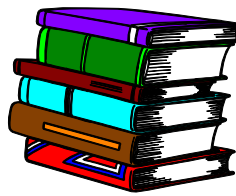




The Koala News (Ha Koala)
Week of October 3 - 6, 2011



Literacy

The Koalas spent the week discussing the Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur. We read the book “Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur” by Miriam Schlein.

We also talked about this being a good time of year to think about our choices and behaviors, and how we can try our best to make positive choices. One day we symbolically put one of our “poor choices” into the waste basket. We discussed conflict resolution and are making a literacy chart about how we manage our angry feelings. We read a wonderful book about this subject called, “When I Feel Angry” by Cornelia Maude Spelman.

A very special guest is now visiting Torah Tots! His name is Sammy Spider. He is now spending time with the Pre-K classrooms. Our turn is coming very soon!

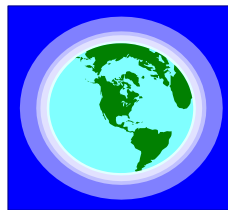
On Thursday we had a special guest reader come to our school to read the book “Llama, Llama Red Pajama” by Anna Dewdney. In preparation for this we learned about llamas, and read another book called “Llamas” by Dorothy Hinshaw Patent.

Thank you to Sammi, our very helpful name helper of the week. She was a great teacher during circle time and helped us to recognize our names.



Math

Avi was our calendar helper this week, and he helped us welcome the month of October on the calendar. We counted the days, the weeks, and also the number of months that we have been in school. Our napkin and cup helpers count the numbers needed for snack and lunch, and of course we count our friends during circle time with our “Ani Po, Ani Lo Po” chart. Our friend Guy is a great helper when we count in Hebrew!



Science

Jacob was our meteorologist for the week, and he did a fantastic job. He got us all involved with charting the weather for each day.

We learned a great deal of information about llamas. We learned that they are related to the camel (but do not have humps), live in the Andes mountains of Peru where it is cool, are about as tall as our moms and dads, and are herbivores (vegetarians). They live in herds, the babies are called crias, they are very hairy, have two toes on each foot, and are very gentle, calm animals.



Fine Motor

In our art center we created shofars for the Jewish New Year. The children are very excited to show them to you! We also use paint and string to create our “Good Choices” envelopes. We have also been practicing our cutting skills with scissors. Remember... thumbs up!

The block center is a very popular place to be in the classroom. We have been building many different building and castles. It is exciting to see what types of structures are created each day.

Gross Motor



The cooler weather is a wonderful change, and it has been a beautiful week for playing on the playground.

We had a great, fun-filled time with Morah Alisa during our gym time on Wednesday.

We love the circle games and yoga poses, as well as the relay races.

Morah Beth also had many wonderful things for us during her music and movement class. We played the instruments and sang our favorite songs.



Social /Self-Help

The Koalas are becoming quite a family. We are watching out for one another's feelings, as well as being very helpful during our daily activities. We turn on the water for a friend, and make sure that a friend is okay when falling on the playground.

We wash our hands when entering the class without having to be reminded. We are also becoming very good at taking care of our snacks and lunches on our own.

There is a basket in the school lobby for our PJ Library project. We are collecting *new* pajamas for needy children. Your contributions are greatly appreciated.

Remember ~ school pictures will be taken on Monday October 10th.

Best wishes to all of our families for a peaceful, reflective Yom Kippur. May we all be written in the Book of Life.

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

We have *no* school on Thursday or Friday in celebration of Sukkot.

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

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