

The Pre-K Post

January 30, 2009

Winter Continues & Shabbat Experiences

We had a short week with our snow day - but very busy! Our conversations on aspects about winter continue and we still analyze the weather, the temperature and the **icy grounds** (which at the moment make it hard for us to enjoy the outside area), but our meetings were mainly dedicated to Shabbat stories.

The children remember many of the topics we discussed during our Torah activities (every Friday). This week we concentrated on how Hashem made the world and the importance of the 7th day, when just like Hashem rested and reflected, we too, take time away from work to **reflect and celebrate**. Children were fully engaged in our conversations, which made our experiences very meaningful and interactive. We put a lot of emphasis on the meaning and importance of reflection, with children being given opportunities to concretely experience reflection, by analyzing what their day was like, what was good and what was not so good and how can we make better choices the following day. Children's definition of reflection was (ideas of a few children put together): "At Shabbat we look around at what we did, to see if we made the right choice so next week we can make a good choice". We focused on how reflection makes us feel good inside because through reflection, we can **make changes and make better choices** in the coming week.

This week we also worked on **children's binders**, which gave us another concrete opportunity to reflect and acknowledge how this is very important.

We are also working on a **Shabbat story book**, with each child "telling" their story on a page. The book will be ready by our Shabbat dinner, next Friday.

Our hands on activities included our **Challah covers**, which is a project that will take several days. This requires Morahs' help one on one, as it involves **sewing and writing**. Children are really enjoying learning this new skill! We won't say much about it; it's a surprise!

When we discussed our classroom environment, children chose to leave their **winter decorations** still around, as they represent the outside environment (which is definitely winter!) and in the meanwhile we will use the **spaces outside** the classroom to post news about our **Shabbat experiences**.

Class Notes

- We have learned that Shabbat begins at "sunset;" we encourage you to make this idea more concrete for the children by **taking your child out at the sunset hour** to look at the sky, and understand what "sunset" means.
- Our next unit will cover **recycling**; we encourage parents to speak to the children about it, so children will be familiar and able to participate in our conversations. Please also note our "recycling center" right outside the Preschool administrative offices; we are collecting egg cartons, cork, novelty papers, and more.
- Please be reminded that **school will be closed** on Friday, February 13 and Monday, February 16, for the International Chabad Conference.
- The children are making a large portion of the Shabbat dinner menu and since they make Challah every week this week it is up to you. We hope many of you can join on **Wednesday, February 4, at 9:15** to bake **Challah** together with Morah Malkie.
- Final Reminder: Our **Shabbat dinner** is next Friday, February 6. Please **RSVP** with your family numbers to Morah Delia or Morah Linda.



Coming up next week:

We will continue with our Shabbat activities, please browse through our curriculum plan by our classroom. We will be completing our Shabbat book and our Challah cover. We also have some cooking activities planned, which will make our week very exciting. We will also be involved in the preparation of the room where the Shabbat dinner will take place!

Literacy Center

This week we worked on children's binders, which is a one on one activity. While working on a binder, the other children in the group, joined us at the table, practicing writing their name (there are some good improvements!) and also spelling words such as "Challah" and "Shabbat". Our literacy center also provides children with a peaceful environment where they can "read" stories quietly, which is one of their favorite activities. Our alphabet puppets are also very much used, with the puppet "coming to life" and asking children questions about the specific letter that it represents.



Torah: Lessons of Kindness from Avraham and Sarah

This week we learned about Avraham and Sarah, a couple who loved Hashem and did so many Mitzvot. They were so kind to people. They lived in a hot desert with no neighbors for miles; people who traveled through the desert were hot and exhausted, and Avraham and Sara always welcomed them into their home their tent to offer food, drink, and shade. They thought about what these people would need, and they gave it to them. We learn the importance of "kindness" from the way they took care of their guests; we too, can think about our friends' needs and help them generously.

SKILLS ADDRESSED THIS WEEK:

Math/Logical Thinking:

- Acknowledging Shabbat as the 6th day of the week.
- Shabbat matching game.
- Making a chart of things we have in our Shabbat box.
- Continuing with our shape topic: children are more and more confident when acknowledging octagons, hexagons, etc.

Literacy/Communication:

- Story reading/ telling.
- Spelling **Shabbat** (Velcro letter, on the white board, using stencils, writing).
- New vocabulary: **reflection, sunset, days of the week.**
- Writing "**Challah for Shabbat**" on the Challah covers
- Sewing Hebrew letter (Shabbat)

Social/Emotional:

- Children were given the opportunity to share their own understanding on the meaning of Shabbat.
- Acknowledging **reflection** as an important process for our emotional well-being.
- Children working together on our Shabbat book.

Fine/Gross Motor:

- Children write and draw on a daily basis (fine motor).
- Sewing (new skill).
- Music/ dance sessions daily. The animal song encourages children to move like bunnies, squirrels, bears, deer, etc. (gross motor skills).

Science/Social Studies:

- Learning about **sunset** from a **scientific perspective.**

Art/Creative Expression:

- Children creatively using a variety of materials to creat candles, Challah (they used Aluminum foild to plait a Challah).
- Creating their own story when drawing in the Shabbat book.

