

Friday, January 14, 2011



Candle lighting times:  
Friday evening, January 14, 2011  
4:32 pm



## NEWS

Dear Parents,

There is no mistaking that we are in the midst of Winter, with the passing of another snowstorm. With all of the snow we are getting, it's a good thing that our teddy bears are hibernating safely in their caves inside the shed. Having said that, it is also hard to imagine that next week we will be celebrating Tu B'shvat, the Rosh Hashanah for Trees in Israel.

The children were introduced to Tu B'shvat with a story about two little girls and how they learn to appreciate many different things that trees and plants give to us. In "The Lorax" by Dr. Suess, we learned about what can happen to the environment when people don't take care of our beautiful trees. After reading "How A Seed Grows" by Helen J. Jordan, a discussion ensued regarding how an oak tree can grow from an acorn and the different things that are needed in order to help plants to grow. Words such as soil, dirt, water, sunshine, roots, tree trunk, branches and leaves are rich and fresh in our vocabulary. During our TuB'shvat Seder next week, we will celebrate the "Shivat Haminim" – the seven types of fruits and grains mentioned in the Torah as the main types of produce in the land of Israel: Wheat, barley, olives, figs, pomegranates, dates and grapes. The children will also have the opportunity to see how each of these types of foods apply to Jewish life on a daily basis and during holidays throughout the year.

Next week, Morah Rachel will be exploring the idea of how people can be

compared to trees. The children will have the opportunity to see themselves as seeds and learn about what they need in order to grow up into adults. We will also be planting different seeds and keeping them in the classroom in order to watch how and what they will grow into.

The children have also been busy painting with lollipops and marbles while learning about the letters L and M. We had fun making montages out of macaroni and marshmallows and enjoyed eating Marshmallow Krispy treats. We even learned the hand motions to the traditional hand clapping chant for "Miss Mary Mack." While exploring the Hebrew letter Tet, the children had fun dressing a man in his Tallit.

Using the theme of winter, the children made snowmen by tracing each letter of their names onto snowballs made from paper. Then, the children hung their "snowmen" up onto the bulletin board. The "snowmen" graph was then used for a math lesson where the children could compare numbers in each name. Questions posed to your children included "Whose name has the most letters?," "Whose name has the fewest letters?" and "How many names have the same number of letters?"

Thank you for entrusting your "seedlings" into our care and for allowing us to help them to blossom and grow each and every day.

Shabbat Shalom,  
Morahs Tara and Rachel

