

The Cows/Ha Parot
December 5- December 9, 2011

Looking Forward to Hanukkah

I Have a Little Dreidel

Oh, dreidel, dreidel, dreidel,
I made it out of clay,
Oh dreidel, dreidel, dreidel
Oh dreidel I will play.
Oh dreidel, dreidel dreidel,
It loves to dance and spin,
Oh dreidel, dreidel, dreidel,
Oh dreidel, let's begin!

The children have started to learn about the story of the miracle of the oil in the Temple lasting for eight days instead of one and about Judah Maccabee, the hero of the Hanukkah story. They are very busy with many projects to get ready for the celebration of Hanukkah.

Developing Skills

Math

Starting a new month gives us the opportunity to begin counting again and to reinforce number recognition. We practice counting the children and counting the napkins and cups that we need. We also have done some games at circle time to show the children what a pattern is using colored geometric shapes. They practiced repeating and continuing the patterns. We will practice more patterns.

Literacy

We have shared many stories with the children about the Hanukkah miracle. Miss Tobi visited our class for library time and read the book, *The Magic Dreidels* by Eric Kimmel. A boy named Jacob finds a magic dreidel and brings it home and his whole family is amazed by what this dreidel can do such as spin out latkes with applesauce. This story was a hit with the children.

Science

We discuss weather as part of our group calendar routine and the children like to report and predict what they think the weather will be. As we have been talking about the changing leaves and their colors they have become very interested in combining colors to make a new color. They like to use the plastic color paddles to show how red and

blue together make purple, etc. etc. They also have made these discoveries using paints and markers.

Gross Motor

Miss Beth's music class introduced the children to special songs about Hanukkah. Finger plays were part of these songs which requires them to be good listeners and follow the directions. The children especially like using the musical instruments and moving to the beat.

Fine Motor

The children were busy doing art projects using skills for cutting, painting and gluing. They are making menorahs and placemats and decorations for the Hanukkah celebration.

Social-Self Help

We're reviewing rules in our class about sharing and using your words to help with conflict resolution. This age group is still working on seeing another person's point of view from their own. They enjoy getting their new jobs and taking responsibility for helping in the classroom.

Judaic

We're counting in Hebrew up to the number eight as we discuss the menorah. Cantor Zachary this week continued to practice more songs for Hanukkah. The favorite was You Ain't Nothing But A Latke, which got the children up on their feet and dancing to the beat.

Friendly Reminders

Please send in Campbell's soup labels as this helps our school, thank you.

Monday is the deadline for the Scholastic book orders.

Shabbat Shalom,
Morah Fran and Morah Jacki