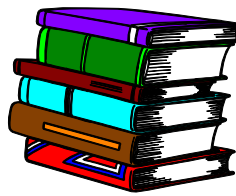




The Koala News (Ha Koala)
Week of October 10 – October 14, 2011



Literacy

The Koalas had a short, but fun-filled week preparing for the holiday of Sukkot. Of course, we could not celebrate a Jewish holiday without Sammy Spider. We read “Sammy Spider’s First Sukkot” by Sylvia A. Rouss. We also read “A Child’s First Book of Jewish Holidays” by Alfred J. Kolatch.

We learned that this holiday commemorates our ancestors’ journey through the desert when they needed to construct makeshift huts for shelter. We also talked about how Sukkot is a celebration where we remember when the farmers would harvest their crops and share their fruits and vegetables with one another. This is a harvest festival that also signifies when the crop’s first fruits were brought to the temple in Jerusalem as an offering to G-d.

We also learned about the symbols for Sukkot, the lulav and the etrog. We learned that the lulav is made from the branches of three different trees – the date, the myrtle, and the willow. The etrog is similar to a lemon in color and scent, but tastes different. The etrog comes from a tree in Israel.

Thank you to our name helper Addison, our calendar helper Eva, and our weather helper Ryan who were so helpful during circle time each day.

We learned several songs for Sukkot as well. Here is one to sing with your children.

Tune: Twinkle, Twinkle

To the Sukkah I will bring
Fruits and veggies on a string
Tie them up, hang them high
Through the roof, you see the sky



Math

This week we used our math skills in several ways. When decorating our sukkah with handmade decorations we counted out how many we would need. When collecting leaves and branches for decorations we also chose a certain number of items. Each day during circle time we continue to count the days of the week and we have been mixing up the numbers to see if we can figure out which one comes next. Our “Ani Po, Ani Lo Po” chart is always good practice for us when counting our friends each day.



Science

This week during circle time when Ryan was discussing the weather with us he noticed that there was condensation on the windows. We talked about why this occurs. Ask your children. They will be able to tell you! We also learned about the lulav and etrog, where they come from and on what type of plant or tree they grow. We cut up fruits that our moms and dads sent in to school, and talked about them and how they grow. Thank you for sending in the yummy fruit! We ate our fruit salad in the school Sukkah.



Fine Motor

This was a very busy week in the art center. We created our class Sukkah and our hands were very busy making the decorations. We drew some fruits and shapes with stencils. Then we practiced cutting them out and also colored them. We used several other types of materials from the art center to glue and tape on to the Sukkah.

Gross Motor



Morah Alisa, our wonderful gym teacher was with us this week. We had lots of fun running, jumping, and learning new games. Our music teacher, Morah Beth also joined us for our favorite songs and dances. We moved our bodies and sang Sukkah songs in the classroom as well.

Social /Self-Help



The Koalas are enjoying their classroom jobs and look forward to coming in on Monday and looking at the job chart. When a friend is absent for the day, we have many volunteers eager to fill the position! We are becoming more courteous and helpful as the year progresses. Our list of mitzvah stars is growing, and we are working very nicely as a team.

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“And you shall take for yourselves on the first day of Sukkot, the fruit of the beautiful citron tree, tightly bound branches of date palms, the branch of the braided myrtle tree, and willows of the brook, and you shall rejoice before the Lord your G-d seven days.” ~ Leviticus

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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 and Happy Sukkot from room 101