



## **The Cows**

### **October 3-6, 2011**

#### **The Shofar Calls to Us**

On Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, the shofar calls to us.  
Tekiah, listen. A New Year is beginning.  
Shevarim, help others. Say "please" and "thank you."  
Teruah, share your toys. Learn and grow.  
Tekiah Gedolah, a sweet year! A happy year!  
Text by Katherine Janus Kahn

Dear Parents:

In spite of it being a short week, we accomplished many projects and read stories to develop an understanding of the cycle of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. We learned about asking God to forgive us for the poor choices we made and to throw them away, tashlich and to make better choices.

#### **Developing Skills**

##### **Math**

At this age, learning about numbers comes about through everyday experiences and repetition. Starting a new month gives us the opportunity to begin counting again and to visually "imprint" numbers as symbols. We also practiced counting the children and counting the napkins and cups that we need.

##### **Literacy**

Phonetically, using the new month of October, practicing the "o"(octopus) sound and also isolating sounds in the child's name. We read "The Story of Jonah and the Big Fish" and identified parts of the book- front cover, back and the spine. We also read "A Rosh Hashanah Walk"; both books used a sequence of events to explain about tashlich, the act of throwing away poor choices. After a discussion involving each child, we made a collective Cows Tashlich Book with each child painting their own ocean page and then gluing their own personal poor choice statement on it.

## **Science**

For young children, the environment around them offers learning opportunities for science discussions. Outdoors, the lizards, trees and other creatures are always getting the children's attention with many questions and comments. We also discuss the weather conditions and a report is given. We talked about water and the colors of the ocean during the tashlich discussions.

## **Gross Motor**

In the classroom, the children moved and marched about while using their musical instruments to become a class band. Outdoors, the children get exercise through climbing, running, bike riding, kicking balls and more.

## **Fine Motor**

The children got plenty of practice by painting their own shofar and then following punched holes along the edges, laced yarn through the holes. They also painted a water/ocean page for our class tashlich book project.

Social-Self Help- In reviewing the class rules, we discussed how important it was to not touch our friends so we can help each other to be safe at school. We also spent quite a bit of time discussing poor choices by telling specific examples and then would be a better, good choice for next time.

## **Judaic**

We started the week with Havdalah and then daily experiences of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur customs through stories, songs, projects and discussions. Reading the book "The Story of Jonah and the Big Fish" seemed to really help the children to understand about tashlich and about asking God to forgive us for our poor choices and to begin anew with the desire to make ourselves better, which we will act on by making better choices.

**Study words:** tashlich-to throw away  
mayeem-water

## **A Reminder:**

School picture day for our class is Monday, Oct. 10 with a make-up day on Tues. These pictures are individuals of each child. So get ready, set, smile!

Shabbat Shalom,  
Morah Fran and Morah Jacki