

Mrs. Leopold's Pre-Kindergarten Newsletter
Weeks of December 19 - 23

Weekly Content Standards

COG 1 Uses scientific inquiry

COG 10 Shows understanding of stories

PHY 3 Uses coordinated small-muscle movements

Circle Time: Over the past week, we focused on the many different winter holidays, including Chanukkah, Christmas and Kwanzaa. We also spoke about Eid al-Adha, which occurred earlier in this month. We compared and contrasted the similarities and differences in the holidays. We learned the many symbols of each holiday. Chanukkah symbols include the menorah, dreidel, and oil. Christmas symbols include angels, the star, candy canes, trees, the three Kings and baby Jesus. Kwanzaa's symbols include the kinara and the seven principles. We discussed foods eaten on each holiday as well as traditions we have with our families. We also discussed peace around the world.

Mrs. Leopold taught us all about her family traditions for Chanukkah. Each child took home a dreidel (spinning top) and gelt (chocolate coins).

Mrs. Burnett taught us about her family traditions from England. She bought each child a Christmas cracker which is not a cracker you eat rather a toy. We looked at photos from her Christmas' in England. She even baked mince pies for us to sample. They had a strong seasoning flavored fruit inside so some kids liked it and others did not but they all gave it a try.

We discussed the winter solstice and how it came to be. Wednesday, December 21, was the winter solstice. It is a time of new beginnings. It's a time to hope that the world will be a better place in the year to come. We celebrate the season as a time of love and good will.

With the New Year almost upon us we talked about resolutions. What and how we can be better people. We had the children come up with a resolution. I will send home a copy of those for your reading enjoyment.

Art:

Christmas: We printed with Christmas symbols on a tree cut-out.

Wreaths: We dipped our hands in paint then printed them in a circle then used our fingerprints to make the holly berries.

New Years: We added a piece of wax paper to the end of a tube to make a horn to blow on New Year's Eve.(Sorry in advance for the noise.)

Chanukkah: We spun real dreidels(spinning tops) dipped in paint around paper as well as printed with Chanukkah symbols on a menorah cut out.

Cooking: We made latkes (potato pancakes). We used all five of our senses (which we had learned about last week) to participate in this activity. Jewish families eat latkes fried in oil during Hanukkah to remind them of the miracle of the oil they found in the temple. We grated potatoes and onions and stirred them into the latke mix. We watched the latkes fry in the pan. We shared our delicious latkes with our book buddies. Some of us ate them with sour cream, others with applesauce, and others with nothing at all. Thank you to Mr. Pildis, Avery's dad and to Mr. Wallowitz's mom for volunteering to help!

We colored paper latkes and frying pans for our "flip the latke" games. We then attempted to catch the paper

latke in the pan. We worked hard using our eye-hand coordination.

Science: We watched raisins "dance." We placed a raisin in a cup of water with vinegar then dropped in baking soda. The raisin originally sank to the bottom, but then bubbles attached to it and we watched it dance up to the top. Once the bubbles fell off the raisin, it sunk to the bottom again, then it filled up with bubbles again and danced to the top. It was really silly and cool to watch. It made us think. We were puzzled trying to figure out why this was happening.

Sensory Table: We practiced spinning dreidels of all sizes and colors. A dreidel is a spinning top with a different Hebrew letter on each side.

Important Information:

Please send in replacement stay at school clothing that includes long pants and long sleeves to replace the summer items you sent in on the first days of school.

Please send your child with warm clothing to wear outside. We will be going outside (weather permitting) and need to be dressed appropriately. Send hats, gloves/mittens and warm coats. It has been chilly out and we will go outside even when there is snow outside. Dig out your child's boots and snow pants. Winter is here and snow is right around the corner again I am sure. Don't forget to label each item of clothing please.

Enjoy the winter break. Happy Hanukkah, Eid, Merry Christmas, Happy Kwanzaa and most of all have a happy, healthy New Year.

See you all next year on Tuesday, January 3, 2017.

As always, if you have any questions feel free to contact me.

Have a nice weekend,

Mrs. Leopold and Mrs. Burnett

Randi_Leopold@whps.org

(860)521-0320 x3409