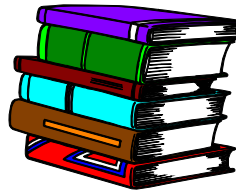




**The Koala News (Ha Koala)**  
**Week of September 19 - September 23, 2011**



**Literacy**

The Koalas had a very busy week. We learned many things about the upcoming holiday of Rosh Hashana. We learned that the holiday means “Head of the Year” in English (the Hebrew being rosh=head, ha=the, shana=year). This is the Hebrew year of 5772.

We re-read “Sammy Spider’s First Rosh Hashana by Sylvia A. Rouss. Our program with J.P. Library is starting next month, and we will be among the few lucky schools to receive a large, stuffed Sammy Spider to spend time with. Sylvia A. Rouss will be coming to our school later in the year. Stayed tuned for further details.

We also read a wonderful book called “Engineer Ari and The Rosh Hashana Ride” By Deborah Bodin Cohen. This is the story of a train engineer who sets out to deliver holiday treats to children in Israel and discovers how he can soothe his friends’ feelings – both acts of kindness and friendship.

We continued to discuss the traditional foods and symbols associated with Rosh Hashana. Apples have been a theme throughout our activities and discussions of both the season of fall and the holiday of Rosh Hashana. We talked about the many things we can make out of apples. We read “Up, Up, Up! It’s Apple Picking Time” by Jody Fickes Shapiro.

Circle time has been a really enjoyable learning experience for all. Ryan was our wonderful name helper this week. We mixed up the names, and tried to see if we could find our own names. Everyone did a very good job! Matthew, our calendar helper, told us that the numbers 2 and 1 make the number 21. And, Jake, our meteorologist, told us almost every day that it was sunny! Friday, September 23, the season will officially change from summer to fall. Our fall bulletin board is beautiful.



### **Math**

The Koalas are counting higher and higher and recognizing double digit numbers as we see the month of September move quickly by. During our apple tasting activity we counted the number of friends who liked the red, green, and yellow apples. We divided them into groups and put the information on a graph.

When discussing shapes, one of the ways in which we recognize them is by counting the sides (except for a circle, which has no sides!).

And, of course, each day we count our friends who are “Po” and Lo Po”.



### **Science**

We learned many interesting things this week that are related to Science. The senses of taste and smell are connected to our apple tasting activity. Each type of apple has a different texture, color, skin type, taste, and smell.

We made a cake in preparation for our school Rosh Hashana party next week. We saw how mixing a variety of ingredients together produced a totally new product.



### **Fine Motor**

We spent a lot of time in the art center this week creating beautiful projects for Rosh Hashana. We made honey pots and trays using paint, glitter, and jewels. Your children are very excited to show them to you.

We also made cards for the Jewish New Year of 5772. We used stencils and paint; putting our own individual touches on each one.

Our Koala faces are finished! They are hanging on our classroom door for all to see.



### Gross Motor

As always, we had a lot of fun moving our bodies this week. Our gym teacher, Morah Alisa, was not with us this week. However, we were able to join together as a 3's team in the indoor playground and played games with our teachers.

Morah Beth had many wonderful things for us during her music and movement class on Wednesday. We had a marching band with all of the instruments. We had a special treat when Morah Beth showed us a real Shofar. The children learned that it came from an actual Ram. Ask your child how it smelled!

Morah Blake and Morah Sheila also danced, sang, and got silly in the classroom. "I am a circus clown" is a big favorite!

The beautiful Florida weather stayed with us all week, and we got to spend a lot of time on the playground.



### Social /Self-Help

The Koalas are becoming more independent each week. We are becoming used to our classroom routine, and how we work together as a team.

Please and thank you are common words now, and we are trying our best to share, be good listeners, and good friends.

Many of the children are role playing in our housekeeping center, making dinner together, and pretending to be a real family. It warms our hearts to see that they are forming wonderful friendships.

A special thank you goes out to Allison Stone, Ethan's mom. She was a wonderful help to us when Morah Blake and Morah Sheila attended "Lunch and Learn" with Miss Shari.

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Please check your school calendar. Next week we **do** have school on Monday and Tuesday.

We have **no** school on Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday in celebration of Rosh Hashana.

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 from room 101**