

Issue 6
Thursday, December 30, 2010

K

Jewish
Early
LEARNING
Center
Merrick-Bellmore
NEWS

Candle lighting time:
Friday evening, December 31, 2010
4:18 pm



Dear Parents,

With the big snowstorm we had on Sunday morning into Monday, we have to declare that Winter is officially here. Last week, we introduced the season of Winter during morning circle time. Using a KWL Chart, the children had the opportunity to share what they already KNOW about Winter and what they WANT to learn about Winter. After completing our discoveries about Winter, we will complete the last column of the chart which is what the children LEARNED about Winter. Some of the topics we will be exploring based on your questions and ideas about Winter posed by your children are:

- Why Does It Snow?
- Hibernation
- What are some Winter activities?
- What do we wear in the Wintertime?

The opportunity to increase Phonological Awareness and Vocabulary during the start of a new season is very exciting. Without a formal lesson on "adjectives," your children are being exposed to many describing words that go along with Winter. "Snowy, Blowy Winter" by Bob Raczka is a picture book that includes one or two words below each picture to describe the season of Winter. After reading the story, the children had the opportunity to go around the circle and share a describing word for Winter with their friends. "All I Need For My Snowman" by Alice Schertle, paved the way for more discussion about the clothing we wear during this cold season. After reading the story, one child was randomly chosen to be the "snowman" and the rest of the class got to dress them up. Subsequently, another name was picked from the Winter hat and each child picked a piece of clothing or accessory to dress up Talya, our very own snowgirl. We all had so much fun!

The children have also been busy decorating snowflakes and snowmen and even helped to create our Winter-Themed bulletin board. This season is also spectacular for exploring different media for arts and crafts and for the sensory table. Styrofoam pieces were put into the sensory table last week, while this week the children were able to build with ice blocks that were colored with washable watercolor. Next week, the children will get to use funnels and scoops and cars to plow through a snow storm filled with white rice. During Centers next week, the children will have the opportunity to explore the texture of shaving cream alone, and then when mixed with colored ice cubes. This allows for a review on different colors and for conversations about the sense of touch.

We are approaching the middle of the Alphabet as we studied the letters J and K. We celebrated the letter J by making Jello and enjoying this delicious treat during snack time and singing the all-time favorite John Jacob Jingleheimer Schmidt. This song is fun because we get to sing it fast and slow to review tempo and then loud and soft to review volume. For the letter K, we read stories about Kittens, Kangaroos and Kites and sang a song about "Two Little Kitty Cats."

"Show and Tell" will become a part of our Shabbat celebration beginning the first week of January. Now you can tell your child that they should wait until Friday to bring in their 'toy' or special item to share with the class. There will be some weeks that the Morahs ask for the children to bring in something related to a specific theme. Other times, children will have the flexibility to bring in something they choose. Please remember to check your child's backpack for any notes regarding the "show and tell" for this coming week.



Shabbat Shalom,
Morah Rochel and Morah Tara