



DECEMBER 4, 2015 NEWSLETTER

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Dear Parents,

This week in UPK, we started a new unit called "Where We Live". Throughout this unit the children will explore different types of homes for both people and animals. The children learned the word "habitat", and understand that it means a home for animals. We have begun this unit by comparing and contrasting apartments, houses, campers, teepees, wigwams, and igloos. The children were so excited to learn all about the different ways people live. We noted that the common theme of any home or habitat is that it provides shelter from cold and changing weather. We are very eager to delve more into this exciting topic in the coming weeks. This week we introduced the letter "O". The children enjoyed writing the letter "O" in the air and on paper. They were excited by its circular shape! We learned that O says two sounds; like the "O" in "open, and like the "O" in octopus. The children made "O the Octopus" and counted out each of his 8 legs. We read A House is a House For Me by Mary Ann Hoberman and Animals at Home by David Lock. This week we celebrated Noah Harazi's birthday. Happy birthday Noah!

Have a great weekend,

Morah Roni, Morah Chardae and Morah Dale

*Please note: Due to daily time constraints, we are changing the format of 'Show and Tell'. Going forward, 2 children from each class, will have show and tell each day. A list will go home the week before with the schedule of the upcoming week. This schedule will ensure that each child will share every other week.

Please send in an empty, clean, half-gallon (preferably carton, paper style) milk container.



JUDAIC ENRICHMENT NEWS

Shabbat Candle Lighting : 4:10 PM

This week in Judaic Enrichment, we are in full Chanukah-mode! With the holiday being only a few days away, we have been very busy making menorahs (or chanukkiot) and gifts. We are spinning dreidels, learning the Hebrew letters that are on the dreidels, and learning the story of Chanukah. The story of Chanukah begins with a mean King Antiochus who will not allow the Jewish people to study their beloved Torah. Eventually this problem brings the King's army to the tiny town of Modiin and a conflict breaks out between the King's army and the Jewish people of Modiin. The problem was that the Jewish people did not have a lot of soldiers who could fight the army. But they did have a Jewish man named Mattityahu who had 5 sons. His son Judah the Maccabee led a small group of Jewish men into battle. There were many miracles that occurred. First, Judah and the Maccabees, who were a small army, won! This small group of men managed to drive out King Antiochus' men and take back the Temple, the *Beit Hamikdash*. Unfortunately, the King's men had destroyed and desecrated the Temple, by putting animals in it, even pigs! Before the Jewish people could pray in the Temple again, they had to clean it from top to bottom. When they were finished cleaning, it was finally time to light the Eternal flame, the Menorah. Unfortunately, they had only enough pure oil to light the lamp for one night. They had to send a messenger to another town to get more consecrated oil and that would take at least a week. So they lit the lamp and sent the messenger on his way. And the next miracle was that this little bit of oil kept the lamp burning for eight nights - enough time for the messenger to return with more oil! And this is why we celebrate Chanukah for eight nights. This is also why we fry latkes in oil or eat sufganiyot (donuts) when we celebrate. It reminds of the miracle of the lights. Shabbat Shalom,

Morahs Roni and Morah Chardae

We look forward to seeing you all on Monday, Dec. 7 at 5:30 pm for the ribbon cutting and special Chanukah performance!

