

## The Polar Bears and Tigers

Monday – Friday

Monday January 9<sup>th</sup> – Friday January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Monday

On Monday the Polar Bear and classes started their unit on life cycles. We used our literacy skills to read the story, Miriam and the Baby Moses. We then asked the children who had a younger sibling at home. We used our math skills to count the number of children with siblings. We found out that there were two children with younger siblings and one child who is expecting two younger siblings soon! Next the children had a wonderful time examining the story of Miriam and the Baby Moses. We learned that baby Moses was put in a basket in a river. We then used our scientific skills to discuss the different types of water. We were able to observe three different types of water, drinking water, salt water and river water. We learned that our classroom fish, Nemo, lives in river water and that other fish such as sharks live in salt water. We then learned that no sea creatures live in drinking water. The children had a great time using magnifying glasses to observe all three types of water. We observed that Nemo's water had colored rocks at the bottom, the ocean water had sand on the bottom and that there was no debris in the drinking water. We then discussed the water cycle. We learned that the word "cycle" means that it is a process that is repeated over and over again. We learned that the water gets absorbed by the sun and creates a cloud and when the cloud becomes full of water it rains and the process is started all over again. We learned some fantastic vocabulary for this unit: Evaporation: when water is absorbed into the air and rises. Condensation: when water accumulates in a cloud form. And precipitation: when water is released from the cloud (rain).

The children also had a great time discussing the story of Passover. We learned from our story Miriam and the Baby Moses that Moses was very important. We learned that Moses was Jewish and that he went to live with Pharaoh when he was a baby. We then learned that the Pharaoh was a man who made poor choices and was mean to the Jewish people. We then discussed the ten plagues of Egypt. We had a wonderful time singing and dancing to some wonderful Passover songs in secular music with Ms. Beth! The children then came back to the classroom to use their imagination and fine motor skills to create some of the plagues of Egypt such as painting with paint brushes to create a locust!

The class also had a wonderful time using their gross motor skills on the playground by climbing, running, jumping and riding bikes! We also had a wonderful time using our interpersonal skills while on the playground in the outdoor kitchen while pretending to cook food for the Monkey class!

## Tuesday

On Tuesday the children had a great day! We revisited the water cycle and had a great time sing the water cycle song! We also had a great time reading the story, Miriam and the Baby Moses and discussing all kinds of things that babies may need. We learned that in the story Miriam puts baby Moses in a basket but that we put babies in strollers! We also learned that babies need things just like we do such as food, diapers, mommies and daddies! We then met our class baby, a baby doll from housekeeping that the class is taking care of this week. We learned that all babies have names but there was one problem, our class baby did not have a name! We then asked the children, "What should we name our baby?" and created a language chart to promote early literacy and pre-writing skills! Next we learned that we must always take care of a baby by feeding it, clothing it and changing its diaper! Next we had a great time in Judaic music with the Monkey class while we sang different Passover songs.

After Judaic music the children had a great time in centers while playing with play-doh to build finger strength to aid in pre-writing skills and fine motor development. Some children had a great time in housekeeping while role playing as mommies and daddies who cook, drink coffee and take care of the baby! Other children had a wonderful time finger painting in the art center to create the 10 plagues of Egypt.

## Wednesday

On Wednesday the children had a very busy but fun day. We started off the day in Gym with Coach Alyssa doing baby yoga and learning to play tennis! We had such a great time!

Next we were off to the classroom for circle time. We used our math skills to graph the most popular baby name for our classroom baby! The children had a great time counting the number of votes each name got! We then had a wonderful time using our fine motor skills to practice changing our baby doll's diaper! The children did great! We then discussed different things that babies need such as a bottle, diapers, a crib and a bib!

Then it was off to Judaic music to sings some wonderful Shabbat and Passover songs! The children loved it and their favorite song was "Baby Moses in a Basket"!

Next we returned back to the classroom to discuss the story of Passover. The children took turns re-telling the story using puppets and songs. They did such a fantastic job! We then proceeded to center time where each child had a chance to visit play-doh to create their own plague, housekeeping to take care of our classroom baby and library to read some great Passover books! After center time the class had a

fabulous time using their gross motor skills on the playground to climb on the rock wall and swamp boat!

#### Thursday

Thursday was a great day in the Polar Bear and Tiger classes. We enjoyed revisiting the water cycle and decided to do a science experiment; we placed a cup of water outside to see how long it would take for the water to evaporate. We will let you know our scientific results. We also had a wonderful opportunity to look at our three different types of water, drinking water, salt water and river water, under a microscope! We found that there were tiny tiny organisms living in the salt water that we could not see before using our magnifying glasses! It was amazing!

The children also had a wonderful time playing a matching game, we took all of the baby photos you parents sent in and asked the children to match the baby photo to the current photo of each child! The children had such a blast seeing all of their old baby photos of themselves and their classmates! Thank you for making our unit a success!

The children also had a wonderful time in secular music with Ms Beth while playing the drums and bells!

We also had a wonderful time doing Shabbat in our classroom with the children for the classmates who will not be at school on Friday! We enjoyed singing the Shabbat blessings, collecting tzedakah and dancing to some wonderful Shabbat music!

#### Friday

On Friday the children had a great time recapping the events of the week. We revisited the water cycle and sang the water song, we also looked at the salt water under the microscope due to popular demand! Next we checked our science experiment and measured how much water has evaporated out of our cup using a ruler and discussing the units of measurement on the ruler, centimeters and inches. We learned that inches are larger than centimeters!

Next we recapped how to take care of our classroom baby and practiced changing her diaper again. We also took turns picking out different outfits for her and dressing her while being very gentle! We then decided to count the number of classmates with younger siblings and the number of children with older siblings! We had so much fun!

Next we had a great time gearing up for Shabbat. We sang all of the Shabbat blessings, collecting tzedakah and dancing to some wonderful Shabbat music. We also had a great time reading the story, The Shabbat Box. Next we went to the Wasley chapel to celebrate the Shabbat with the Tiger and Monkey classes!

Reminders: Please be conscious of any allergies (dairy) when sending in any snacks for the class. Also please send your child in wearing sneakers every day for the safety of our students. Don't forget the Tot Mitzvah will be on January 22<sup>nd</sup>! It is a fabulous time and a wonderful fund raiser that benefits the entire school! Plus you will be able to see our beautiful center piece that we have been working so hard on! We will see you there!

Shabbat Shalom,

Morah Megan, Morah Pam and Morah Allyson