

January Newsletter



Dear Parents,

The children were extremely excited for Chanukah week. We devoted a majority of our curriculum time to celebrating Chanukah through our 5 senses! We grated potatoes and fried latkas, made doughnuts and baked Chanukah sugar cookies. During baking, the children asked so many questions about what comes next in the recipe and why we need flour or potatoes. We played a grand game of dreidel, we continued to sing some Chanukah songs, and tasted some yummy chocolate gelt. We learned how olive oil is made and hand squeezed our own green olive oil.

We learned that we can be Maccabees too and say, "No way!" to someone who tells us to misbehave. We also learned the Hebrew letter of Ches, and Chanukah begins with Ches! We decorated our letter Ches with Chanukah stamps and stickers.

The following week, Morah Chaya reviewed the Torah portion of Vayigash. We learned that 11 of the Yaakov's (Jacobs's) sons travel to Egypt to buy food because they were hungry. When they met the man in charge of selling the food, he told them that he was their brother, Joseph whom they did not see in so many years. He invited them and their families to come live in Egypt where he would help take care of them and their needs.

The week after that, we reviewed the Torah portion of Vayechi. We learned that Yaakov (Jacob) was getting older and gathered his 12 sons to receive *Brachot* (blessings). He also called two of his grandchildren, (Joseph's sons) Menashe and Efraim-to receive *Brachot*. The usual way to give a blessing is to place the right hand, which is our *Mitzvah* hand, on the older child, and the left hand on the younger child. The two boys approached their grandfather. Menashe who was older, stood on the right, while Efraim who was younger, stood on the left. Suddenly, Yaakov did something funny and switched his hands! He did this because in the future one of Efraim's descendents would be a special person. Our class tried acting like Yaakov and switching our own hands and we even tried switching our feet! We also learned the letter *Tes* this week. *Tatty*, *Tallis*, and *Tu B'Shvat* all start with the letter *Tes*. We tried shaping ourselves into the letter *Tes* by holding one hand straight up and bending one hand inwards. We decorated the letter *Tes* with tissue paper.

Morah Paola reviewed letter K and L. The week of letter K, Kaleb was so excited to come to school wearing his kippa every day. He loved demonstrating to everyone that his name begins with the letter K. We talked about being kind to our

friends.

We expressed how much we care for each other by giving hugs & blowing kisses to each other! Morah Paola brought in keys. We discussed what kind of things can be opened with a key. The children got very creative. They mentioned doors, cars, work and even a treasure box. The following two weeks, we reviewed the letter L. The children were so fascinated food tasting activity! We made a chart seeing who like lemons or/and limes. The children made the best faces, expressing exactly how they felt.



After tasting the lemon and lime, the children squeezed lemon juice into their cups to make lemonade. They loved seeing the end product!

We are so excited to welcome Samantha Scoma, our newest student, to the Jewish ELC family!

Shabbat Shalom,
Morahs Chaya, Laura & Paola

