

Levine Academy ECC News
 24 Kislev 5771-24 Tevet 5771

Important Dates:



Thursday, December 2	Chanukah—Day 1
Friday, December 3	Chanukah—Day 2 ECC-8th Grade PA Chanukah Celebration and Buddy Program Kira & Nadine's class lead Shabbat
Friday, December 10	Elaine & Amy's class lead Shabbat
Monday, December 13	<u>ECC Parent/Teacher Conferences</u> <u>NO SCHOOL IN ECC</u> <u>K-8 IN SESSION</u>
Thursday, December 16	Pre-K –8 Zimriyah/ArtFest 2:00 p.m. performance Kindergarten—8 Zimriyah 7:00 p.m. performance
Friday, December 17	Kathleen & Leah's class lead Shabbat <u>LAST DAY BEFORE WINTER BREAK</u>
Monday December 20 through Tuesday January 4	NO SCHOOL, SCHOOL OFFICES CLOSED Have a safe and relaxing break.

● Parents,

● We know that we all want our children to stay healthy. In order to do this
 ● we are asking you to please wait 24 hours after a fever has subsided to re-
 ● admit your child to school. This will help to keep any illness from spreading
 ● and will hopefully keep your child from becoming re-infected. Remember,
 ● a child may not have a fever to be ill and unhappy in school!

● Thank you, ECC Staff



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A Special Thank You
to
our wonderful parents that
volunteered during our
***GRANDPARENTS/
SPECIAL FRIENDS DAY***

(A special thanks to our 5 fat turkey dad's)

We could not do it without
you!

SHABBAT SHALOM

A Note from Sheryl...

Dear Parents,

Even though there is a chill in the air today, I am still basking in the warm glow of our beautiful Grandparents Day Celebration and Thanksgiving Feast. It was wonderful to see the special love between our children and their grandparents. As a grandparent myself, I now understand the indescribable bond of love that exists, and at the same time the responsibility to pass on the knowledge, experience and Jewish memories that I remember from my grandparents. L'dor V'dor, from generation to generation, as parents and grandparents we must tell our stories to keep our Jewish knowledge and values growing stronger. Thank you to our parents and grandparents for making the decision to send your child to Levine. You are giving them an outstanding school experience.

The school year seems to pass so quickly as we see the children move from transitioning to their new teachers, classrooms and friends, to complete ownership of their environment at Levine. This is the optimum time for learning because the children are relaxed, confident and able to absorb the new knowledge and experiences presented by their teachers. It is also the optimum time for teachers to assess each child as to his or her growth and development.

Parent/Teacher conference is a time to celebrate your child's social, emotional, physical and cognitive development. It is also a time to recognize strengths and areas that need attention. Please remember my door is always open to parents at any time.

Today I heard the children singing the Dreidel song – I cannot believe we will celebrate Chanukah this week. I always remember what Rabbi Ed Feinstein used to say about teaching your children the meaning of giving – Tzedakah. He said instead of a gift every Chanukah night - try alternating one night receive and the next give to someone who is in need. Watch, your child will actually love giving even more than getting!

On Sunday, December 12 I will be reading a story at the Tycher Library at the JCC from 10:30-11:15. We will have some fun, so please join us for a story and a project!

Have a joyous Chanukah!

Sheryl

JEWISH STUDIES UPDATE...

The children in Kathleen, Leah and Lauren's three-year-old class have been busy collecting all of our beautifully decorated Chanukah cards. These special cards are being delivered to Jewish Family Service and area nursing homes! Yasher Koach to our Mitzvah Mensch class for helping us complete this very important Mitzvah.

HAPPY CHANUKAH

We hope you and your family are enjoying the light of the Chanukah candles. This Friday night we will celebrate the third night of Chanukah. It is forbidden to light a fire on Shabbat, which extends from sunset on Friday evening until nightfall of Saturday night. Therefore, on Friday afternoon, we light our chanukiah (Chanukah menorah) before the Shabbat candles. On Saturday night, we light the chanukiah after Shabbat ends at nightfall. Traditionally, the chanukiah is kindled immediately after the Havdalah service.

Next Monday, we will celebrate Havdalah with six special guests from Israel! They will be visiting us as part of Partnership 2000 (Western Galilee Region). We are looking forward to a very meaningful experience for all! They will be sharing songs, stories and more with us!

In Israel today, people concern themselves with *pirsum ha-nes* (publicizing the miracle) of Chanukah. Candles burning in *chanukiot* can be seen burning in windows and in glass boxes outside of the doors of houses. Families get together to eat *sufganiot* (jelly donuts fried in oil) which take the place of *latkes* as the traditional Chanukah food. Gift giving is not a widely practiced tradition at all.

We might take a hint from our Israeli cousins. Chanukah is a minor holiday in the Jewish calendar. It is a time to publicize the miracle. Rather than a fancy present, why not give your children the gift of your time. Light candles with them, play *dreidel*, take them to a Chanukah party or to a Jewish storytelling hour. Judaism is filled with beautiful experiences and holidays. Parents can share apples and honey with their children on Rosh Hashanah, build a *sukkah* with them on Sukkot, dress in costumes on Purim, crunch *matzah* and hunt for the *afikoman* on Passover, and best of all, light candles and eat sweet *challah* together every week on Shabbat.

Alyse Eisenberg
Jewish Studies Coordinator

A message from our Counselor...

Dear Family:

Our *Second Step* lesson this week is about learning how to wait. Many times, children need to wait at school and at home. They wait for their turn, they wait in line, and they wait for parents. Waiting may be easy for some children who are more patient and quiet in nature. For other children, waiting is very hard. They may get more and more excited, frustrated, or worried. Children often misbehave when they are having these strong feelings. But children can learn ways to help with waiting.

In class, we are talking about ways to calm down. Children are practicing to check in with how they are feeling by putting their hands on their tummies. They then choose one of the following ways to clam down:

Say "Calm down."
Take deep breaths.
Count out loud.

You might try one of the ways to calm down at home when your child is having difficulty waiting. Another way to deal with waiting is to do, or think about, something different. The next time you and your child are waiting together, talk about ways to have the waiting be fun or go faster. Adults sometimes have silly ways that children might enjoy. Some people draw doodles, tap their fingers, or sing songs in their head. Plan for the times that your child may need to wait and take something for your child to do, such as pens and paper or a book. You can also tell your child a story or play a question game: "What is the biggest thing in this room?" "How many red cars do you see?"

Children are learning that even though they have to wait sometimes, they can manage their feelings and behavior while they wait.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Andy Blum LCSW
ECC and Lower School Counselor

Remember...

- Please bring a warm change of clothing for your child (labeled with their name).
- Send your child to school with a jacket. We play outdoors even when it's cold.
- The Lost & Found bin is located in the ECC office under Gail's desk. Please remember to label all your children's belongings. We try very hard to keep up with everything, but things do get misplaced.



Happy Chanukah