

# December Newsletter



Dear Parents,

Following Thanksgiving, our thoughts immediately turned to Chanukah. The children were so excited to see the new activities we had planned for them. We made so many wonderful Chanukah creations! We made a Menorah by pressing our paint-smeared hands on paper. Some of the children loved the opportunity to do something a bit messy, and some of them couldn't wait to wash the paint off! We colored felt pictures of dreidels and then hung them up in our classroom. We decorated cups with tissue paper to make candleholders that we can use at home.

Morah Paola prepared a Chanukah counting book with the children. The children did so many counting activities that they couldn't get enough of math. They loved to see so many dreidels at the same time. During circle time we learned about the exciting story behind Chanukah. We learned how King Antiochus announced, "No learning Torah or doing Mitzvot!" We pretended to hide in caves to learn Torah. When we heard the Greek soldiers coming we quickly hid our Torah books and started to play with our dreidels, just like the children had done all those years ago.

The children learned the four letters on the dreidel. Which mean, "A great miracle happened there." We spoke about where "there" (Israel) was, and we showed the children where Israel is located on a globe. Then we found where New York is. They were amazed to see how far we were from Israel. We then pretended to be boarding airplanes to take us to Israel.

We learned how Hashem helped a small group of Maccabees chase away the huge Greek army. We had an oil hunt to search for pure oil. Just like the Maccabees, we found one jar with the seal of the Kohen Gadol (High Priest). One jar has only enough oil to last for one day, but Hashem made a miracle, and the oil lasted 8 days! This part of the story gave us an opportunity to practice counting numbers 1-8.

Our Chanukah unit could not be complete without a discussion of fire safety. After learning a song about not playing with fire, we discussed what to do if our clothes ever catch on fire-STOP, DROP, and ROLL. In conjunction with Morah Paola's letter I curriculum, she spoke to the class about how we need to be careful around an iron and anything hot. She then told the children during circle how when she was little girl, she would play with the iron and one day she got burned because it was so hot. She explained how she cried and how much it hurt. The children felt so bad for her that they wanted to kiss her scar that the iron left to make it better.

The children were very thrilled to learn about the letter I. They learned how Eskimos live in igloos and how in Alaska there are icebergs. Binyamini told the class how he wants to go on vacation to an iceberg to "see whales". She also shared how yummy ice cream begins with the letter I. They even did an itchy dance to get all their wiggles out.



Candle Lighting  
Time for Friday,  
Dec. 6: 4:09 pm

The children are extremely excited for next week; we have devoted a majority of our curriculum time for cooking! They are looking forward to making latkes, cookies and donuts. The children have learned that Chanukah begins on Saturday night, so they have been talking a lot about the Menorah Car Parade & Chanukah wonderland amongst their friends. We encourage & invite you to attend! We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy and safe Chanukah!

Shabbat Shalom,  
Morahs Chaya, Laura & Paola

## CHANUKAH SONGS

1. I have a little dreidel

I made it out of clay  
And when it's dry and ready  
Oh dreidel I shall play

2. Aish is fire and fire is hot

Don't go near a fire, please do not  
Aish, keep away! Aish is hot  
Will you play with fire? I will not!

3. One little Chanukah candle shining bright

One for the first Chanukah night.  
Two little Chanukah candles shining bright  
Two for the second Chanukah night.  
Three....

4. Tune: London Bridge

Nun, Gimmel, Hey, and Shin,  
Watch my little Dreidel spin.  
Nes Gadol Haya Sham,  
A great miracle happened there!

5. Antiochus, the wicked king

He did to the Jews a terrible thing  
He made the holy Beit Hamikdash unclean  
And besides, he was so mean  
"That's not fair!" the Maccabees did say  
And with Hashem's help  
They chased Antiochus away  
They found a little shemen  
It was a sight  
Hashem made it burn for 8 days and nights!

