

# ChaiLights

## Preparing for the New Year NEMJDS Style!



In preparation for Rosh Hashanah, our students participated in meaningful activities. Our kindergarten through fifth grade students loved the visit from the Shofar Factory. They learned about the science behind honey bees, the tradition of the shofar, and more. Kindergarten and first grade also took a tashlich walk to reflect on their own behavior in preparation for the New Year.

The fourth and fifth graders read Dori Weinstein's novel about Rosh Hashanah, *Sliding Into the New Year*. At the end of the book, the protagonist, Ellie Silver, makes a Teshuva box that she shares with her family. It is a decorated shoe box filled with objects that symbolize her goals for the new year. Our students decorated and filled shoe boxes with artifacts and resolutions, just like Ellie, only their goals were written in both English and Hebrew. For example, fourth grader Hannah explained that she included a little broom to represent keeping her room clean.

Our upper grades, in Morah Dani's class, learned that the word shofar comes from the verb "l'shaper" meaning "to improve." The students wrote in Hebrew how they would like to improve this year and made shofarot decorated to reflect their goals. Some goals included doing homework and learning new soccer tricks in preparation for Maccabi.