



Weekly Newsletter

Dates To Remember:

- Friday, September 15: No school for Erev Rosh Hashana.
- Monday, September 18: Early dismissal for Tzom Gedalya.
 - 1:00pm for Pre-school and 1:30pm for Kindergarten and Elementary.

Announcements:

- We are looking for substitute teachers for this school year. If you would like to add your name to our sub list, or know of someone who would be interested, please contact Elyana at the front office.
- We have an ongoing Give/Get opportunity to help keep the teacher's break room stocked with coffee, milk, snacks, etc. Having a well stocked break room really makes a big difference to our staff! If you'd like to help spread smiles, please reach out to the front office to arrange it.
- We will be sending out a give/get survey soon. Please fill it out to help us direct our opportunities to the right people!
- New year = New Tzedaka boxes! Each family should have received a school Tzedaka box on Thursday 9/14. If you did not receive one, please reach out to the front office. Once full, you can return the Tzedaka to our school office. Thank you!

Thank You To....

- All of our Morahs for working tirelessly to integrate all of the children into the new school year! We are so grateful to have such a cheerful, efficient team at Shaarei Chinuch.
- Yitschok Zirkind, for building our new basketball hoop.
- The Durin Family, for donating our outside play set.
- Bella Lev, for bringing water to our school this week.
- The Spinrad family, for donating a new play house for the outdoor area.
- The Sherman family, for donating a shelf to the school.
- The Lavenda family, for donating a basketball set.

Class Letter: Lilac

Hello and welcome to the Lilac class! It has been a very busy and fun filled two weeks getting to know your children. The children are getting acquainted with each other and we already see blossoming friendships! As a class we have been focusing on social skills such as taking turns, asking for a lesson and how to get a Morah's attention. The children are also learning how to be compassionate and empathetic. We have been reading many books at circle time about our emotions. Of course, the favorite book so far is "Llama Llama Misses Mama". Reading and discussing this book helped the children understand that they are not the only one who misses their family, and learn things we can do to help us through that.

This week the children were able to participate in a gustatory lesson each day by trying various foods. Gustatory means concerned with tasting or the sense of taste. Some foods the children tried were limes, arugula, seaweed, salt water and of course, apples and honey. We passed a mirror around the circle so each child could see the bumps or "taste buds" on their tongues. We explained that the our taste buds are able to detect sweet, salty, sour, bitter and umami. The children enjoyed trying new foods! The trash can, also known as the "yuck bucket" was placed in the middle of our circle so if a friend didn't like the taste they could choose to spit out (or throw away) their food.

During our second circle time of the day the children are learning all about Rosh Hashana and the "minhagim". We are busy singing songs, learning about how shofars are made and ready for use as well as hearing the sounds "tkia, shvarim and truah". We have been fortunate enough to have Hirshy's father, Rabbi Zirkind, come in and blow the shofar. The children were very excited! We also asked the children "What are you asking Hashem for the New Year?" Some answers we received were candy, transformers, honey and matzah, a billion toys and Torah.

This is just the beginning! Stay turned for many more exciting newsletters! As always, feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns.

We thank you for giving us the privilege to teach your children!

Shabbat Shalom and Happy New Year!

Morah Julie, Morah Nelly and Morah Sasha

Class Letter: Daisy

Wow! We can't believe how quickly these first few weeks have flown by, and now we're off for Rosh Hashana break! The Daisy class has learned so much already and we're so excited to share everything with you.

During morning line time, we love to start by singing hello to everyone and getting to learn everyone's names. We are lucky to have so many new faces this year! Next, we like to go over our 3 class rules each day: 1) No hurting, take care, 2) Ask permission to touch, 3) Listen to your friends and morahs.

Sometimes the morahs like to act out these classroom rules and grace/courtesy lessons with our puppets. We have a captive audience! :) Next, we talk and sing about the weather in English and Hebrew. Finally, we daven our morning tefillot. Our older children have been wonderful helpers with leading the davening with beautiful and clear voices.

During our morning time work period, the children have been practicing some of the basic grace and courtesy lessons, such as taking out a rug to complete a work, asking the Morah for a lesson, and putting away their work when they are finished. We have started to introduce many exciting new works in the practical life, sensorial, math, pre language, and language areas. The children get to learn all of these subjects through hands-on methods. For example, in the language area, the children trace each sand letter with their finger as they say the sound of the letter.

During our second line time, we have been starting to practice having class meetings. The class meeting begins with each child getting a turn to give a compliment to another friend. We will add the next 2 parts of the class meeting in the coming weeks- introducing a problem solving discussion, and different community building activities.

This week we also had a gustatory lesson every day and learned about the different taste buds including: umami, sour, bitter, salty, and sweet. We got to taste different foods from each of these taste buds. We tried seaweed for umami, lime for sour, arugula for bitter, salt water for salty, and apples and honey for sweet. Can you guess which one was the fan favorite?!

Many of us have been introduced to the first few letters of the Alef Beis and we have all learnt about the upcoming Yontiv, Rosh Hashana. We sang about dipping the apple in the honey and hearing the shofar blast. Hershi's father even blew a real shofar for us! We've learned about the different shofar sounds too. We learned that there are different Simanim we eat on Rosh Hashana and that we eat sweet foods on Rosh Hashana. We also learned about tashlich and how many people have the minhag to go to tashlich on Rosh Hashana. We learned that one of the Simanim we eat is a fish head, so we had a lesson about the different parts of a fish. Many of us learned where our Simanim have come from too. And so much more!

We are so excited to continue to get to know all of our students. We have so many fun things to learn together. Have a wonderful Yontiv! Kasiva V'Chasima Tova. Shana Tova.
Love, your Daisy Morahs, Morah Goldie, Morah Rachel, and Morah Shaked

Class Letter: Elementary

Rosh Hashanah? How did we get here so fast??? It's been an exciting and invigorating first few weeks together in the Elementary classroom. We've welcomed many new friends into our community and have begun exploring some of the new works and materials that we'll be using throughout the year.

Together, we created class rules to help us all feel safe and comfortable in our classroom. We discussed and collaborated to come up with ideas, then voted unanimously on the rules. This allows the children to take ownership of their classroom and feel a sense of responsibility towards maintaining the environment. We have played community building games to help the children learn to work as a team, take turns and enjoy each other. Trips to the park every day have been fun and exciting as well. We look forward to building a strong and supportive community.

This year instead of giving the children a work plan, we are working with them to create their daily "to do" list. Throughout life many of us create lists to help us stay on task and complete everything we want to. This list is generally a running list that gets added to and subtracted from once the task is complete. This way of regulating one's activities and accomplishing one's goals is a skill that can be helpful throughout life. We feel that learning this skill in school will prove beneficial to our students in learning to independently think of tasks they need to accomplish and making sure they are doing them in a timely manner.

The children have learned a lot about Rosh Hashanah throughout the past few weeks. The first grade children had lessons with Morah Daniella, creating a presentation for the older children on what the simanim are and why we have them, learning 4 reasons we blow the shofar and talking about Tashlich. The second, third, fourth and fifth grade students learned more deeply about the meanings behind the names of the holiday and the yom tov in general, with Reb Yaakov.

During work time, the children have begun delving into our many work areas; discovering addition and subtraction with golden beads, progressing in math memorization, learning the names and locations of the continents, practicing handwriting and kesiva, and much much more! The teachers have been diligently working on getting to know each child and what their strengths and challenges are. We have been working to assess where they are holding in all areas of learning and reviewing things they had learned at the end of the year.

The upper elementary girls went on their first "going out" trip. Dr. Montessori believed that the upper elementary children should also learn outside of the classroom as much as possible. They were given the assignment to get the items we need to have a seder of the simanim for Rosh Hashanah. The girls were given a budget and made a shopping list based on their knowledge of the holiday and what symbolic foods we have on our table. They decided how many of each thing we needed and then researched the cost of each item. They then went to Jewel and found the items, purchased them and brought them back to school. The girls prepared the simanim for our seder. At the seder we are watching the video of the first year students teaching the simanim via song.

Shana Tova and Good Shabbos!

Sincerely,

Morah Daniella, Morah Masha, and Reb Yaakov

Pictures!



Pictures!



Pictures!

