



LBSY News

Week of September 8

Letter from the Jewish Community Center

To LBSY families and staff,

We want to apologize for the confusion at the LBSY orientation day on August 25th. Due to an internal communication error, we did not have the required audio/visual equipment setup prior to the event as requested. We recognize your program was planned with requested equipment needs as a core element. We consider LBSY to be part of our family here at the J and are disappointed that LBSY orientation was not up to your standards, or ours. We truly value our relationship with LBSY and the important role you play in the Jewish education of our children.

Thank you for your understanding and we apologize for the inconvenience.

The J Team

GAN

First, let me say that your children are wonderful! We have a focused and friendly class. It's going to be a great year!

Now... The parent letter you received is only partially useful. I way overplanned for the first day of school. We'll have to finish next week.

We barely touched on Shabbat so if your child knows the answers to the discussion questions it is because they were taught them elsewhere!

We did discuss tzedakah and creation. We had tzefardeyah (frog) snack and attended Tefillah with Cantor Lipp and Rabbi Jacowitz-Chottiner. They led us through parts of the service. Kindergarten didn't really know what was going on, but they will become more familiar and able to participate more each week as we attend. Tefillah is about 20 minutes not counting travel time.

We will finish creation as it pertains to Shabbat next week.

I hope your child talked about "The Bee Tree" - that was funny with the honey.

Thanks to you all for bringing your beautiful children and sharing them with us.

Ms. Connie

P.S. If your child is a bit shy, let me know if you have any seating preferences.

ALEF

It was so good to meet everyone a few weeks ago. Willa and I have been very excited to get started in the classroom!

Today, we started with circle time, as we do each Sunday, and went over the order of each day. We talked about what it means to be a mensch and made mensch moment leaves. Next week, we will be discussing where to send out tzedakah, so you may want to talk to your student about organizations that would be good recipients.

We brainstormed and reviewed good classroom rules. We also had our first tefillah, which the children enjoyed.

This week, we started our Hebrew study, using a curriculum that helps students to learn to read Hebrew by the end of 2nd grade by recognizing the sounds of the letters and vowel markings. Each week, I will send home practice materials so that you can reinforce classroom learning. We learned the letter shin (*sh* sound) and the vowel that makes the *ah* sound. Your child's Hebrew homework is to practice at least times in the coming week and to bring back in the sheet next Sunday. The sounds they are reading on this sheet are *sha* (the hey is silent) and *sha sha*.

We also spent some time talking about Jewish Holidays in general, with an emphasis on how we show our gratitude towards G-d.

Next week, we will begin our study of the High Holidays and learn the letter *bet*. We have a somewhat messy craft activity planned, so be sure your student wears clothing that he or she doesn't mind getting stained. (We will try to keep the kids as clean and neat as possible, but sometimes accidents happen.)

BET

We had such a fun and fruitful first day! We started off getting to know one another by discussing our favorite animal and favorite candy. I am pleased to let you know that most of the students like ALL candy. I was surprised to learn how many kids like dark chocolate! We have a very sophisticated class.

After learning about one another we headed down to tefillah where we were perfect role models to the younger classes. The class earned a treat for their amazing behavior.

When we returned to our room, we ate snack and had a little break then jumped right into our Hebrew lesson. We reviewed the letter shin *ש* and read a few lines with the patach and kamatz vowel. The kids did a great job! Next week I will start sending Hebrew homework home with the kids.

After another short break, I decided that it was time for them to show their creative sides and get to know them a little better. We made a banner for our room with information about ourselves and hung that up. We also made a Star of David to hang up as well.

All in all, we had a wonderful first day. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone again next week.

GIMMEL

Our class had an excellent week! On Wednesday, we began by introducing ourselves to the class and making name tags. We filled out an informational survey. Parts of this were technical- birthdates, etc. Other questions were more thought-provoking, such as "What does being Jewish mean to you?". I plan to give this survey to them again towards the year and have a discussion about how their answers may have evolved over the course of the year. We then collaborated as a class and created a list of 11 classroom rules. To end the day, we read the creation story. Throughout this time, the children were being tested on their Hebrew knowledge, one by one. On Sunday, we reviewed our class rules before heading to Tefillah. Our class sat in the front of the

room and was very alert. After Tefillah and snacktime, we jumped back into the creation story, focusing on what was created each day and why this might have been. We worked on a few related worksheets. Once all of the kids were finished being tested on Hebrew, we went straight into our first Hebrew lesson. We are starting from the beginning, so we sang the Alef Bet song, and worked on learning to write Alef (א). It is very important that the students practice their Hebrew at home in order to retain what they are learning. Students will have Hebrew homework weekly.

DALET/HEY

Wednesday the 4th and 5th graders all got to know their teachers and get acquainted with each other again while playing 5 truths and 2 lies (A fun icebreaker game.) We also created Name Tag Glyphs to tell a little more about ourselves and so that the teachers can remember the names of all the students in our large class. It was fun meeting all of our students!

Sunday we spent the first half hour of our day talking about Jewish Life Cycle events, specifically the Brit Milah. We learned that a Brit is a covenant ceremony between a baby boy and G-d, and we learned what a covenant means. We also attended our first Tefillah of the year, which was led by Rabbi Jacowitz-Chottiner and Cantor Lipp. Following Tefillah we learned about the upcoming holiday of Rosh Hashanah and learned about what things we should think about during an upcoming new year.

Looking forward to continuing our lessons about Jewish Life Cycles, Rosh Hashanah and Jewish Ethics over the next week. Additionally, we will continue our Hebrew reading assessments and will soon start our Hebrew lessons.

VAV

Kita Vav kicked off their exciting year with record attendance, all the students were with us Sunday morning! We began with an orientation, learning our Hebrew birthdays, and how it was possible for someone who was younger to have their birthday first on the Hebrew calendar. I'm not kidding, minds were truly blown! We began our Hebrew assessments with our awesome madricha Jenna, to see just how to help each student excel at their reading. We discussed our fun filled and jam packed curriculum for this coming year, and we are really looking forward to making family trees and learning all about Jews in America and Louisville. Beginning this coming Sunday, Cantor Lipp will be joining the class to work on our trope, and we are going to be spending time learning about Rosh Hashanah, and how we can focus on prayer to communicate with God. Can't wait for the next class!

ZAYIN/CHET

I am so excited to be back with this group! It was a great first day. We discussed what their year is going to look like - the programs, the topics, and our expectations of each other. With our first topic, the Holocaust, we made a list of what we know - stories, key words, and people - and a list of what we would like to learn this year. We watched a video outlining the history of antisemitism in Europe and its role in the rise of Hitler and the Holocaust. To get up and move, we played a Jewish variant of the game, Rock Paper Scissors. We began a quick discussion on tikkun olam. We looked at a Pirkei Avot quote (2:21). "It is not incumbent upon you to finish the task, but neither are you free to absolve yourself from it." The students concluded that the small actions they can do and the kind words they say to others can still make a difference and hopefully be an example to encourage more kindness from others. At the end of our lesson, we create our wishes for ourselves, the Jewish people, and the world. Here are a few:

Wishes for ourselves: everyone in my family stays healthy, unlimited money, to do well at my Bat Mitzvah, be my best self, do something with my life, to be a good person

Wishes for the Jewish people: that people will learn from the past, no more anti-semitism, peace, end discrimination, more acceptance of Jews, keep Israel safe

Wishes for the world: no more mass shootings, people are nice to each other, no more pollution, solve global warming, no more hungry people, no more homeless, safe schools, world peace, clean water

