

November Newsletter



Dear Parents,

Much has happened in the past few weeks. We are all glad to see everyone doing well post Superstorm Sandy. We would like to take this time to thank all of you for your understanding and patience when we had to keep school closed for the safety of the children.

ABC's, Social Studies & Science: The children have been very busy in school. We had a couple of weeks full of fun and excitement. Post Sandy, the children talked about the very long car lines on the street. Being that we were reviewing the letter G, we spoke about gas stations. The children were so interested about why cars need gas to work. We explained how just like we need food and water; cars need gas. During outside play, the children made lines to put gas in their cars. They loved hearing the story Carrot Seed (by Ruth Krauss), especially since it was about gardening. The children kept repeating all the things that grow in the ground and how they need to be watered in order to grow, just like them! We talked about how the gardener comes and cleans the garden. They learned how his job is to pick up all the weeds and put them in the garbage. The kids were especially excited because Gimmel begins with the letter G.

During the following week, when we introduced letter H, the children kept talking about hat day. They were so excited to show everyone their hats. During circle time, we were all very quiet as we listened to each other's heartbeats. We learned how going on a hike on the playground can speed up our heartbeat. We decorated the letter H with red hearts. Some were drawn and some were glued on. The children were so excited to do the bear hunt song! After the song, they went on a letter H hunt. They run fast outside, trying to race to see who will be the child to find the most letter H's. We also talked about body parts that start with the letter H, such as head and hands. We made a bar graph to see what color hair is the most popular in the classroom. The children were so amused to see the results!

Monthly Photo Highlights!



Parsha (Weekly Torah Portion): We learned the story of Yitzchak (Isaac) and Rivkah (Rebecca). We learned that Abraham's son, Yitzchak grew up and it was time for him to get married. Abraham asked his messenger Eliezer to travel across the hot desert with some camels in order to find a kind wife for Yitzchak. Eliezer decided to ask the girls that he would meet for water in order to see who would be kind enough to give some to him. Meanwhile, a girl named Rivkah was going to the well to get water for her family, because in those days people did not have sinks in their house. Eliezer saw Rivkah and asked her for water. Rivkah looked at him and saw how thirsty he was. She said, "Let me help him," and gave him water from her pitcher. She then looked at his camels and saw that they were thirsty. She knew that it was important to be nice to animals, and so she gave water to them as well. Eliezer realized that she was so kind and gave her lots of presents. Rivka then married Yitzchak and became one of the mothers of the Jewish people.

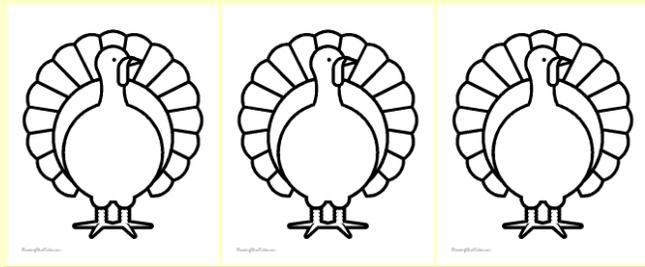
Helping other people is a Mitzvah. Rivka loved to help other people, and we can try to be like her. When we see that one of our friends needs help because they fell down, or lost something, we can say, "Let me help them" and then help them with whatever they need.

Morah Chaya was so proud when she saw us helping our friends and she gave us awards on our shirts!

We had fun with Morah Chaya's Yaakov and Esav (Jacob & Esau) puppets. Even though they were twins born to Yitzchak & Rivkah, Yaakov and Esav looked and acted differently. We will try to learn from Yaakov who spoke in a gentle voice and used nice words like please and thank you. We discussed how Yitzchak became blind in his old age and practiced "seeing" things with our hands. We are so grateful that Hashem (G-d) gave us healthy eyes to see with!

We also learned about Yaakov and his dream of the angels going up and down the ladder. The children drew pictures of something that they had dreamed about.

Alef Bet: Mr. Gimmel came to visit us last week. One of our favorite treats, 'glida' (ice cream), starts with the letter Gimmel. We familiarized ourselves with the shape of the letter Gimmel by shaping it out of playdough. We also learned about Dalet, and Hey. The letter Dalet has one leg and can only hop, and the letter Hey loves to laugh.



Thanksgiving: Thanksgiving is a holiday where we thank Hashem (G-d) for all that he does for us. We have introduced Thanksgiving by making our very own Pilgrim top hats, baking pumpkin pie and listening to the story of the Pilgrims. We learned about how long and difficult the journey across the ocean was. When they arrived in America the Indians taught the Pilgrims to hunt turkeys, plant corn and cook. We're planning other Thanksgiving projects to enhance your holiday table. Looking forward to serving you breakfast!

Self Help Skills: Although we have been very busy with the JELC curriculum we are pleased to see how most of the children have gained an interest in toilet training. We now are potty training most of the class and are asking you to please keep your child's cubby filled with the proper attire so your child can potty train comfortably. Please check this link for some great ideas: <http://www.pull-ups.com/na/pull-ups-bigkids-how-to-dress-for-success.aspx>

Winter is almost here and along with it comes the cold and the flu. Now is when the children begin to have runny noses and we are doing our best to keep the JELC classroom germ free as much as possible. We sent you some important information about the flu from the Dept. of Health. Here are 2 links were you can find some helpful tips to keep your home cold/flu free:

- 1) <http://www.kleenex.com/ColdAndFluTips.aspx>
- 2) <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/pdf/freeresources/updated/flu-guide-for-parents-brochure.pdf>

Shabbat Shalom,

Morah Paola, Morah Chaya & Morah Laura

Song we learned for Thanksgiving Day

This is the way we grind our corn

Tune: Here we Go Round the Mulberry Bush

*This is the way we grind our corn
grind our corn, grind our corn
This is the way we grind our corn,
for Thanksgiving*

*This is the way we hunt for food,
hunt for food, hunt for food
This is the way we hunt for food,
for Thanksgiving*

*This is the way we catch our fish,
catch our fish, catch our fish
This is the way we catch our fish,
for Thanksgiving*

*This is the way we knead our challah,
knead our challah, knead our challah
This is the way we knead our challah
for Thanksgiving*