

Preschool. . .a great beginning

Holiday Reflection

At our preschool, we fully embrace each holiday, encouraging our students to live them and experience their many facets. Living the holiday means teaching the students about the separation between a standard school day and these special yom tov days. Each morning, there is a dedicated service. We do not write, cut or use electronics. We use our voice, imagination and creativity to gain knowledge through direct participation.

During Sukkot, we were able to utilize the Sukkah at least one time every day whether it was for a snack, lunch, game time or quiet reflection. It was wonderful sharing the space with the greater synagogue, especially during lunch. We joined the main service in the sanctuary twice for a procession of the lulav and etrog; each child carrying their creations or a stuffed version. Our entire preschool was out in force for Pancakes in the Sukkah. The Rabbis were excellent chefs and chocolate chip is always the crowd favorite.

Over the course of a few weeks, all our students made meaningful projects for Simchat Torah. I loved the fact that so many classes investigated both the inside and outside of the Torah, learning how the words are written, the number of books and the stories inside. On the holiday, we were joined by Levine Middle School students who helped us with our morning service and activities. I want to thank Wende Weinberg and the middle schoolers for all the help. Our preschoolers participated in the Hakafot, dancing in celebration with the Rabbis and congregation. The students were divided into different groups and all participated as we un-scrolled the Torah outside in "The Backyard." We played games, made Torah puppets and stamped Hebrew letters on our personal Torahs. Our children were proud of their creations and loved showing them to the Levine volunteers. It was a meaningful and fun experience for all.

Rachel

