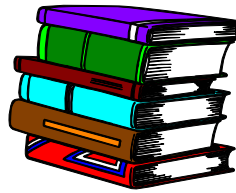




**The Koala News (Ha Koala)**  
**Week of September 12 - September 16, 2011**



**Literacy**

This week we started learning about the Jewish New Year, Rosh Hashana. We read “Sammy Spider’s First Rosh Hashana” by Sylvia A. Ross. We have also been learning some Rosh Hashana songs, and are talking about what foods we eat to welcome in a sweet New Year.

We are also learning about the upcoming change of season. We are learning that when the leaves get old they turn color and fall off, thus the reason for calling this season “Fall”. We read a book about leaves and trees called “Leaves! Leaves! Leaves!” by Nancy Elizabeth Wallace.

We played a great game with our name tags. The children identified the first letter of each friend’s name, and we wrote each letter on the dry erase board. Then we tried to sound out the unusual, funny new word that was made from all the letters combined. Boy, did we laugh while sounding it out !

This week we started discussing the concepts of “in front of, behind, next to, over, and under.” We used our counting bears to help us learn these phrases. Please practice this with your children.



### Math

In keeping with our Rosh Hashana theme, we measured our bodies with apples. We had many laughs and learned a lot about measuring at the same time.

During circle time we are getting very good at counting our friends, and adding and subtracting when we add names to our “Ani Po, Lo Po” chart. We are continuing to learn our numbers from the days on the calendar, and have been able to count higher and higher each week.



### Science

Our focus this week in Science has been on the change of seasons happening later this month, Summer turning into Fall. We have been collecting leaves, discussing how in other parts of the country the leaves turn very bright colors and then leave the trees bare, unlike here in Florida.

We also learned that apples grow on trees. The children discussed the types of apples they have eaten. We read about all the different types of apples that are grown, and the type of climate that is best for growing apples. Some of the apples have very unusual names!

Next week we will be tasting apples and making our own applesauce.



### **Fine Motor**

We started our week making Fall trees, using a variety of materials. We will be putting them on our classroom bulletin board soon.

Another fun project we have been working on is leaf rubbing. We use crayons to create an outline of a leaf, and it is interesting to see how different the leaves look.

We have also been drawing our self-portraits. Each child looks in the mirror and draws a picture of what he or she sees. We love seeing all the beautiful faces on paper.



### **Gross Motor**

We had a lot of fun moving our bodies this week.

Our gym teacher, Miss Alisa joined us for the first week of gym. We practiced yoga poses, played relay races, and enjoyed our time together. This week we learned an “airplane” pose.

We had a wonderful time marching and dancing on Wednesday with musical instruments in Morah Beth’s music class.

Morah Blake and Morah Sheila also danced, sang, and got silly in the classroom. The “Bunny Hop” is one of our favorites!

Although the weather was very warm this week, we continued to enjoy our outdoor playground. The children are becoming very skilled at pedaling the bikes and cars.



### **Social /Self-Help**

As always, we are continuing to encourage kind behavior and cooperation. We are practicing being patient and waiting for our turn, sharing, and listening when others are speaking.

When reciting the blessings before snacks and meals, we are trying to remember that it is polite and respectful to join in and wait until we say the blessings before eating. Each morning we are unpacking our own snacks and lunch bags. We are responsible for cleaning up after ourselves, and when finished cleaning up, asking a friend if they need help.

We are encouraging everyone to take pride in our classroom by keeping it clean.

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### **Reminder**

Friday is Shabbat and the children give tzedakah to help others. The children look forward to putting the money in the “pushka”! Thank you for your help.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us via email. Our addresses are as follows:

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**Shabbat Shalom**