

Hebrew Day Institute

לכבוד שבת

L'chvod Shabbat



December 1, 2006



Reading Room With Mrs. R. By Mrs. Rothbard

To join the "Reading Room With Mrs. R" please have your child read this month's books during the next 3 weeks. The books for December are:

K - 2nd Grade

We will meet the week of December 18 to discuss this book.

Zen Shorts (Caldecott Honor Book) by Jon J Muth (Illustrator)

One day a giant panda bear appears in the backyard of three siblings. The panda introduces himself and during the next few days the children visit him and share an afternoon of fun while hearing the panda's stories, which give the children new views about the world and themselves.

3rd - 6th Grade

We will meet the first week of January to discuss this book.

The Cricket in Times Square by George Selden, Garth Williams (Illustrator) (A Newbery Honor Book)

After Chester, a cricket, arrives in the Times Square subway station via a picnic basket from Connecticut, he takes up residence in a newsstand. Between escapades in New York City, Chester and four new friends manage to bring success to the almost bankrupt newsstand.

Pictures from 1st Reading Room With Mrs. R.

The Kindergarten - 2nd graders who read *Why Noah Chose the Dove* met for lunch with Mrs. Rothbard and Mrs. Lempert to discuss the book. It was a very lively, interesting discussion as you can see from the pictures. The 3rd - 6th graders who read *Zayda Was A Cowboy* will meet Friday, December 1.



Keep in Mind

Important Dates

Hot Lunch orders for January and February are due Dec. 15.

Book Fair: Dec. 11 - 17

Chanukah Choir Performance at White Flint Mall: Dec. 14, 6:00 pm

Chanukah Party: Dec. 17, 4:00 pm

Chanukah Program at Ohev Sholom, The National Synagogue: Dec. 19, 7:00 pm

Kindergarten & 1st Grade Chanukah Play: Dec. 20, 2:30 pm

Students should wear their white Hebrew Day Institute shirts to all performances.



Parsha Talk

By Rabbi Philip Pohl (a proud HDI parent)

Parshat Va-Yaytzay

Torah reading - Genesis 28:10 – 32:3

Haftarah (Prophetic) reading –Hosea 12:13 – 14:10

Below you will find a lesson based on the Torah portion. I hope you will use this material to enhance your Shabbat study experience.

Shabbat Shalom,

This Shabbat (December 2, 2006 – Kislev 11, 5767) we read Parshat Va-Yaytzay, the seventh portion in Sefer Bereshit (the book of Genesis).

This week's Torah portion of Va-Yaytzay opens with Genesis 29:10, "And Jacob left Beer Sheva and went to Haran." This seemingly innocuous verse provides Rashi (our most well known and quoted Biblical commentator) with an opportunity to share a beautiful lesson.

Rashi wonders why the text explicitly tells us that Jacob left Beer Sheva. Wouldn't we know this already just by the text stating that Jacob went to Haran? Therefore Rashi informs us that the apparently extra reference to Jacob leaving Beer Sheva teaches us that "when a tzaddik-righteous person leaves a place, it makes an impression; for during the time that the tzaddik is in a city, he is its beauty (hoda), he is its brilliance (ziva), he is its splendor (hadara). When he

leaves a city, there is a vacuum of beauty, brilliance and splendor."

This is one of my favorite midrashim and rabbinic comments. I have found this statement to be most helpful and comforting. It is especially instructive for all of us at HDI.

Every single person who enters our school, to study with us, visit us, or attend any of our programs adds a certain beauty, brilliance and splendor. Every single person impacts upon our school in ways that are unique since each of us reflects a different aspect of God's image. When any of our students leaves us, the school's collective beauty, brilliance and splendor diminish. We lose some of our luster because everyone, in some form or another, makes an impression upon our community. While some of that impression may remain imbedded within our community, most often the essence of that person's contribution leaves along with him or her.

It is wise to remember the lesson taught by Rashi from the opening verse of this Torah portion—everyone who enters our school brings unique gifts. It is our challenge to encourage everyone to share his or her gift, and to create a comfortable environment wherein our students are confident their gifts will be appreciated and accepted.



Kindergarten Highlights

By Helen Shulman

We have started the second part of our math program this month. The program is all hands-on and the students not only have a good time in math, but they look forward to it.

The curriculum is taught in a spiral manner. Each topic is taught and in

each unit it is built upon throughout the year. It is then taught again in each grade at a deeper level each time.

We have also been busy learning about Thanksgiving and Pilgrims.

We made some fun project and read books about Thanksgiving.

We are also drawing to the conclusion of the alphabet. We are having lots of fun trying to sound out how words are spelled now that we know most of our letters.



Upcoming Open House dates for prospective families are:

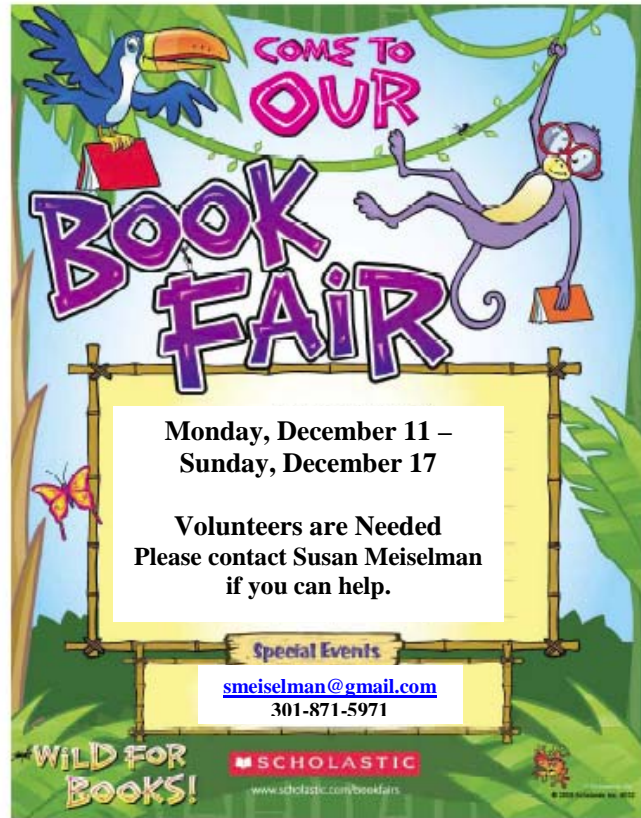
Friday, December 8, 2006 @ 9:30 am

Tuesday, December 19, 2006 @ 9:30 am

Contact Dina Korman at dkorman@hebrewdayinstitute.org for details.



As December begins, the weather forecast is for colder days. Please remember to have your children wear their jackets, hats, and gloves to school, during gym class, at recess and during Club Ed activities.



Scholastic Book Fair December 11—17, 2006

This year's book fair is fast approaching and we need your help! The book fair is a great time to buy books for your children. All students will have a chance to visit the Book Fair and make a wish list. It's also a good time to buy books for your home or for gifts.

Volunteers are needed for various times during the following Book Fair hours:

Monday, December 11: 8:30 am - 3:30 pm
Tuesday, December 12: 8:15 am - 4:00 pm
Wednesday, December 13: 8:15 am - 9:00am, 3:00 pm -

4:00 pm, 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm
Thursday, December 14: 8:15 am - 9:00 am, 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Friday, December 15: 8:15 am - 10:00 am
Sunday, December 17: 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm (during Chanukah Party)

To make this year's Book Fair a success, we need parent volunteers before, and during the book fair.

If you're willing to help this year, please contact Sue Meiselman at: smeiselman@gmail.com; 301-871-5971.

Show school spirit!

Support the PTO!

Hebrew Day Institute School Store

School shirts	\$ 20.00
Zippered lunchboxes (blue with white logo)	\$ 11.99
Baseball Hats	\$ 12.00
Awareness bracelets (blue w/ white lettering)	\$ 2.50
Cuddle bear (brown w/ blue shirt)	\$ 12.00
Pens (foam grip)	\$ 1.50
Pencils (#2, blue w/ white imprint)	\$.25
Cookbook.....	\$ 18.00
Potholders (2).....	\$ 10.00
Cookbook & Potholders (2).....	\$ 25.00



SUPPORTED AGENCY

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