



THE UHI BULLETIN

The Weekly Newsletter of United Hebrew Institute, Kingston, Pennsylvania, USA

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Rabbi Raphael J. Nemetsky

Tu B'Shvat will be celebrated tomorrow, which is actually the fifteenth day of the month of Shevat. This holiday is often misunderstood, interpreted as merely an agricultural celebration. However, that is really shortchanging the event.

Tu B'Shvat is the new year for trees both in Jewish law, and mystically, the day of judgment for produce that will grow the following year.

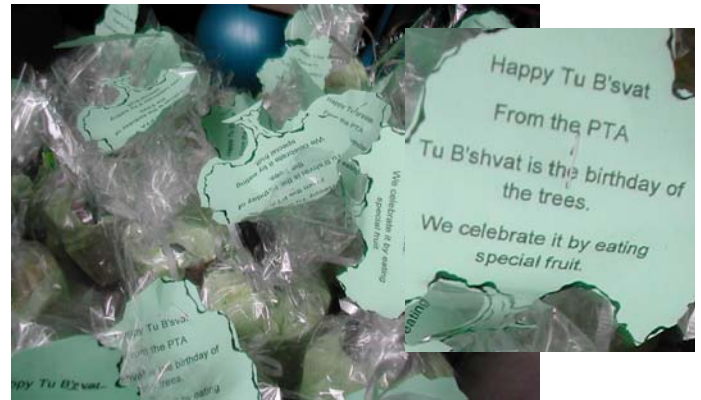
However, there is also a comparison to be made from trees to human beings. We also grow in many ways similar to trees. Think of how a tree grows. You plant a seed in the ground, and the development is a slow process, hidden from our eyes. So too is our growth and development. Or growth is best accomplished in private. Underground, away from the bright lights and demands for instant results, we can develop and mature in a stable and enduring manner. What's more, just as a seed must first rot before it can begin to generate new beginnings, a person intent on self-growth and character evolution must be ready to undergo revolutionary change to the point that the old "I", the ego and self-awareness, is completely effaced. Only in an atmosphere of humility and acceptance can the new "I" develop.

The end results can be truly astounding: allowed to mature and flourish, supplied with Torah-rich nourishment and pruned of the dead-wood, one seed yields returns many hundredfold; the new persona sprouts fertile and proud, a source of nourishment for all and a resource and sustenance for generations to come.

I would like to add one more element to the comparison between trees and humans. Just as a tree will grow best in fertile soil, so too we will grow to be our spiritual best in a fertile environment. The last fifty years has proven that a day school environment is the

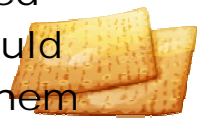
best one for Jewish children to grow and become committed Jewish adults. It is the pride and pleasure of our entire staff at UHI to tend to the young saplings placed in our care, to see them develop and mature in a nurturing environment so that they reach their full potential academically, emotionally, and spiritually.

Shabbat Shalom and enjoy Tu B'Shvat.



Watch for Science Fair Pictures in the UHI Bulletin next week.

If you have any unopened boxes of matzoh, we would appreciate your giving them to the school.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Feb. 15 No Classes Presidents' Day
- Feb. 20 Shabbaton Grades 1—4
- Feb. 25 Fast of Esther
- Feb. 28 Purim

Tu B'Shvat Fun
Jenny Rizel, Teacher

This Shabbat is the holiday of Tu B'Shvat. Tu B'Shvat is a special holiday for the trees. It is when Hashem decides how much fruit will grow on the trees in the coming year. Tu B'Shvat is a good time to daven that the trees produce a lot of fruit because we all know that Hashem decides how much fruit will grow. We spoke about the seven special species found in Israel: wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives, and dates. All of the children chose what their favorite fruit is. Gianna, Cole, Chaya, and Chezky all like apples the best. Bayla and Simmi's favorite fruit is cherries. Molly's favorite is grapes. Lia and Ita's favorite is olives. Chloe's favorite is oranges. Juliana's favorite is the pomegranate.

We also discussed the different seasons and what the trees look like in each season. To illustrate this point, we made beautiful tree pictures with paper, glue, and paint. Each child made four trees – one for each season! Have a great Tu B'Shvat!



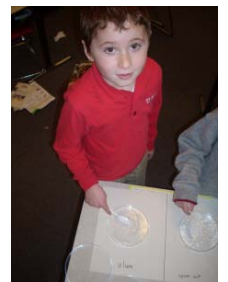
It Is Crystal Clear: First Grade Is Fun!
Amy Baylor, Teacher

The first grade children read a story about Wilson Bentley who was born in Vermont in 1865. Even though people in Vermont said that "snow is as common as dirt," Snowflake Bentley thought it was special and beautiful. He worked his whole life photographing snowflakes because he said that "photographing snowflakes would be his gift to the world."

From the story, the first grade students learned how a snowflake crystal is formed. From this idea, they explored the making of crystals from other things. They made snowflakes from Borax and "saturated" water. The snowflakes came out "sparkly."

The first grade students also did an experiment to find out which would make the best snowflake picture: alum, Epsom salt, or sugar. The students mixed each of these with water in a Petri dish. Then they drew a picture with this mixture. The next day, the students looked at their pictures using a magnifying glass and an "Eye Clops." The students agreed that the alum made the best snowflake picture, the Epsom salt made the best frosty picture, and the sugar made the best freezing rain picture.

The first grade children enjoyed showing these experiments to their parents and the other UHI families at the Science Fair.



Art at UHI
Sara Eneboe, Teacher

Our young students are encouraged to draw pictures using basic shapes. One design principle uses balance and a variety of sizes to create interest in the art. Snow people were created by the 4Y through kindergarten grades. Three dimensional effects were added with torn paper and layered fabric.

The second grade and third grade students used their drawing skills to depict an outdoor scene. Snow globes were the inspiration for this 3-D drawing. Children drew snowy scenes with cottages, barns, fences, mailboxes, trees and snow people. Their drawings were also drawn in reverse on the opposite side of “the globe.” A paper plate appears as a 3-dimensional illusion to the completed snow globe lesson. The right side of the brain is flexed when imaging a reverse shape and drawing it as recalled.

An exercise in symmetry is evident in the folk art style wooden snowflakes with button detail. These “flakes” are on display in the school’s lobby windows. The third and fourth grade students are so proud of their craft.

Grades six through eight enjoyed sculpting an animal-like photo holder base in clay. The principles of balance and cast shadow were explored. View these on the lobby table with fun pictures in the holders.

Future art classes include studies of famous paintings and self-portraits. Keep up the creative work!



Seeing Is Understanding
Carole Panunzio, Teacher

Although most cells cannot be seen without the use of a microscope, the seventh grade students at UHI recently had the opportunity to demonstrate their understanding of cell structure by building models of plant cells, animal cells, and prokaryotic cells (single celled organisms that do not have a nucleus).

The day the students returned from winter break, they participated in a performance based assessment in which they used every day materials such as modeling clay, pasta, jelly beans, and pipe cleaners to represent the cell structures appropriate to each type of cell.

After documenting that marbles were the nucleus, jelly beans the mitochondria, and pipe cleaners the cell wall and cell membrane, the students used their creative abilities to fashion their models.

The clay was first flattened and formed to represent the cytoplasm of the cell (the jelly-like substance in which the organelles float). The students then decided which structures belonged in each type of cell and carefully placed each of the items into the cell’s cytoplasm.

Although all three types of cells are similar in structure, there are some organelles that are specific to individual cell types.

During this activity the students reinforced the fact that plant cells have two more cell structures than animal cells and that bacteria and archaea (prokaryotes) have the fewest structures. This “warm-up” activity proved to be an exciting and creative start to 2010.





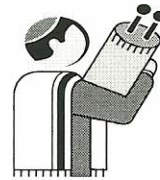
SHABBATON



For **GRADES 1 - 4**
February 20, 2010

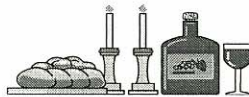
COME TO UHI
TO SPEND SHABBAT WITH YOUR FRIENDS

DAVENING



LUNCH

ACTIVITIES



ONEG SHABBAT

HAVDALAH



More information will follow.

UPCOMING JCC CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

SUNDAYS – R “FUN” DAYS
AT THE JCC!
12:00-4:00 PM
\$20.00/DAY
(6 CHILDREN MINIMUM)
PLEASE REGISTER WITH PAYMENT
DATES:
JANUARY 24 & 31
FEBRUARY 7 & 14
MARCH 7, 14, 28

PROGRAM WILL INCLUDE LUNCH-SWIM-BOWLING-ART
COOKING-GAMES & MORE!

Hold the Dates!!!

February 21 – JCC Purim Carnival
February 28 – Happy Purim!!!!
March 21 – I. Malcolm Pearlman Bowling Tournament

Art with Liz Rivet Continues.....

January 25; February 1-8-22
\$35.00 (4 student minimum)
4-5 PM ON MONDAYS

2 & 3 Year Old Programs Continue.....

Tuesdays 12-12:45 pm
Dance & Gymnastics \$5.00
Wednesdays 12-12:45 pm
Kosher Cooking (new!!!) \$5.00
Thursdays 12-12:45 pm
Art & Music \$5.00

SAVE THE DATE!!!

NO SCHOOL DAY FOR GRADES K-6TH

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15
9 AM-5 PM
TRIP TO BOUNCE UNIVERSITY IN ALLENTOWN
\$30.00 PER CHILD
9 AM-ARRIVE AT JCC FOR FREE SWIM, SNACK, BOWLING, GYM & ART
LUNCH INCLUDED
12:15 PM OFF TO BOUNCE UNIVERSITY
PICK UP AT JCC AT 5:00 PM
20 CHILD MINIMUM
REGISTER WITH PAYMENT AT THE JCC FRONT DESK WITH PAYMENT
BY FEBRUARY 8