

THURSDAY NOTES



December 3, 2009

16 Kislev 5770

Vayishlach

Shabbat Candle Lighting: 4:43 p.m.



The Power of the Lights of Chanukah

In our Jewish tradition the concept of lights and candles plays a very important role: we light the Shabbat candles on Friday night to signify the beginning of Shabbat; we light the Havdallah candle to separate the end of Shabbat from the beginning of a new week; we light a Yahrzeit candle to mark the anniversary of the death of someone we cared about and loved; and of course, we light the Chanukiah on Chanukah to remember the miracle of the holiday. The lighting of all these candles helps us to create Jewish memories for ourselves and our families, and mark the sacredness of time in our daily Jewish existence. All of us can remember the beauty of the Chanukah menorah being lit as children as we stood with our family and friends. The Chanukah lights play a special role in Judaism - its symbolic value is of great importance.

The Talmud teaches us that there was only enough oil for one day when the Maccabees re-dedicated the Temple in 165 B.C.E. The miracle of the holiday is that the oil lasted for eight days, until a new supply could be found. Interestingly, there was a dispute between Hillel and Shammai concerning how many candles should be lit on the first night of Chanukah. Shammai said to start with eight candles and then each night one less candle should be lit, to parallel the dwindling oil supply of the menorah in the Temple. Hillel disagreed – he taught that we should light one candle each night, and build up to eight candles corresponding to the eight days that the one day's supply of oil lasted. Hillel reasoned that it was only through the power which we invest in our Jewish lives that the oil continued to burn that extra day. We constantly need to re-energize the source if it is to provide us with enlightenment and warmth. In the end, the Rabbis agreed with Hillel and until today his teaching prevails.

May the light we all kindle this Chanukah season sustain us, rejuvenate us, and propel us forward in our never-ending quest as individuals, families and as a school. May we continue to create Jewish memories for our children as we stand around the Chanukiah each night and add one more candle, one more spark, one more light during our holiday of lights. We look forward to seeing everyone on Wednesday, December 16th, from 6:00-7:00 p.m. at Judea Reform for our EC/ED Chanukah program. I wish all of you a Chag Sameach!

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

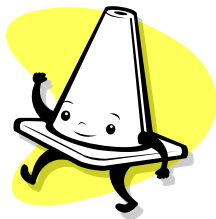
Kindergarten– 5th Grade Question:

What were the names of the 3 biblical people that changed their names in the Torah?

Answer:

Avram– Abraham, Sarai– Sarah, Jacob– Israel

IMPORTANT SAFETY CONCERN!!!



It has come to our attention that some parents are passing the carpool line when coming up the driveway. There is **NO PASSING** allowed on the hill. You **MUST** wait until the top of the hill at which point if you are parking you may slowly pass the cars waiting to drop off. If you are planning on dropping off at the curb you must wait in the line and not cut in front of the other waiting cars. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. As our children and parents safety is our most important concern!

Jewish Parenting Series

Abacadabra: The Magic of Words

Tuesday, Dec. 8th, 8:15-9:00am

For millennium, Jews have been known as the "People of the Book". In actuality, we should really be called the "People of the Word". Join us for this multi-faceted learning experience, led by Bini Silver, as we explore the importance and magic of 'words' in Jewish life and the lessons we can take from this to share with our children and families.

Calendar



Sunday, December 6th

Lerner School Open House—1:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 8th

Jewish Parenting Series

Abacadabra: The Magic of Words—8:15 a.m.

Thursday, December 16th

Chanukah Program— EC and ED— 6:00 p.m.

At Judea Reform

Mon. – Thurs., December 21st-31st

Winter Break— School Closed

Lerner School Open House: Sunday Dec. 6th, 1:30-3:30

Word of mouth is the most effective way to get families interested in our school! Our Open House is coming up, and this is a wonderful opportunity for you to share your child's experience with your friends! Please invite somebody to attend! Open House postcards will be available to distribute next week. Please contact Jordana Brown at school if you want some cards to give out,

Fly on the Wall...

I hope you had many of your own Fly on the Wall moments with your family over the Thanksgiving holiday. For things you may not have heard about here at school these past few weeks here are some highlights.

- 2nd grade students and their parents working on their own family 10 Commandments during the family program this past Tuesday.
- Parents and children buying books, playing games and schmoozing during our school **Celebration of Learning**
- Early Childhood, 1st grade, and some 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students, singing and performing in a short skit about Abraham during Flag Pole last Wednesday.
- 4th and 5th grade students experimenting with the forces of magnetism
- Rags-to-Riches Theater Troupe entertaining the Early Childhood, Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade students with *Old Aesop's Fables*.
- 3rd grade students reading their stories to their parents during the class *Authors Celebration*.
Mary

