

March/April/May 2023 • Adar/Nisan/Iyar/Sivan 5783 • אדר/ניסן/אייר/סיון

כיתה א'

Shalom 1st 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:

Ariot: reading/writing program:

Students will learn to recognize, read and write the remaining letters of the Hebrew alphabet, as well as vocabulary words beginning with each letter, and the vowels. We will finish the third Ariot book and start the fourth one.

We will also introduce the Hebrew cursive letters.

Holidays:

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

Purim:

The children learned the rabbinic dictum "Mi-shenichnas Adar Marbim BiSimchah" and its meaning (When Adar begins, our happiness increases!), as well as the story of the holiday, represented by the four main characters of the Megillah. The students also learned about the mitzvot and customs performed on Purim (reading the Megillah, Mishloach Manot, special Purim tzedakah, and the Purimfeast) and the concept of Venahafoch hu, central to the unit. The

students are familiar with the Hebrew vocabulary associated with the holidays, and dressed up, had a costume parade and exchanged "Mishloach Manot" – gifts.

Passover (Pesach):

This unit is presented through the four names of the holiday, emphasizing the origins and significance of each name. The Big Book explicates these four names and their manifestation in the story of the holiday and in the customs and Mitzvot. The unit teaches the children how to prepare the home for the Seder. The students received our Lehrman Haggadah and they are learning the Seder (the order) step by step, as well as the blessings and the songs. To conclude our Passover unit, the students will experience a "Model Seder" in school.

Yom Ha'atzmaut:

During the months of April and May the students will begin the unit on Israel and Jerusalem. The children will learn about our connection to Eretz Israel (the land of Israel) and Jerusalem. The identification with Am Israel (the people of Israel) on Yom Ha'atzmaut is acquired and internalized through the day's celebrations; through the country's symbols: the flag, the symbol and the anthem; and through the prayer for the safety of Israel-common to the students and all Am Israel. The children also learn about the connection each and every Jew has with Jerusalem, the Holy City and the capital of Israel. This year we will celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut at the Marlin's Stadium together with many other Jewish Day Schools.

Shavuot:

We will conclude with the last Jewish holiday in the school year; Shavuot is celebrated on the 6th day of Sivan. It commemorates the receiving of the Torah on Mt. Sinai. Students will learn about Matan Torah and will be familiar with the Hebrew vocabulary associated with the holiday.

Thank you for your support,

Morah Rachel, Morah Angela and Morah Mali