

PALS Press

From the Director...



- ▶ OUR 2 YEAR OLDS
SHEFANIM
(BUNNIES)

From the Director...

Shalom!

Is spring around the corner or are we in for more snow? While I cannot believe that we are more than halfway through our current school year, this has been a particularly challenging & cold winter and I am hopeful that we will start seeing signs of spring soon!

The Jewish calendar is filled with celebrations and festivities this time of year. We will be celebrating the holiday of Purim, by baking delicious hamentashen, learning the story of Queen Esther, making groggers and dressing in costumes. Please join us for a special PALS Purim celebration on Thursday, March 13 at noon, being organized by our wonderful parent volunteers. A community wide Purim Carnival, hosted by TBaZY (TBZ Youth Groups) will take place on Sunday, March 16, 11:00am – 1:30pm @ our Broder Center. Towards the end of March, we will begin preparing for Passover, learning about Moses and the Passover story as well as the special foods we eat during this week long holiday. We will be asking for parent volunteers to help with our model Seders taking place in April.

We are very excited to be partnering with PJ Library at our next ~~Tot Shabbat~~ on March 21! Our ~~Tot Shabbat~~ will begin at 5:45 with a small snack for the children, followed by a service filled with story and song, ending with a special Oneg and craft. If you aren't already subscribed to PJ Library, check out this link to find out more information <http://www.pjlibrary.org/communities/buffalo>.

Planning for this year's Summer PALS program is underway and will include great weekly field trips and cooking projects. Summer PALS will run for 6 weeks, M/W/F 9am – 1:00pm, beginning July 7th and ending on August 15th. A special 2 week session during weeks 5 & 6 will be offered for any child who is 2 years old by Dec 1, 2014. See Melissa for your Summer PALS registration forms!

Thank you to all of you who took advantage of our Early Bird Registration Special and have already sent in your 2014-2015 PALS registration forms! If you are planning on sending your child in the fall, please submit your registration forms soon, so that we can begin planning for staff and schedules. Please consider taking advantage of the extended hours, morning and afternoon, as well as additional days, which are being offered next year.

Please note: Due to the many snow days we experienced this winter, PALS will be open on Friday March 21, originally scheduled as a Teacher In-service day. As always...please don't hesitate to give me a call with any questions you have.

Susan



- ▶ OUR 3 YEAR OLDS
ZEKITOT
(CHAMELEONS)



- ▶ OUR 4 YEAR OLDS
TZIPORIM
(BIRDS)

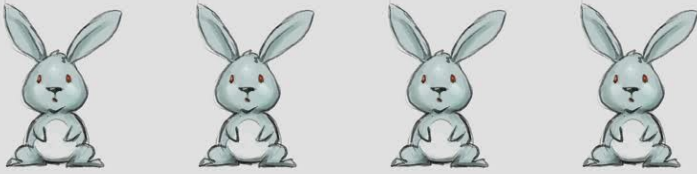
ABCDE

FGHIJK

LMNOP

QRSTU

VWXYZ

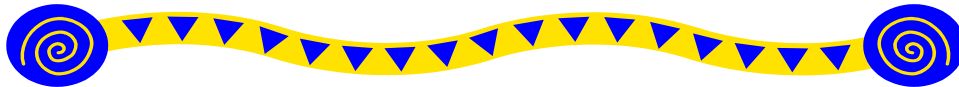


Shefanim (2's)

February was a short but fabulous month. The children are growing so quickly. When we came back from our winter break they all looked so much taller and seemed more mature. It was wonderful seeing them acclimate so quickly to the school routine.



Though the month flew by, we learned so much about our bodies and shapes. We even made "Mr. Shapely." The man we built from circles, squares triangles and rectangles. The children were able to identify and recognize body parts on themselves, on puzzles and in songs.



Finding various shapes in our environment was also fun (shapes of blocks, windows, doors, the sand-box, etc.) It is a great game to play with your child when out and about. ("I see something that looks like a circle, do you?")

We learned about eating healthy foods, about our senses and how to sneeze and cough while minimizing the spread of germs.



A **warm thank you** to Mrs. Reiner who read a Mo Willem story and did a craft with the children. The children enjoyed having her in the classroom. **Please sign up in March** to read a story, share a special talent or do a small craft with the children. We would love to have you!

A warm **welcome** also to Ms. Jessica Bommer who is an additional assistant in our classroom. We are lucky to have her with us. Some of you may remember Jessica from her years of helping with PALS Summer Camp. **WELCOME JESSICA!** We are also fortunate to have **Courtney**, our student intern from Kenmore West. The children love having her in our classroom.

Welcome little **Hana** who started with us at the end of the month. It is wonderful to see our classroom grow and be filled with happy faces.

Next month will abound with swirls and curls as we paint and learn about colors during our March through the Arts theme. Also, we will learn about the story of Purim. All our classes are invited to celebrate together on Thursday, March 13 at 12:00 to 1:30. Bring a lunch and wear a costume! A delicious dessert will be provided. Looking forward to a wonderful month ahead.

Maria and Shira



Zekitot (3's)

While February was a quick month, it truly was an exciting and busy one in our classroom! In a few short weeks, we packed in a lot of wonderful learning and growing experiences.

You will notice that the Zekitot have learned to read their first and last names! They are able to “sign in” each morning upon arrival. We continue to work hard at writing first names and letter recognition. You will be seeing more slips of paper coming home that show how each child’s letter skills are progressing.

A real highlight for the teachers and the students this month has been the weekly visits from each of you! We thoroughly appreciate the time you have committed to coming in and the preparation you have put in to each visit. Thanks to each of you, the Zekitot have: made cards for sick children, learned about our ears and what the audiologist does, used stethoscopes to listen to heartbeats, learned about what the veterinarian does, read a beloved author and made puppets, learned about our teeth and healthy foods, baked Challah and danced! If you have not had the chance to come in yet, we look forward to having you. If you would like to volunteer some more... we would LOVE it!

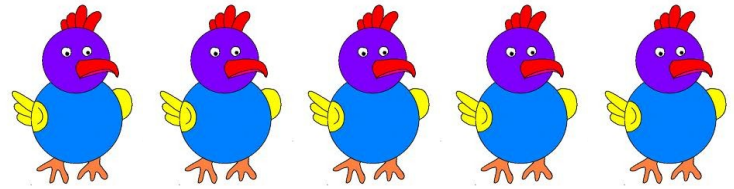
In March we will begin our unit on art and artists. We will explore different art forms and learn about some of the masters. We will also learn all about Purim, the holiday that tells how Queen Esther saved the Jewish people. Our PALS Purim celebration will be held on Thursday, March 13 at noon. There will be Hamentashen, crafts, singing and a costume parade. We hope you can join us! Towards the end of the month we will turn our attention to Passover and we will learn how heroic Moses, with the help of God, brought the Jews from slavery to freedom.

As always, we welcome your input. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or suggestions!

Melissa and Maria



Tziporim (4's)



During the recent conferences, we were frequently asked for advice about practicing pre-reading and pre-writing skills at home. I wanted to give you some of my ideas about the subject in order to insure a connection between school and home. I hope this helps in giving you some developmentally appropriate ideas.

One of my central philosophies is that children need to be exposed to many literacy experiences so they can appreciate the value of the printed message. In our class, we make every effort to incorporate literature, words and letters into every corner of the room and every activity we do. Our book corner is loaded with literature about our monthly themes. In our class, books are not only in the book corner. Science journals and books are kept on the science shelf with the dead bugs, moldy lemons and rocks. In the dramatic play area we keep cookbooks, coupon flyers and magazines. There are books about Van Gogh and Matisse on the art shelf and alphabet books on the writing area.

Read with them as much as you can. Tell them stories when you are in the car. Have them tell you stories – start them off... *Once upon a time there was a great big bear named "Tiny"...* To enhance thinking and mathematical skills, *if I have 2 pennies in one pocket and 2 in the other pocket, how much money do I have? How many apples do we have in the refrigerator? If grandma eats one how many will we have left?* If they are beginning to recognize beginning and ending sounds of words have them make the shopping list. I bet they all can read the word STOP on a stop sign and EXIT at a doorway. Point out these repetitive symbols and add a few more. Learning to read and to write is a continual process that a child has to be developmentally ready to do. At this stage, make it fun and engaging and they will become confident life-long learners. If you have any other questions or would like more specific ideas or games please don't hesitate to ask.

Our curriculum for the month of March is so exciting. We will be "Marching through the arts", with special guests who are artists, dancers and musicians. If you have any artistic talent that you can share with the class, we would so appreciate your visit. A real highlight for the teachers and the students this month has been the weekly visits from each of you! We thoroughly appreciate the time you have committed to coming in and the preparation you have put in to each visit. Thanks to each of you, the Tziporim class has made cards for sick children with Mrs. Monkarsh, learned about the importance of hearing from Mrs. Utech, used stethoscopes to listen to heartbeats and learned how to care for animals from Dr. Lugo. Mrs. Reiner read a book by Mo Willems and made puppets, and we about our teeth and healthy foods from Dr Levy and his big TOOTH. We baked Challah with Mrs. Goldberg and performed a ballet routine with Mrs. Oppenheimer! If you have not had the chance to come in yet, we look forward to having you.

March is also a time we talk about one of our favorite Jewish holidays. Our PALS Purim celebration will be held on Thursday, March 13 at noon. There will be Hamentashen, crafts, singing and a costume parade. We hope you can join us!

B'Shalom (In Peace),
Shira and Maria



Upcoming Events:

PALS Purim Celebration—
Thursday, March 13th

12:00 – 1:30 pm

PJ Library Tot Shabbat Hop

Friday, March 21st

5:45 Broder Building

PALS Summer Camp Registration
Begins March 3rd!

PALS Registration 2014-1015
NOW UNDERWAY



March Birthday:

Albert Einstein—March 14

Harry Houdini—March 24

Alan Greenspan—March 6

William Shatner—March 22

IMPORTANT DATES IN MARCH

March 16: Purim Carnival at Temple Beth Zion at 11:00am

UPCOMING IN APRIL

April 9 & 10: PALS Model Seder

April 14—April 21: Spring Break

April 15 & 21: Office closed

**First family to send in paper towels, wipes and
Tissues, gets a hug!**