

FULL CIRCLE PRESCHOOL

The children, educators, and families at OZ Full Circle continue to amaze me with their resilience and adaptability as we navigate preschool and life through this pandemic. In January, we explored Inauguration Day with the children in most classrooms as we continue to teach inclusivity, acceptance, and equity among all. This change in our nation's leadership felt particularly present in the homes of our families as many children modeled a deeper awareness of this historical day in our nation's history. In the older classrooms, children explored the right to vote and hosted their own play-based elections. It is amazing how much children learn about the world around them through open ended play gently supported by our educators.

We also explored and celebrated Tu B'Shevat, the birthday for the trees! We are very lucky to have such beautiful woods behind our preschool that helps support the children in fostering a positive relationship with nature as they make sense of the world around them and how they fit into it. During our Friday morning Shabbat programming, we tasted several fruits from trees as we honored and thanked the trees for providing us with food, clean air, shade, paper products, furniture, and so many other benefits to our earth! This holiday always reminds us of the many ways we can say thank you to the earth through our actions. In the Preschool Room, the children take turns at mealtimes sharing what was grown from a tree or a plant in their lunchboxes, making sure to wave a thank you to the trees outside our windows!

Since OZ Full Circle was closed the week of Purim for February break, we celebrated Purim a week early with a Purim themed Shabbat celebration complete with misloach manot, hamantashen, and a costume parade! The OZ Task Force approved for Cantor Steve to return to the preschool for our Shabbat programming, beginning in March! While he will continue to safely distance and refrain from singing for us, he will resume attending our Shabbat parties, storytelling, dancing, and delivering Jewish content to the children. We are thrilled to have such an integral part of our learning community back!

As we consider ways to offer more support to teachers and families, we are working with the Hebrew School on offering virtual workshops until we can resume our in-person parent/educator workshops. This will begin with a workshop given by former Hebrew School teacher, Alex Shevrin Venet on supporting children through stressful times. We are excited about our vision to turn OZ into a professional development hub for our community and other neighboring communities. Learning alongside one another is so important--while none of us have all the answers, we are stronger when learning and growing together! We look forward to welcoming spring and celebrating renewal in all forms with our learning community.

~ Erika Geremia
Preschool Director and Early Educator
fullcircle@ohavizedek.org

Please see following pages for photos.



