

# January Newsletter

**Dear Parents,**

Here's what's new at the Jewish ELC:

We would like to welcome our new friend Henry Datikash, to the Jewish ELC Family. We are looking forward to building new friendships with Henry and his family. We also celebrated Leila's birthday. She is 3 years old!

**Torah:** Morah Chaya reviewed the Torah portion of Bo. We learned about the final three plagues: grasshoppers, darkness, and the plague of the firstborn. During the last plague; a scared, pajama wearing Pharaoh ran through the streets of Egypt to find Moshe (Moses). He told Moshe to leave Egypt at once. Because the Jews left in such a hurry, their dough had no time to rise and they ended up with Matza instead of bread.

We also learned about the establishment of the Jewish lunar calendar. We learned how to tell what time of the month it is by looking at the moon.

## **Song:**

Paraoh in pajamas in the middle of the night. (x3)  
Ay yay yay yay yay yay  
Paraoh bapijama ba-emptzah halaylah (x3)  
Ay yay yay yay yay yay  
Paraoh ran to Moshe in the middle of the night. (x3)  
Ay yay yay yay yay yay

This week, we learned how Hashem (G-d) split the red sea to help the Jews escape from the Egyptians. Moshe and the Jewish people sang a song to Hashem to thank Him for saving them. That is why this Shabbat is called 'Shabbat Shira'. (Shira means 'song').

**Tu B'shvat** This Shabbat will be Tu B'shvat, the new year for trees. During the winter months the trees are sleeping, and on Tu B'shvat they start to wake up and get ready for spring. Tu B'shvat is celebrated by eating the 7 species of fruit that grow in Israel: The Sheva Minim. We also try to eat a new fruit that we have not yet eaten this year and recite the blessing of Shehechyanu. We learned about the life cycle of a seed, and how it needs water, sunlight, and care to grow into a tree or plant. We did an experiment and compared what happened to a flower that was given water and sunlight, and a flower that was not. We learned about all the things we use or eat that come from trees and discussed how our lives would be different without these things.



## **Songs:**

Tu B'Shvat Higi-aa, ( Tu B'Shvat has arrived,)  
Chag La-Ilanot (A Holiday for the Trees)

Wheat, barley, grape, figs, pomegranates, olives, dates,  
These are the Shivas Haminim.

I am a tree, we we we  
I touch the sky, ever so high  
Now I'm a stump, just a little bump  
One, two three, and jump!



## **Aleph Bet**

We learned the letter Kof and the Hebrew word *ketayim* (shoulders). We also learned the letter Lamed who is really tall and loves to sing.

## **Circle time**

The boys and girls love Circle time... we sing our welcome song, we review our letter and numbers, check on the weather and go over the calendar.

## **Letter O and P**

Morah Paola and the children baked oatmeal chocolate chip cookies and stuck oval stickers on the letter O. The children were so excited for the letter P, especially because of Pancake Pajama Day. The pumpkin pie the children made was delicious and they were very excited to make their very own personal pizzas for lunch on Thursday. All the children had their own bagel. They put tomato sauce, cheese and pepper on top of the bagel. Together, we sang Uncle Moishy's *Pizza Song*. This activity was important because it taught the children a lesson on patience and waiting for their turn. This week, the children discovered plenty of new letter P vocabulary words...

Pajamas	Pie	Pumpkin
Pickles	Penny	Pizza
Paint	Pot	Potty

They couldn't wait for Thursday, share day, to bring something in from home. Morah Paola showed the children a picture of pink and purple peonies. Many of the children interrupted her to tell her that flowers do not begin with the letter P. We were very delighted to see the children learning and recognizing their letter sounds. The children learned that there are many different kinds of flowers that have many different colors.

**PLEASE:** Remember that we will continue to go outside to the playground or take a walk when the weather permits, as it is important for the children to get fresh air and exercise. Please dress them appropriately...warm coats, hats and gloves.

Shabbat Shalom,  
Morahs Chaya, Laura & Paola