

Issue 9

Friday, February 11, 2011



Jewish
Early
LEARNING
Center
Merrick-Bellmore
NEWS

Candle lighting times:
Friday evening, February 11, 2011
5:05 pm



Dear Parents,

I hope this newsletter finds all of the parents of the JELC healthy, during this season of Colds, Strep and Flu. While the JELC saw a variety of attendance patterns due to the seasonal ailments inflicted on our families, I am hoping that our classroom routine will resume to its more typical schedule beginning next week. As we were supposed to have our PANCAKE PAJAMA PARTY and MAKE YOUR OWN PIZZA SHABBAT PARTY this week in celebration of the Letter "P," these celebrations will take place next week on Wednesday and Friday of the upcoming week.

Last week, the children enjoyed learning different material using a very multi-sensory approach. First, Morah Rochel continued her review of the Hebrew letters from Alef through Yud. Through yoga, Morah Rochel had the children posing as each of the ten letters. The children also had the opportunity to mold play-doh into the different letters. Last, Morah Rochel and the children enjoyed a game of trying to match the letters to a BIG die with Hebrew Letters on it. This week, the children were introduced to the Hebrew Letter "Kaf." They also learned the Hebrew word for "star": "kochav."

The children then decorated their "kochavim" with stars in the middle. Additionally, Morah Rochel guided the children through recognizing the difference between a "kaf" and a "bet" since they look so similar. Your children continue to amaze us each and every day.

Words such as "oval," "octagon," "orange" and "opposites" were rich in our vocabulary as we explored the letter "O" last week. We were amazed at how quickly the children were able to recognize this vowel as having many different sounds even though it was the same letter. We continued our exploration this week with opposites as we walked through our neighborhood one beautiful morning quizzing each other on opposites for all kinds of words. To end our celebration of the letter "o," we made orange oobleck. Oobleck, made out of cornstarch and water, is the only substance in nature to exist simultaneously as a solid and as a liquid. When the Oobleck fell onto the table, it looked like droplets of opaque water or glue. I asked the children if I would be able to pick the Oobleck up with my fingers. They all responded with an emphatic "NO!" I loved watching the amazement in their eyes as I picked up the strange but cool substance.

In the area of Math, the children worked at their individual levels on AB and ABC patterns and the concept of one-to-correspondence. Working in pairs, the children also created their own AB and ABC patterns with the Do-A-Dot markers. It's so much fun to see the children be able to work together to demonstrate the knowledge attained on certain subject matter.

A change in the morning arrival routine also occurred this week. After your preschool children hang up their jackets and backpacks in their cubbies, they will go to the attendance poster, find their name plate and place it on the other side of the poster that shows they are in school for the day. We will be able to expand on some Math concepts with this poster on a daily basis as well as having your children become more familiar with seeing their names in print.

In addition to studying the Letter P next week, we will also begin our Health and Nutrition Unit. We plan on inviting some members in the

healthcare profession into the classroom and look forward to this type of outside involvement with our children. Morah Myrna invited a neighborhood librarian to visit our classroom on February 28th to begin discussing the season of Spring. Before we know it, Purim will be here and we will once again be in celebration mode, as we were during Chanukah. Morah Rochel and I have already begun discussing the different activities we want to plan for our class.

One of the things I like most about teaching at the JELC is that every week culminates with the celebration of Shabbat. From making challah to singing "Shabbat Angels," I feel there is no better way to end what had already begun as an eventful and joyful week.

Shabbat Shalom To You,
Morahs Tara and Rochel

Pictures of the Week

