

'Makom' Playschool

Jewish & Hebrew Studies



Dear Playschool families,

2013 has begun at Playschool in full swing after the winter break. The transition coming back was smooth, and the month has been filled with biblical stories, in accordance with the weekly Parasha. The weekly Parasha allows us to learn about the inception of the Jewish people through the evolution of one family over a number of generations. This month, the book of Bereshith came to its conclusion and we began the book of Shemot (Exodus).

This month, we also observed Tu Bishvat, a Jewish holiday that is celebrated as an ecology awareness day.

Creative Activity



Parashat Shemot

We learned the story of the birth of Moshe, the first leader of the Jewish people. Moshe was born and survived thanks to the value of compassion. Pharaoh had decreed the death of all Hebrew babies, and the daughter of the Egyptian ruler rescued Moshe from the river and adopted him. While highlighting and discussing the value of compassion, the children reflected upon their ability to be compassionate, and gave examples from their own experiences (Eitan: "I'm compassionate towards my sister... I help her").

Creative activity on a subject has emotional, creative and cognitive significance, for it makes the story meaningful and implements content, creation and ideas. Thus, using art materials, the children formed a plasticine model of Moshe, floating in the Nile in his basket.

Parashat Va'era & Bo

After being enslaved over time in Egypt, God appears to Moshe in the burning bush and sets him on the path to leading the Israelites to freedom. Moshe demands from Pharaoh "Let my people go", but Pharaoh refuses to free the Israelite slaves, and God unleashes plagues on the Egyptians.

While learning about the plagues, we highlighted the value that we should never rejoice in suffering, even the suffering of our enemies.

Parashat Beshalach

Led by Moses, the Jewish people left Egypt, while Pharaoh and his army chased them, pinning them against the shores of the Red Sea.

The children were fascinated by the story of the splitting of the Red Sea that allowed the Jewish people to pass through safely. They were engaged for more than a week with the story and with making a true art project of the splitting of the sea, which involved a number of stages.

Look at mine!



Story time



Splitting Of the Red Sea

Stage I - Dry Land



Stage II - The Sea



Stage III- Waves



Elli's Birthday

We have not forgotten Elli's birthday. The children made him a birthday card and decorated it. Through the application of their Hebrew lessons, the children learned how to write Mazal-Tov in Hebrew, and wrote it in their cards. Elli made a card for his little brother to give to him on his birthday.

Tu Bi'shvat

We celebrated the holiday of Tu Bi'shvat with the Tree Song, making our own flowerpot decorated with a collage of colours from magazines. The children put soil into their pot, and then planted pea seeds. They promised to take care of their plant and water it!

We have learned about responsibility for nature, not only for our own sake, but also for the sake of future generations.



מזל-טוב



Flowerpot – a collage of colors



Thank you!

As part of the celebration of Tu Bi'shvat, we highlighted the value of thanking nature for providing us with fruits and vegetables, and water and air. We learned about the Song of the Sea, which the Israelites sang upon arriving safely to the shores of the sea. Singing was their way of showing gratitude to God for saving them.

The children offered other ways of saying "Thank You", (hugging, helping, being responsible), and they made a "תודה" (thank you) card in Hebrew for the parents, reflecting on the commandment and value of "Kabed et Avicha ve'et Imecha". Many red hearts were drawn on those cards!

Games and Physical Activity

Musical chairs were the favorite physical activity this month. Running around the chairs was never enough.

We also learned a new movement song in Hebrew: "Nikfotz Lagova" (Jump High). The children used the different movements (jumping, hands to the sides, rolling hands, lifting shoulders, going forward, marching backwards, etc.) according to the Hebrew lyrics. A fun dance to end the day.

Hebrew

We celebrated the end of learning the printed letters by getting a gift: the first Hebrew notebook, a Hebrew pencil and a Hebrew Ruler.

What's next?

Purim is waiting for us with songs, fun activities, mask making, mishloach manot and a special project of Megillat Esther (On Saturday night, Feb. 23, at the Kiever Synagogue, the creations of the children will be projected and shown when the appropriate part of the Megillah is being read.)

Fun with glue



Musical Chairs



Free Art



Last but not least

...cleaning up...



...and having fun!

