

Polar Bears Newsletter
1/30/12-2/3/12
Morah Megan and Morah Allyson

Monday

The Polar Bears had a wonderful week filled with fun and learning. We started off the week on Monday morning with Havdalah. We sang songs and said goodbye to last week and welcomed in a happy, healthy and peaceful new week. In circle time we sang the days of the week song and our morning greeting to our friends. In our morning greeting we welcome our friends and review colors by asking "What color is your shirt?". New job assignments were given out for the students to be an active member of our classroom "family" and show examples of teamwork and responsibility.

We enjoyed playground time including running, riding bikes, climbing, jumping and playing ball. This is great gross motor practice and playing ball is a fantastic way to include hand-eye coordination. Playing catch with our bouncy balls is becoming a Polar Bear favorite. Another favorite activity both indoors and outdoors is cooking in the kitchen. We have some excellent "chefs" that prepare the most delicious foods and have wild imaginations. What fun! We also enjoyed singing, dancing and playing instruments with Miss Beth in secular music.

We talked about the upcoming holiday of Tu B'Shevat...the "birthday of the trees". We talked about all things in nature and what living plants need to live. It was fun to go around the playground and use our science skills to observe all of the different leaves, trees, plants and flowers. We read the book "Dear Tree".

Tuesday

On Tuesday we continued to learn about Tu B'Shevat. We discussed what plants need to live including soil, sunlight, water and air. We observed our growing cabbage plant and talked about what would happen if it was covered from the sunlight and had no oxygen to breathe...it would die. The children enjoyed taking turns being their own "Mr. Sun" by putting on the sun face frame.

We went to Judaic Music with Cantor Zach and learned some new songs about the holiday Tu B'Shevat including "Plant a Seed" and "It's Tu B'Shevat". We started to make our "surprise" project for the upcoming Dads-n-Donuts event. In center time we used our fine motor skills by painting and playing with playdough among other fun activities. Playdough is a Polar Bear favorite and we have so much fun making pretend waffles using our play dough waffle press, pizza, and cutting out letters to help learn letter recognition.

Wednesday

On Wednesday we continued to sing and dance to our Tu B'Shevat songs along with learning all of the parts of a plant and reviewing what they need to live. A colorful, large diagram was illustrated for everyone to see the roots, stem, leaves, flower and what it needs to survive including the sun, water (rain), air and soil. We read the book "Dear Tree" again and discussed all of the parts of a book (cover, spine, title page, author, illustrator). It is very exciting to hear the students answer themselves what the

corresponding book parts are!

Thursday

On Thursday we continued to talk about living things in nature. We used our math skills to observe and sort between fruits and vegetables. We also reviewed color recognition when identifying our fruits and vegetables.

We enjoyed playground time using our gross motor skills riding bikes, running, playing ball, and climbing the jungle gym. The weather has been beautiful outside and we have enjoyed being out in nature. An exciting surprise was a Monarch caterpillar we found on the playground. It was fun to observe the caterpillar and watch it search for food on the leaves. Soon we know it will become a beautiful butterfly!

We continued with our nature theme and used our fine motor skills to create "leaf rubbings". It is lots of fun to see all of the fine details of the leaf after rubbing over it with paper and crayons. We observed and compared the different shapes and sizes of the leaves.

We enjoyed doing Shabbat in our classroom with the children for classmates who will not be at school on Friday. We sang the Shabbat blessings over the candles, wine and challah. We talked about the meaning of Tzedakah and what the collected money could be used for to help others and do a "mitzvah". We sang and danced to fun Shabbat songs.

Friday

On Friday we enjoyed reviewing all that we had learned this week about Tu B'Shevat and are excited to celebrate next week. Next week we will be making "edible dirt". This is one kind of "dirt" you want to save your appetite for! Yummy!

In Shabbat we sang Shabbat blessings, collected Tzedakah, and danced to Shabbat music. We had a great time celebrating Shabbat with our friends in the Tiger and Monkey class!

Reminders

*Please read your child's daily purple report and return the communication folder each morning.

*Tu B'Shevat- Wednesday, February 8th

*Dads and Donuts event Monday/Tuesday, February 13th/14th

Have a great weekend!

Shabbat Shalom!

Morah Allyson and Morah Megan