

The Pre-K Post

February 6, 2009

Shabbat

Our week developed into a real Shabbat experience! Our discussions evolved from simply acknowledging items that characterize this special celebration (Challah, Kiddush, candles, special clothes, making the table look nice, saying the different Brachot, blessings) to gaining a more in depth understanding of factors such as sunset ("when the sky turns red", "when it is darker", "when the sun is down") or how on Shabbat we take the time to celebrate the gifts that Hashem gives us ("food", "our families", "our toys"). Children acknowledged that we also thank Hashem by saying the Bracha on food at snack and lunch. We continued discussing the importance of reflection and prayer and how they make us feel good inside.

Children have been working hard at finishing their challah covers; they are so proud of their work! Even though it took a lot of time, they have been aware of the responsibility of finishing their work, which is such an important skill. Together with Morah Chaya's support, the children illustrated our Shabbat book (each child chose a page to illustrate; Morah Chaya read the paragraph out loud to them, recapping ideas learned at meeting, and they discussed what kind of pictures to depict that idea); it came out very nice, and we hope you enjoy reading it together!

In the morning, as table activities, children enjoyed learning how to braid (we used stuffed stockings to make large, flexible practice dough), which is a skill we cannot wait to put into practice when making Challah next time! Children recognized the pattern: "left to the middle, right to the middle, left to the middle, etc". Another activity that instigated children's interest was our memory game: observing a number of Shabbat related pictures (challah, candles, pennies, tzedakah box, kiddush, etc) and then making a chart with all the items children remembered.

We acknowledged the special food we eat on Shabbat ("chicken", "salad", "desert", etc) which led us to speaking about our responsibility to help prepare for the Shabbat Dinner. Our class made sweet Noodle Kugel and chocolate chip cookies for our Shabbat Dinner. We hope everyone will have a good time tonight!

Class Notes

- We hope parents had a chance to meet Dena, our new Morah. Dena is very enthusiastic to be joining our team and we are very excited to have her with us.
- Reminder: School will be closed next Friday, February 13, and Monday, February 16, for the Chabad International Educational Conference.
- Monday is Tu B'Shvat, a day of celebration of the produce that grows and our responsibility to take care of growing things. We will be having a fruit feast in class for snack; please send 1-2 fruits with your child on Monday for all of us to share! (Any kind of whole fruit will be great. We can also use some of the "fruits of Israel" which include pomegranates, dates, olives, figs, and grapes).



Torah Avraham and Sara are the parents of the Jewish People

Last week we were introduced to Avraham and Sara, two people who taught us important lessons in kindness and generosity. This week, we learned about how Hashem told them that they would be the parents soon of a son, who will then have children and grandchildren to form a very large family that will be the Jewish people. Hashem told them how proud He was of the way they acted towards others, and that He knew they would educate their children to continue to act kindly and to make good choices according to the Torah. Hashem told them to give their son a Brit Milah when he is 8 days old, as a sign that he is a Jewish boy, and from then on, when Jewish parents give their boys a Brit Milah, they are saying that they will continue to educate their children just like Avraham and Sara did.



Literacy Center Update

The students utilized their time this week in our literacy center to work on their Challah covers; a detailed process that took much work. While in the literacy room, they wrote the words "Challah for Shabbat" on their covers, and discussed what sound "S" usually makes when on its own. An early introduction to consonant blends, the students learned that when adding the "h" to the "s", we get a new sound!

SKILLS ADDRESSED THIS WEEK:

Math/Logical Thinking:

- Helping with quantities of different ingredients in cooking experiences.
- Spontaneously engaging in shape related games (please see children's individual work posted in our classroom).

Literacy/Communication:

- Writing and acknowledging letters in "Challah for Shabbat", "Invitation", "Shabbat Dinner". Repeating "Shabbat" several times helped children recognize the word in other circumstances.

Social/Emotional:

- Learning that we need to be grateful for the gifts Hashem gives us. He is always looking after us.
- More discussion on reflection.
- Sharing personal thoughts with each other.

Science/Social Studies:

- Exploring pictures of sunsets. Acknowledging the time of the day that we call sunset.
- Cooking experiences.

Art/Creative Expression:

- Children created beautiful challah covers.
- Creating stories based on our discussions (meetings).