

The Cow Class / Ha Par-ot

Week of January 30-February 3, 2012

Trees was the theme of the week as the Cow's prepare to celebrate Tu B'Shevat, the "birthday of the trees." Our week began with Havdalah, led by Ms. Marcy. We said goodbye to last week and welcomed in our new week. Magic circle begins each classroom day. We take attendance, check the weather, update the calendar, say the Pledge of Allegiance and sing Hatikvah. In reviewing the calendar each morning, it gives the children the opportunity to improve number recognition, counting and verbal skills. After a weekend we have to catch up with our days of the week and the numbers for the date. This week our calendar was cleared as we begin the new month of February. The weekly jobs were changed so each child gets a chance have every job. This weeks choices were:

Line leader- Gracyn

Door holder- Katriel

Calendar- Mason

Weather- Elizabeth

Flag Holders-Drew & Joshua

Napkins- Jacob

Cups- Ariana

Name collector- Zachary

Caboose- Anika

Lunch box helper- Cole

We started out the week discussing the importance of trees and the upcoming holiday of Tu B'Shevat. We made a chart showing what needs to happen in order for a tree to grow..1) soil 2) seeds 3)roots 4)tree/stem 5)leaves . We read the book 'Dear Tree' and learned the importance of planting new trees. We also learned that not only do trees provide us with fruit and nuts, they have other important jobs as well: housing for birds, bugs and squirrels, shade on a 'HOT' Florida summer day, wood from the trunk of a tree is used to build with and of course to have fun climbing, swinging from and playing with all the fallen leaves!! We planted popcorn kernels in soil and next week we will be planting green beans in the Torah Tots Garden. Hopefully we will see all the "seeds" of our labor grow!!! We did an in class experiment with celery. Food coloring (we used yellow and blue) was placed in water and the stalk of the celery was placed in the water. By the next day the children were able to observe that the food coloring had been absorbed by the celery and changed the color of the once light green celery stalk to a bluish, darker green color. The yellow color showed in the tips of the 2nd celery stalk. Very Cool!

We began our Tu B'Shevat Seder Book. The Cow class used their fine motor skills to trace and color trees and cut circles for the seder plates, they also used their cognitive& fine motor skills to cut pictures of the life cycle of a plant and glue them in sequential order onto paper.The children are encouraged daily to write their names on all

projects. Those pictures are on display in the hallway outside our door. Check them out!!

We had a fun cooking project this week. We used crushed cookies and chocolate pudding to make our own "Soil." Each child had the opportunity to crush the cookies and add each ingredient needed to make the pudding. The fun however was walking through it barefooted!!! Eeewwww!!! On Monday we will be making 'Dirt Cups' out of the same mixture to eat!! Yummmmm!!

This week we had music with Ms. Beth!! We sang songs about trees and acted out digging holes and our leaves blowing in the wind. The highlight though was playing with the parachute. We had lots of fun!!

Music with Cantor Zach was in the main sanctuary this week. We learned some new songs and sang our old favorites too!

Each child was asked to bring in a different type of fruit to be used in our Tu B'Shevat seder, some have pits, some with seeds, some fruit you can eat the inside of but not the outside (mangos, grapefruit, oranges, lemons) some you can eat the outside skin and the inside fruit, but not the pit (peaches, cherries, dates). **If you have already sent in your requested fruit, THANK YOU! If not, we would really appreciate them by Monday if possible. Thanks so much!**

Fine Motor

- The children enjoy playing with puzzles, cars, blocks, legos and computers
- Coloring, painting, cutting, tracing and gluing
- Writing their names during the week and on projects
- Many of the children keep busy in the housekeeping area, cooking, shopping, caring for babies or as a community helper

Gross Motor

- The children are very active on the playground. They enjoy all the equipment available to them
- Riding bicycles and cars, running, climbing, kicking, catching and throwing balls
- Music and movement in class

Social/Self Help

Washing hands independently after entering the classroom, before snack and lunch and after using the washroom

- Unzip/zip & unpack backpacks, snacks in the snack basket.
- Clean up after lunch, pack lunch bags and put into backpacks at the end of the day along with folders
- Using manners with their friends and their teachers, taking turns and sharing
- Centers cleaned up and toys put away...everyone helps their friends
- Be kind to our friends, remember to use our words and not our hands!!

Shabbat

- Thank you to our Malach Drew for bringing in our delicious snack this week.
- Gracy will bring home the Shabbat bag. Please remember to take pictures and write about your evening in the notebook. We can't wait to hear all about Shabbat at the Smith's.
- **Please remember to send Tzedakah in on Friday. It means so much to the children to have money to contribute (no matter the amount) while we sing "Pennies in the Pushka."**

Judaic

- Havdalah and Shabbat services
- Hatikvah, the national anthem of Israel is sung daily
- Counting 1-10 in Hebrew
- Blessings before snack and lunch
- Music with Cantor Zach

Reminder: Dad's mark your calendars... Dad's & Donuts is Monday Feb.13 at 9:15am. Any special man in your child's life is welcome (grandfather, uncle, et al) We're looking forward to seeing you then!

Have a wonderful weekend!

Shabbat Shalom

Morah Jacki and Morah Alison