

TLC Nursery @ Nishmas  
NEWSLETTER – 20<sup>th</sup> February 2015  
Parshas Tetzaveh

Parshas Beshalach

*“The greatest impressions you can give your children are the roots of responsibility and the wings of independence”*

Hello Mums and Dads,

Hope you all had a good week! This week we welcomed our newest member of staff, Naomi Charman, whose time will be split between the Nursery and @Home. She has enjoyed getting to know all the children and they are excited to have a new friend!

This week's sedra is Parshas Tetzaveh. In this sedra we learn about the different clothes that the Kohanim and Kohein Godol wear. We spoke to the children about the special trousers and shirts they wore. As Purim is next week we have concentrated mainly on discussing costumes as different types of clothes we wear on Purim, when we can pretend to be anyone or anything we want! The children were very eager and proud to have a turn to tell the rest of the class what they will be dressing up as for Purim; we had some amazing ideas! We started to discuss the different characters of the Purim story; good Queen Esther and Mordechai were favourites among the children!

**Monday:** We have started to discuss Purim with the children during our davening circle time. The children have enjoyed learning a new Purim song, participating with enthusiastic actions and loud voices! We spoke about Haman being a naughty man who didn't like the Jewish people. Thanks to Hashem, Queen Esther and Mordechai who managed to save the day and that is why, we explained to the children, Purim is such a happy day! This week we have started to make greggors which the children enjoyed very much. They loved using a filter to pour the rice into a plastic bottle. We explained that because Haman was so naughty, that every time he is mentioned in the Megillah in Shul, the children are allowed to shake their greggors because we don't want to hear his name. When we spoke about the Purim story we practiced this and the children enjoyed "booing" at any mention of Haman. They were all very good at quieting down straight away to hear the rest of the story. WELL DONE CHILDREN, GREAT PRACTICE FOR SHUL!

**Tuesday:** Today in our French Lesson with Monsieur Leon, the children had a giggle tickling each other to "round and round the garden, like a teddy bear" in French. *"Autour, autour du jardin, comme un 'teddy ours'. Un pas, deux pas, chatouille en dessous du bras"*. Monsieur Leon recited animal names with all the children – cow (vache), pig (cochon), horse (cheval) and dog (chien). The children are beginning to know animal names in French from memory. Well done children! They also begun to learn the numbers 1-5 through clapping. *"Battez les mains, une fois (clap once), deux fois (clap twice), trois fois (clap three times), quatre fois (clap four times) et cinq fois (clap five times)!"* A great and fun way to learn numbers in French.



We talked about the weather today and explained to the children how some animals, such as bears, sleep through the winter. This coincides with our book of the week. We asked the children what their favourite weather is, and of course, the top answer was: WHEN IT SNOWS! We had a few minutes of hailstones today so we rushed the children to the window to show them. We explained that hailstones are a mixture of ice and water shaped like balls. Some can be quite large and some tiny. We asked the children why they thought hail stones were falling from the sky...BECAUSE IT'S FREEZING COLD!!! Great answer children and well done!

**Wednesday:** In our maths lesson we continued with number recognition. We set up a simple and fun activity where we wrote the numbers 1-5 separately on A4 sized paper. We placed the paper on the floor and one by one, we asked each child to place the correct amount of wooden blocks onto the corresponding numbered paper. We chose numbers according to the ability of each child. For example: We would ask a child to place 3 blocks on to the number 3. This numerical and number recognition task gave us the opportunity to judge correctly and observe the children's number knowledge and see whether we can either step up a level with certain children or whether more support was needed! During our arts and creative design activity today, children have started to make their own Megillahs and coloured pictures of the Purim characters to roll into a scroll. We are very much looking forward to Purim here at nursery and the children are getting more and more excited each day. They love to tell us about their dressing up costumes and so far we have learnt that we will have a bumble bee, Minnie Mouse, Mickey Mouse, Fireman Sam, a penguin, Upsy Daisy and even a crocodile!! We cannot wait to see all your amazing costumes!!

**Thursday:** Today we introduced the children to stilts. Walking on 'bucket style' stilts is fun, easy and safe. The key benefits are that all children are actively involved; children learn the finer points of balance and coordination. When the children master these bucket stilts they come away with a great sense of achievement and self-esteem. Some adult support was needed with certain children, but none the less...they all had so much fun and found walking on them highly humorous! This is such a child safe activity as these particular stilts are only 5 inches in height, and the children are not strapped into them so they can easily come off them. It's a great apparatus to help them build on their gross motor skills. Every day this week we have been singing our Purim song where all the children love to join in (to the tune of chag purim):

**Purim day, Purim day. Lots of fun in every way. Tzedoka to the poor, presents to our friends, that's what Purim is for.**

**Hear the Megilla "sh sh sh". Wave your greggor "whoosh whoosh whoosh". Don't eat too much "nosh nosh nosh" on the Purim day!**

**Friday:** Mummy and Daddy Shabbos today are Amie and Eitan

Book of the week: 'What will I do without you?' Sally Grindley & Penny Dann

Have a great Shabbos!

Tracy, Steph, Dana, Becky, Rachel, Nicole and Naomi

*The TLC Team*