and be prepared to answer questions, but not to reveal more than necessary.

Introducing the concept of the *Tochacha* could be helpful at this point. One might show in general terms, how the Torah has prophecies that if *Hashem's* commandments are not followed, there will be times of trouble. Like the trouble of 2,000 years of a long-suffering *Galus*. We don't know why any individual suffers, we don't judge and we don't presume to know. But in the broader picture, we know we suffer not because things happen randomly in this world or because things happen for no reason. *Hashem* knows why it is necessary to happen. And through it all He cares, and He is still there for us – and that knowledge is already a great source of comfort.

Life includes unexpected events, fearful happenings and tragedies. Our job as parents is to be prepared before anything occurs, to sort out our thoughts, to work on our own *Emunah* and *Bitachon*. We need to understand that when the unexpected happens, there's no obvious, single approach – rather because of or despite a tumultuous occurrence, we'll be called upon to think clearly and then act decisively to help our children cope with the realities that life has thrust upon us. May we quickly merit the final redemption and need suffer no more tragedies.

Have a comforting *Shabbos*,

Rabbi Kalman Baumann

Principal

WEEKLY WRAP-UP

