



## TIKVAH TIMES

A monthly newsletter

We had such a wonderful time at our Thanksgiving Feast. We know how hard it is to get away, especially in the middle of the day, so we are very appreciative of you making time to spend awhile with us.

It is hard to believe that December is already here. The days are cooler, so we spend most of our day outside exploring our activity areas. We have discovered that by piling rocks in certain ways, we can create amazing statues. Leaves and sticks are blowing in our yard and are being used to make creative designs. Even though it is cooler, the water in the mud pit is still a favorite place to play.

This is also the "cold and flu" season. Frequent and good hand washing helps prevent most illnesses. We want to remind you that our health policy is to keep children home if they have had a fever or vomiting in the previous 24 hours; and if your child is sent home sick, they need to wait 24 hours to return. Children with runny noses also need to be kept home. Helping children learn to cough into their elbow (we call it a Batman cough/catching your cough) is also important. It would help us if you let us know if your child has a contagious illness like strep throat or pink eye.

You can always contact me at [jleany@templesinaipd.org](mailto:jleany@templesinaipd.org) or at 760 568-6779

### DECEMBER/JANUARY EVENTS

12/5 5:30-6:30 HANUKKAH PERFORMANCE/POTLUCK DINNER (at the temple)

12/7 FAMILY SHABBAT 5:30 AT THE TEMPLE (pizza dinner afterwards)

12/21-JAN.6 SCHOOL IS CLOSED WINTER BREAK

1/7 SCHOOL STARTS

1/11 FAMILY SHABBAT 5:30 AT THE TEMPLE (pizza dinner afterwards)

1/17 TU B'SHEVAT (family planting/gardening activity)

1/21 SCHOOL IS CLOSED MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

*“Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children play is serious learning. Play is really the work of childhood.” Fred Rogers*

**SECURITY MEETING:** The Jewish Federation will be hosting security training for all Jewish school administrators on December 13. They will have trained specialist presenting ways we can keep our facilities safe. **One key safety feature at Tikvah is our security key pad to enter the school. We will be getting a new code during the break. When you receive this code, please guard it like you would your PIN to your bank accounts. Please do not give it to any children or older siblings. Also, when people come to the door that you don't know, please do not let them in the building. You can let a staff member know there is someone at the door.**



#### **HANUKKAH PLAY AND POT LUCK DINNER:**

This yearly event is one of the highlights of our school year. Each class is working on songs/poems to perform for you. After the performance, we will enjoy a wonderful meal that you have helped provide, including traditional latkes, sour cream and apple sauce. Mark your calendars so you can join us. It will be Wednesday, December 5, at 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the social hall at the Temple. ***If your child doesn't attend school on Wednesday, please bring him/her to the temple by 5:45 p.m. so they can join their class for the performance.***

**THE GIVING TREE:** Thank you so much to the Contopulos and Goldstein families for picking something from our giving tree. The Walmart gift cards they donated are being used to buy supplies for our garden and other outside activity areas. Each leaf contains something that can be given to the school- a bottle of paint, a gallon of glue, rocks, garden soil, edible plants, or Verizon cards for our cell phone.... If you would like to give something to the school, just pick a card.



## JEWISH CURRICULUM:

Ms. Dina is on maternity leave (no baby yet) so we are working together to provide the curriculum for our Judaic activity center. We have been focused on learning Jewish Hanukkah songs to perform for you on Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>. Each classroom also has a Mensch on a Bench who does kind things for others and a Hanukkah manipulative set containing dreidels, hanukiah's (menorahs) and candles to stimulate the children's imaginations. We also attend weekly Shabbat with Rabbi at the temple.

## OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES:



Rock statues



Gassing up for a road trip



Loving sand between my toes



Construction Site



New Game-"Jump the Log"



Budding photographers

For more pictures, check out our Facebook Page.

**Literature Corner:** We all love to read and know this is a wonderful way to connect with your child. We have some suggestions for you. **Hanukkah Bear** by Eric A. Kimmel; **Hanukkah Lights** by David Martin; **The Three Snow Bears, Gingerbread Baby** both by Jan Brett; and **Pete the Kitty and the Groovy Play Date** by James Dean. If you have read a great book, let us know.



### **Butterfly Class-Ms. Terrie/Ms. Inez**

Last month, as part of our science curriculum, we explored pumpkins and corn. We cut open a pumpkin to see what was inside. We also sorted, counted, and planted the seeds to put in our window garden. We popped a cob of popcorn which was super fun to see and taste. We sprouted Indian corn in a container of water and planted it in the outdoor garden. The children have been taking turns watering the garden and are excited to see snap peas, basil and carrots starting to grow. For our Thanksgiving feast, we enjoyed picking a veggie from the garden and helped to chop it up to make our harvest soup, which was delicious. Our favorite books we have been reading this month have been **Tickle Monster, The Wonky Donkey** and **Sitting In My Box**. After reading the **Tickle Monster**, we practiced using gentle hands and fingers to tickle and touch each other. We also learned a finger play called Round and Round the Garden. Ask your child to do it with you. This finger play helps us learn how to touch each other appropriately using a gentle touch and hands. We have been learning about Hanukkah and practicing our Hanukkah song for the Hanukkah party.

Next month, we will be learning about Robots, The Gingerbread Man, forest animals, and animals that hibernate.





### **HUMMINGBIRDS: Ms. Sarah/Ms. Marissa**

In November, we talked about the things we are thankful for. At the start of the month, it was our toys and fun gadgets. By the end of the month, it was our mommies, daddies, and our families. We loved picking veggies from the garden to make our soup for the Feast. The children have been working very hard practicing the motions and lyrics to our Hanukkah song. We can't wait for you to see them perform on December 5th!



### **LADYBUGS: Ms. Sarah A.**

I am very excited to be the teacher in the Ladybugs Class. I have enjoyed getting to know the children and developing a relationship with them. This week, we welcomed a new friend to the Ladybugs class, and we are so happy to have her. Welcome Carly!

As we get ready for our Hanukkah play, we have been listening to stories and songs all about Hanukkah. We will be learning more about the history of Hanukkah, including why we eat certain foods such as latkes and donuts.



**BUSY BEES: Ms. Maria and Ms. Karla (who is substituting for Ms. Dina)**

Welcome Nathan and Charlotte Atkins to our Tikvah family! During the month of November, we talked about Thanksgiving and the importance of being grateful for the things we have and for our families. We also had a lot of fun preparing for the Hanukkah party. We hope you all can come see all the children perform.

