



Preschool Newsletter

12/11/17~12/15/17



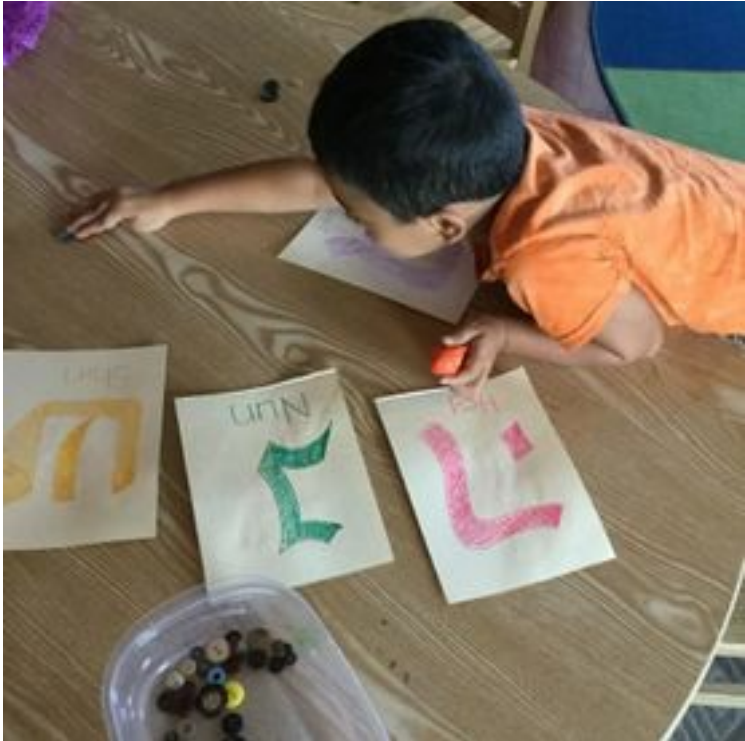
Chanukah

We began learning about the Jewish holiday of Chanukah. The story goes that a group of Jews wished to worship in their own way and fought back against their oppressors. When they succeeded, they wanted to rededicate their temple. There was only enough oil in the lamp to burn for one night but the miracle is, the oil burned for eight nights. People commemorate this miracle by lighting candles on the Chanukah menorah. The middle candle, the shamash, is used to light the others. We did this during our morning circle time singing a song called "Shalom." Shalom means peace in Hebrew and we were able to connect this to our peaceful meditation from Bodhi Day.



Dreidal

The children had a lot of fun playing dreidal. They learned the meaning of the symbols quickly and were challenged to count the correct number of buttons and figure out the meaning of half.



Latkes

We attempted to make potato latkes, a traditional Chanukah food. It turned into potato hash but was still yummy! We added tomatoes, basil and rosemary grown in our garden! We ate the pancakes with apple sauce and sour cream.





Walking Trip to the Mall

We were invited to visit Santa at the mall. That morning, we baked him some chocolate chip cookies. Last time we walked past him on our way back from the library, he said they were his favorite! In addition to getting our picture with Santa, we sat beside him and ate our cookies. afterwards, we stopped at a store to buy candles for our menorah. We also played on the playground. On the way back, there was a Christmas show happening, so we stayed and watched for a few songs.





Ula Ula the turtle

Jenna's family go an unexpected visitor on their driveway in the form of a red-eared slider. Jenna's Kapunahine brought him in and of course, we accepted him as our new pet. We realized after some research that the classroom would be too cold for him. We decided to refurbish our old sandbox and create an outdoor habitat for him by the garden. The children were fascinated by this new creature as we wondered what he eats and what type of environment he needs. We were able to discuss different needs in a tangible way. He does not need hay and a cage like the guinea pigs but he does need water like the fish. However, he also needs a place to come out of the water because he breaths air. This led to a discussion about mammals and reptiles. Madelyn pointed out that guinea-pigs have fur and people have hair but turtles and fish don't. After some discussion on animal categories, Keziah said, "What about birds?." We will continue with this biology based inquiry next week and it will lead us nicely into learning about whales in January.



The Christmas Spirit

What a busy week! In addition to everything else, we had some Christmas events happening. The Holiday Express and the Keiki Holiday Party were both so festive! The day after the train ride, the children recreated a train in the block area complete with tickets and a conductor to punch tickets. They came up with various stops such as beach station and stadium station. We also made a Christmas tree out of cardboard and painted and decorated it with homemade bead candy canes and garland!

