

What's Happened at LBSY this week?

September 30, 2018

Gan

Here's what we tried to do this week:

What: Torah Simchat Torah

Value: Torah teaches us how to live Jewishly.

We celebrate the Torah. L'dor V'dor

Why do we celebrate Simchat Torah? (Torah makes us happy. Torah tells us how to behave. We finish reading the last of the Torah scroll and roll it back to the beginning to start reading it from the beginning)

What did we do to practice rolling the Torah? (unrolled a whole roll of paper towels and rolled it back up)

How should I celebrate Simchat Torah? (attend synagogue celebration - take your flag for Torah parade)

It is customary to hand out flags for children to carry, supposedly reminiscent of the tribal flags under which the Israelites marched in the desert. Another custom is to put an apple on top of the flag, or an apple with a hole carved out for a lighted candle - again, to evoke images of Torah as light.

What does l'dor v'dor mean? (it means passing traditions from my mom and dad to me)

How is Simchat Torah an example of l'dor v'dor? (parents take their children to the synagogue celebration to learn how we Jewish people show our love of Torah, it is a Jewish tradition)

Hebrew letter and vocabulary: Tav, Torah, Tah--poo-ach (apple)

I hope we shared the following books:

The Patchwork Torah by Ofanansky

When Zaydeh Danced On Eldridge Street by Rael

Dinosaur Goes to Israel by Rachwerger

The Vanishing Gourds by Axe-Bronk

Alef

We hope everyone has enjoyed Sukkot! Weather permitting, 1st grade enjoyed a snack and story in the sukkah today.

This week, we learned the letter bet (b sound) and the vowel that makes the ah sound. Your child's Hebrew homework is to practice the review sheet at least three times in the coming week and to review the flashcards that came home. Next week, bring back in the sheet with the practice stars filled in. Bet can be remembered as the letter with a belly button; the first word in the Torah is bet as well, a nice reinforcement at Simchat Torah.

We also reviewed Sukkoth and the mitzvah of welcoming guest, relating this to Abraham and Sarah welcoming guests. We then studied Simchat Torah with a focus on the basics of the holiday and the importance of Torah as something we read over and over and as the source for the stories of our people and mitzvot. We unrolled a mini-Torah and, time permitting, practiced rolling using paper towels, talking about how special the Torah is.

Next week, we will dive into more Hebrew study and learn about joyful occasions in Judaism, holidays and life cycle. Talking with your child about the joy of Simchat Torah would be a good reinforcement.

Each week, I post pictures of our activities on the LBSY Facebook page, so this is a way to keep up on all the fun learning we do.

Next week is fall break for many schools, so please do let me know if your child will not be there. If there are a large number of planned absences, I will alter my lessons accordingly so that no one gets behind with Hebrew. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at Nancy.renick@gmail.com or 654-0861.

Bet

Hi! Today we continued our discussion of the high holidays. In our Hebrew lesson, we focused on the letter Bet to add to our knowledge, so that is definitely something to look at and practice at home if you are so inclined. We had a lot of fun making sukkot out of graham crackers, pretzels, m&ms, and icing, discussing sukkot and what the holiday means to all of us. We also continued our discussion of yom kippur by writing "apology letters," practicing the mitzvah of righting our wrongs during the day of atonement. The deal was, no teacher would read them and then they had the option of delivering the letter or keeping it to themselves. I did not read these letters, but they are such a mature group, they took it very seriously. I'm having an amazing time getting to know this incredible class. Contact me at 6305444087 with any questions. More next week!

Gimmel

Hello! This week we finished our studies on the Sukkot holiday. Aside from visiting the different Sukkot on Wednesday, we also made our own Sukkah today out of edible food. Students should be able to talk to you about welcoming guests into their home and our spiritual guests.

We enjoyed another holiday, Simchat Torah. We talked a lot today about the Torah, why we read it and how it impacts our lives. Students this week should be able to tell you about Aliyot. They also created their own Aliyot today.

At home, please continue to discuss the Torah and how it impacts your life.

Hey

On Wednesday the students had fun visiting all the synagogue sukkah while doing fun activities. They also enjoyed a special treat of Graeters ice cream.

Sunday was chock full of activities with the underlying themes of tzedakah and social justice. We looked at Maimonides levels of giving as well as discussing social injustices.

We had a basic review of Hebrew and we began assessment. I am sending home flash cards in your students folders. Please review with them a few times a week. Thank you in advance for your time.

Vav/Zayin

The students spent today in Rabbi Shmully's Sukkah Mobile, built onto a trailer in the back of his car. We studied about rain, why it is so important especially in Israel, why it is mentioned in the second paragraph of the Shema, and why we pray about it on Sukkot. We All shook the lulav and etrog and said the blessings in beautiful Hebrew. The students constructed edible sukkot made from graham crackers, pretzels and other materials, and then thoroughly enjoyed eating them inside of the sukkah. We also studied about Simchat Torah, how different synagogues celebrate the Day and why it is important to challenge the Torah.

Chag Sameach!!

Chet

8th graders continued their discussion and lessons with Fred Whittaker about the Holocaust, the history of anti-semitism, and heroes of the Holocaust who stood up and fought against the Nazi's. Additionally, each student continued their research and began making posters representing each of the resistance fighters we have discussed thus far.

Hope everyone had a good holiday!