

March/April/May 2025 • Adar/Nisan/lyar/Sivan 5785 • אדר/ניסן/אייר

כיתה ד'

Shalom 4th Grade Parents,

Ben Zoma would say: Who is wise? One who learns from every man.

As it is stated (Psalms 119:99): "From all my teachers I have grown wise, for Your testimonials are my meditation."

During the months of March, April and May:

Hebrew:

The students will continue to increase vocabulary, learning the stories in the book Aleph-Bet Yeladim Lomdim Ivrit, units 18-26.

Grammar:

- 1) Numbers from 1-1,000
- 2) Conjugation of yesh li; yesh lecha... (I have, you have, etc...)
- 3) The preposition "shel" (mine, yours, etc...)
- 4) Question words: About what? About whom? To whom? Whom?
- 5) Infinitives with helper verbs
- 6) Adjectives

Holidays:

During the months of March-May we will learn about the holidays of Purim, Passover (Pesach), Yom Ha'atzmaut, and Shavuot.

Purim:

We learned about the holiday of Purim. The unit opened with memory activation, by means of the Memory Box. The students reviewed and expanded their study of the mitzvot and customs we perform during Purim (reading the Megillah, Mishloach Manot, special Purim tzedakah, the Purim feast). Students became familiar with the Hebrew vocabulary associated with the holidays, and experienced the megillah reading in the synagogue, had a dress-up parade and exchanged Mishloach Manot – the exchange of gifts.

We also learned a related story from the Book of Madregot.

Passover:

This unit focuses on the concept of Pesach Mitzrayim- Pesach Dorot: how our forefathers celebrated redemption during the time of the Exodus, and how we celebrate it today. This comparison is explored while studying the Haggadah and enacted through a magical Haggadah story in which the children are whisked back to Egypt, and are able to witness what their ancestors felt and endured, comparing it with what they feel and experience today. To conclude our Passover unit, the students will conduct a "Model Seder" in the school. After Pesah we will begin learning about the period of the counting of the Omer (from the second day of Pesach till Shavuot) which symbolizes the anticipation of receiving the Torah and achieving spiritual liberation. This unit examines Rabbi Akiva, who overcame the difficult reality he was faced with and became a great scholar. Rabbi Akiva, and the basic rule he established—love your neighbor as yourself — exemplifies proper behavior.

Yom Ha'atzmaut:

During the months of April and May, the students will learn about Israel and Jerusalem. The students will review aspects and symbols of The State of Israel, (land, language, anthem, flag, symbol and IDF). They will learn about the similarities between Israel's Independence Day and other Jewish holidays, and about the origins of the holidays (Torah, Megillah, Mishnah, Gemarah, Siddur). This year we will celebrate with dancing and fun activities related to Israel.

Shavuot:

We will conclude our year with the last Jewish holiday in the school year; Shavuot is celebrated on the 6th day of Sivan. The Shavuot unit focuses on the custom of Tikkun Leil Shavuot, a late night study session of Torah verses and of the question "what do we fix?" The students do a

simulation of how they would have felt and acted prior to Matan Torah, the giving of the Torah. Students will be familiar with the Hebrew vocabulary associated with the holiday.

Torah:

We are currently studying Parashat VaYeitzei in the book of Beresheet about the life of Yaakov (Jacob). There are so many lessons to learn from his life as he matures and builds his marriages and family. He has to make peace with his brother Esau and with himself as well! Our fourth graders are so smart and sensitive to the issues and are very open and receptive to the Hebrew language and nuances of root words and vocabulary, which carry layers of meaning! Our students are full of questions and clever points each day. Recently, they contrasted Avraham's total faith with loyalty to Jacob's more fearful manner of showing loyalty. We discover that the Torah lets us see our ancestors as human beings with imperfections, just like us! So it is in life that we learn from the difficult times as well as from the good times.

Thank you so much for your support.

Morah Tiki, Morah Mali, Morah Shushan and Morah Mika