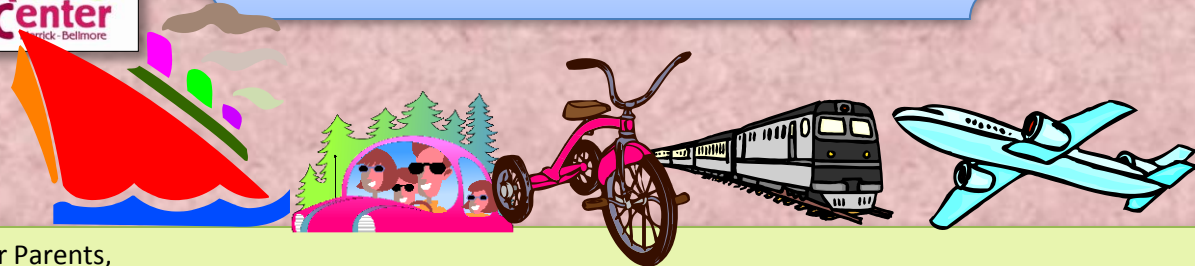




January 15, 2016 Newsletter



Dear Parents,

We recently started a new unit on Transportation. We have been discussing, graphing and learning about all different types of transportation and their purpose. We have sorted different modes of transportation into those that fly, those that move through water and those that move on land. We are having fun using cut out shapes to form our favorite kinds of transportation, building ramps in our block center, using our toy cars to make tire tracks in art and making trucks and cars from our magnetic building pieces. We have been reading books about transportation, too. We have read Don't Let The Pigeon Drive The Bus, by Mo Willems, Toy Boat, by Randall de Seve, This Is the Way We Go to School, by Edith Baker and Duck on Bike, by David Shannon. These are just a few of the excellent books that we are reading.

Since last week we have also added the letters Ss and Uu to our handwriting skills. We listen to the letter's sound, observe its shape and also decide whether it is a vowel or a consonant. We are beginning to understand that vowels will always have two sounds, whereas most consonants have one. We also continue to practice writing our name.

And with the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Monday, we have been discussing how important it is to understand that the color of our skin has nothing to do with the kind of person that we are. We must always treat other people with the same kindness and respect that we want to be treated with. So with this premise in mind, we conducted a social experiment in our classroom. We divided up into two groups. One group had all the children with light colored hair and the other group was comprised of all the children with dark hair. I sat with the children with dark hair and declared that I liked them more because their hair was like mine and that I would be taking all the dark haired children to get ice cream. The light haired children immediately declared that I was unfair and not nice, etc. I asked them how they felt. Their answers ranged from angry, mad, bad, even sad. As you can see, they understood the unfairness of being judged by the color of their hair. We reversed the exercise so that the light haired children could feel the jubilation that the dark haired children had just felt when they thought that they were getting ice cream. The dark haired children were indignant when I took away the offer of ice cream. Even at a young age children relate to the fairness of a situation. We discussed our feelings and had a great discussion about equality.

Lastly, I would like to say that a good time was had by all who attended our Donuts with a Special Person in our Life Day.

Warmest Regards,
Morah Ivy, Morah Lauren and Morah Celeste



JUDAIC ENRICHMENT NEWS

Shabbat Candle Lighting : 4:33PM

We are moving along nicely with the alef-bet. So far we know the sounds of the alef, bet, vet and gimel. We are also learning to recognize their shapes. We plan to put all the Hebrew letters that we learn into our own alef-bet book.

While we were on vacation, we missed Parshat Shemot. It is the first parsha in the book of shemot or Exodus, the second book in the Torah. We have spent the last 2 weeks learning 3 parshas. We learned Shemot, Vaayra and Bo. These parshas are about the Exodus from Egypt. Shemot begins with the Jews as slaves in Egypt. Pharaoh tells the midwives that they have to "take away" any Jewish baby boys that are born. Moses' mom put him safely in a basket and he floats in the river until he is found by Pharaoh's daughter. Moses is brought up by the Pharaoh's daughter and finally learns that he is not Egyptian, but a Hebrew. Moses leaves Egypt, marries and becomes a shepherd. Then one day Hashem presents himself in the form of a burning bush and tells Moses to go back to Egypt to tell the Pharaoh to let the Jewish people go. This week's parsha is Parshat Bo, where we continue to learn about the ten plagues (the last 3 plagues). This week we started making plans to celebrate the upcoming Jewish holiday of Tu B'shevat, birthday of the trees, which is at the end of January.

Shabbat Shalom,

Morah Ivy and Morah Dale

It would be greatly appreciated if you would send in a ½ inch binder for our alef-bet books.

Thank you.

