



Shabbat Candle Lighting 4:16



Dear Parents,

This week, we learned all about Thanksgiving. We learned about the pilgrims and American Indians, harvest and of course being thankful. We had fun with different felt board stories about Turkeys, and are learning new songs about being thankful. We made different art projects and played outside twice a day enjoying the unseasonably warm weather.

In this week's Torah portion of Vayetzei, we learned how Yaakov (Jacob) travels out of Israel, making one small pit stop - for about 14 years - to study *Torah* at the *Yeshiva* of Shem and Ever. Fourteen years later, Yaakov heads back down south to his mother's home town. But just as he's about to enter Charan, he realizes that he had passed a holy site without stopping there to pray. That holy site is *Har Hamoriah* where Avraham brought Yitzchok to be sacrificed years ago. It is also the site of the future *Beit Hamikdash* (holy temple). *Hashem* accepts prayers more readily at this site and Yaakov has a lot to pray for. So he backtracks all the way to *Har Hamoriah*. Even though this is weeks worth of travel, Yaakov makes the trip in a very short time and he arrives at the spot just as the sun is setting. So he prays *Maariv* (evening services) and heads for bed. Well, actually there are no beds in sight, so stones will have to do. Yaakov takes twelve stones and makes a pillow out of them on the ground. He doesn't know it, but, miraculously, all 12 stones merge into one "fluffy" rock pillow, supporting this *tzadik* as he sleeps.

Yaakov dreams of a ladder that stretches from the ground next to him all the way up to the heavens. On this ladder, a line of *Malachim* (angels) are climbing up to *Shamayim* (heaven). These are the *Malachim* who have protected him while he was in *Eretz Yisroel* (Israel). Alongside them, another line of *Malachim* make their way down the ladder to the earth. These new heavenly recruits are coming to protect Yaakov in Charan. *Hashem* appears to Yaakov, promising him that he will be protected until he returns to *Eretz Yisroel*.

When Yaakov wakes up he exclaims "I knew that this was a traditional sacrificial area, but who knew this was such a holy place?" Now he realizes that this place is the gateway to heaven. If only he had known this before, he would never have slept here! Yaakov marks the spot with the stone he slept on. He promises that if *Hashem* will truly protect him, give him food and clothing and return him safely to *Eretz Yisrael*, on this spot he will offer sacrifices and always give *Hashem* 10% of everything he earns. We learned how Yaakov married Rachel and Leah and had 12 special children-the 12 shevatim (tribes)!

We had fun singing and dancing with Morah Sara in Music class and we had a surprise visit on Wednesday from a Jumpbunch sports coach! We will now begin a new season. We had a great Shabbat party and had so much fun making our Challahs and dancing to Shabbat Music. Next week, we will be very busy preparing for our Thanksgiving breakfast. Please RSVP before Wednesday. Thank you for sharing your children with us. We wish you a great, safe weekend.

SHABBAT SHALOM
Morah Michal and
Morah Amy