

YEP! Menschenings

Kindergarten – 2nd graders: This week, we continued learning about *Gemilut Chasadim* (Acts of Loving Kindness). We discussed *mitzvot* we did over the holidays and made Shabbat-o-grams (to be donated) and a banner with Shabbat wishes (for the congregation). In Hebrew, we learned about the letter *Hey* and the word *har* (*hey, resh*) which means mountain in Hebrew.

3rd – 5th grade Judaica: We learned about Loving Acts of Kindness - *Gemilut Chasadim*, *Tzedakah* & *Mitzvot* by discussing the differences of each and yet how they all overlap. We brainstormed and the students wrote on the new whiteboard an example of *Gemilut Chasadim* they thought of. Before the next class, each student is to catch themselves practicing one of these acts and write it on their badge, which is inside their folder. We read Have You Filled A Bucket Today? By Carol McCloud which is about being kind to others, doing good deeds, and helping those in need. We also made bright centerpieces to be used at the synagogue for future Onegs and all congregants to enjoy.

3rd – 5th grade Hebrew: The students were introduced the letters, *chaf* and *resh* and a new vowel. They identified and read sounds from previously learned letters and worked with partners doing reading exercises from their workbooks, combining all letters and vowels learned. Our chapter word learned was *bracha*, which means blessing.

6th - 8th grade: This past session, our middle school students started watching *Fiddler on the Roof*, which portrays the lifestyle for many Eastern European Jews in the late 19th century. We also began learning and practicing the *Amidah*, a prayer included in nearly every service.

Music: We sang *David Melech Yisrael*, incorporating things we learned about the holidays from last semester (*Shabbat*, *Rosh Hashana*, *Yom Kippur*, *Sukkot*, *Simchat Torah*, and *Chanukah*). We learned *Ad-nai S'ftai*, which is the prayer the congregation says before starting the *Amidah*, the main part of every service. The students learned to take the traditional three little steps back and three little steps forward during the prayer (which asks G-d to open our lips so we can pray - in essence, it's a prayer asking G-d to help us pray) to symbolize approaching G-d's throne room. We finished off music with *Artik Menta*, *Chocolad*, *Banana* which is a fun Hebrew song and dance about ice cream/popsicle flavors in preparation for *Tu B'shevat*, the birthday of the trees/plants.

Upcoming YEP! sessions:

January 21st, February 11th, 25th & 28th, March 4th & 25th, April 8th & 22 and May 6th & 20th

Has your child logged into Edmodo yet? It is imperative and part of the YEP! curriculum to do so. If you have questions or need assistance, please message Stephanie K. directly, kirklin.stephaniem@gmail.com.

