



What's News @ Zareinu

From the Principal

What kind of masks do we wear? How do we hide our real selves from our friends, professional colleagues and acquaintances? One of the themes of the Purim story is the difference between appearance and reality. Esther hides her origins from the court. God acts behind the scenes rather than through overt miracles. Children (and adults) celebrate the holiday by wearing costumes and becoming other people. Some people drink to the point where they cannot tell the difference between Haman and Mordecai.

Even though Purim is one of our most joyous holidays, perhaps one of its messages is to remind us that what we see is not always what we get or the outer appearance does not necessarily reflect the inner person. We must be careful not to make hasty assumptions about others based on the way they look, talk or act.

At Zareinu we take this message seriously not just once a year but every single school day. We are able to see the potential, personality and wisdom of each child beyond his/her physical appearance, speech patterns or gait. We know that first impressions should not be lasting impressions and we are confident that every child in Zareinu has an important role to play in God's world.

February 2010

I look forward to seeing the array of colorful costumes in a few weeks. Esthers, Mordecais, fantastic creatures and cartoon characters will fill our hallways. We will marvel at the creativity of the parents and smile and laugh during the costume parades. But the real joy of Purim at Zareinu will be sharing the day with the real children, boys and girls, underneath the costumes and finery.

Have a happy Purim.

Shabbos Candle Lighting Times

February 12th – 5:25pm

February 19th – 5:34pm

February 26th – 5:43pm



Infant Intervention Program

It is January 2010 and we are certainly not complaining about the weather. Although there has not been an abundance of snow, the Infant Program has been knee deep into our winter and clothing theme. As you look around our busy classroom, the children can be seen finger painting and easel painting individual pictures of hats, mittens, coats and boots. A mural of a snowman decorates our shelf unit with a variety of crayon and marker strokes and



various sensory materials from stickers to rubber and felt pieces. Our velcro boy and girl posters with clothing items enable each child the opportunity to practice "pushing" and "pulling" the individual articles as staff/parents label each piece to encourage the development of receptive language. There are a variety of matching games of realistic photos and "Picsyms" to encourage pre-academic skills as well.

All our children are progressing beautifully and we thank our parents/grandparent for their continued support and commitment. Nadav is our budding Picasso as he dips the brush into the paint, covers the entire area of the paper and then uses his hands to finish off his creation. Seth has become quite the little person having just celebrated his first birthday and can be seen shaking his shaker at circle time and moving his hands through all his favourite sensory materials. Monika has started to take steps and beams with pride as she stacks up to five blocks to build a tower. Kayla has begun walking and adores our pretend play area as she feeds the dolls and washes them in our waterplay bin. We look forward to seeing the triplets when they return in February.

In December, we said good bye to Jonah as he graduated from our program. We will certainly miss his cheery personality and wish him all the best for his future. We recently welcomed Shirley, a CDA student who assists on both Tuesday and Thursdays.

We are delighted to watch our children make gains and look forward to their continued successes. We have begun our *Tu B'Shvat* art work and before you know it our room will include an array of Purim tasks and activities.

Preschool 1 – The Sunbeams

This past month of January, we stuck together, wanting to warm ourselves through winter weather. We brought snow into our classroom to see it melt, and threw snowballs at our friends to see how cold it felt.

We discovered the difference between gloves and mittens, while acting out the nursery rhyme, "The 3 Little Kittens", and a yummy activity of rainbow cake baking. It is always fun, since we love eating galore, chips, pretzels, cake, snow cones and more!

Morah Rochelle teaches at which point of the Jewish year are in, with the upcoming holiday of Tu B'shvat.

Wishing Chag Sameach to you and your family. Hope your year will be faithful and plentiful. So that's about it!

Thank you for all, love the Sunbeam Crew!!

(By: Tzippy Uhr)

Preschool 2 – The Busy Bees

It's hard to believe that January is over. The Busy Bees class has been very busy learning all about winter. Snow, snowman, gloves, hat, jacket, scarf, cold and ice, are some of the winter words that we have been learning to read. In Jennifer's music circle we sing about our feelings and the things we do when it is cold outside.



We also practice putting on all of our outdoor clothing. With our feet covered in white paint, we slipped and slid all over the place! We made snowmen and snowwomen. Cotton balls and Epsom make our winter board look like it's covered in snow and ice. Mora Rochelle has been teaching us about the weekly parsha and Tu B'shvat. We love



attending the parsha party every week. Our favourite part is the special treats we get at the end. We also had some special visits from Leila the dog. It's so much fun getting to play with her, throwing the ball to for her to catch, patting her and getting to brush her fur. We can't wait for her next visit!!!

Zalmy, Eden, Matthew, Yonah, Daniel, Rachel, Noa, Boruch, Shai, Rolf, and all of the teachers in room 102 welcome our new friend Yoni to our class. We can't wait to get to know him better and share in many new and exciting experiences. We look forward to learning about our families in the coming month. We will also be learning about Purim. So, start thinking about what costume you are going to be wearing at our Purim party next month.

Junior Class

It may be cold outside but students in the Junior elementary class are busy with energy inside the classroom. We are learning



about the seven days of creation. So far, we have learned about the first four days including "Yom and Layla" (day/night), "Shamayim and Mayim" (sky/water), "Aretz" (land), "Yareach, Shemesh, and Kochavin" (moon, sun, and stars).

In Hebrew, we are being taught about the "Yud, mem, aleph, kaph, shin, and lamed". With the help of our wonderful teachers, we are creating beautiful abstract art projects representing each day of creation. Each art project is uniquely made up of materials of all different textures. What a wonderful tactile experience!

We are finishing up our unit on shapes where we had the chance to construct people made from squares, circles, and triangles. As a sweet



ending to this unit, we baked sugar cookies in all different shapes.



As *Tu B'shvat* approaches, we are learning how people are similar to trees because trees make fruit and people



do mitzvahs. Our teachers are introducing delicious fruits to us and we had the chance to build our own fruit trees. We look forward to celebrating the birthday of the trees!

Senior Class

Coming back after the winter break saw an easy transition back to learning. Everyone was well rested and keen to get back, with lots of news about the time off.



In the build up to Tu B'Shvat we have been investigating the different dynamics of the tree. Each person in our class is investigating their own research topic of the importance of trees.

We tried to plant Lima beans, but we are not quiet sure if this is the best time of year to see the green leaves sprout.

Reading is gaining in popularity all the time. Our class library was well visited and many enjoyable stories read.

In math we have extended our vocabulary tremendously learning all about 3D shapes. We also had to debate the difference between a square and a rectangle.

Most children type on a daily basis in our classroom. We have noticed a familiarity with

technology that has contributed towards their speed and accuracy at the keyboard.

We really enjoyed the amazing performance that Julie from the Toronto Symphony Orchestra gave us on her harp. She made it look so easy and a pleasure to listen to.

Our highlight of the month is our Paws to Read team Debra and Leila, coming in to our classroom. Leila is a specially trained dog working in a therapeutic session, 'listening' to the children read. On their first visit into the classroom Debra showed us the importance of speech. Voice commands had Leila doing the most amazing tricks. On future visits each child had and will continue to have their own special one on one time with Debra and Leila.

In Hebrew morning classes, we were very busy. We are learning about *Tu B'Shvat* and the *shivat haminim* – the way we say them in Hebrew and English.

Each *parsha* is so exciting to us, thanks to Morah Susan. The drawings make the Parsha come so alive. In our middot class, we learned the importance of saying the *emet-truth*. We know we must always run away from saying a lie.

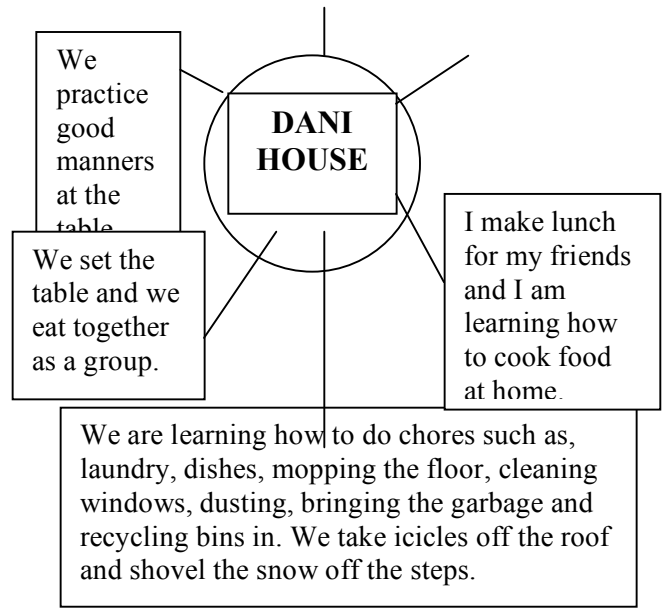
We all love the *Shem Tov* Club meetings. They are so exciting and we look forward to them all week. Thank you Dr. Parker!

Boys' High School - Life-skills Program

Dear Zareinu newsletter readers,
We would like to share with you some of the things we are learning at DANI's House.

We have cooked lots of yummy lunches. My favourite is macaroni and cheese and salad.

I'm learning to be careful with a knife and a hot stove when cook in the



“I feel happy every Thursday when we go to DANI house. It is my favourite day of the week.”

“I would feel sad if we stopped going to DANI's House because it's a very nice place.”

From the students of the Yeshiva Bais Shalom Life Skills,

Tuvi, Shmueli, Udi, Eden, Logan, Austin

Boys' High School – Vocational Program

J.V.S (Jewish Vocational Services) and Yeshivas Bais Shalom are now another year older thanks to the New Year. Five out of six students have secured their placements; the sixth student has an interview next week!

One of the highlights was near the end of January when a J.V.S staff came from another location and taught job safety. Students loved the teacher which helped them quickly get involved in the subject.

Students continue to learn soft skills and complete a weekly reflection sheet. By the way, Simcha has learned some new and useful communication skills he's already put to good use. See you next month!

Girls' High School

We have just returned from a one week winter break and feel invigorated, refreshed and ready to begin our studies again.

Before the break, we took a class trip to the Art Gallery of Ontario, after learning all about Egypt. Our bulletin board, created by Guitti and Leiba is very informative. It shows many aspects of the Egyptian way of life which gives us a greater appreciation of the Torah readings for this month which are all about the Jewish exodus from Egypt.

For Tu'Bshvat, we took a trip to the local gardening store and purchased seeds and planted them. They are growing nicely on our window sill. We also talked about how people are similar to trees. We talked about the words, 'compare' and 'contrast' and did a few exercises to illustrate these ideas.

Leiba has taken a few art lessons with a professional art teacher who has volunteered to visit our classroom and she has been developing nicely. Her masterpieces hang on our walls. Guitti has been writing some short compositions which are posted on our classroom wall. Both girls have been enjoying our weekly yoga sessions with Ashleigh.

This semester, we are looking forward to continuing our unit on the 39 *melachos of Shabbas*, creating a picture book using the internet. In science, we will be studying the four different systems which create the human body. A trip to the Science Center is anticipated.

Purim is just around the corner and then of course Pesach is not far off. Until then, we

will be working hard and enjoying ourselves in the process.

Announcements

Purim Cards are available at 10 cards for \$36. Please spread the word to your family and friends!

Many corporations have Matching Giving Programs: employers that will match one's donation to the charity of his/her choice. Ask your friends and family if their employers have a Matching Giving Program to direct funds to Zareinu.

Also ask your family and friends if there is a United Way Program in place at their work places, an employee can direct their donations to Zareinu.

Donations

Zareinu School was the lucky recipient of a Sony Playstation 2 game console from a generous donor. The Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy Departments are very keen to try this potential therapeutic intervention. There are a few therapeutic benefits working with the specific video game. It works on visual attention, cause and effect, sitting and standing balance, upper extremity range of motion as well as grading movement and targeting skills. It also can be used both individually and within group settings.

We are also proud to announce a donation of a powerchair. Motion Specialties – a special needs mobility equipment company – came to Zareinu to set up our new chair and teach OTs and PTs its function and maintenance. It is a great opportunity to receive equipment donations such as a powerchair since it provides some of our students with the opportunity to try a powerchair over an extended period of time, developing visual, sensory and motor skills, interacting with

friends and enjoying movement all within their own volition. For some students, this is their first opportunity to experience mobility allowing them to explore their environment ON THEIR OWN!

Parents, feel free to come in and speak to us about our new and exciting addition to the Zareinu Family!

To see the POWER of the Power chair, check out the video at this link:

<http://www.sciencentral.com/video/2009/05/08/baby-motor-chairs/>

FROM THE THERAPISTS

Thank you very much for your generous donations!!

Social Work Department

Reminder to parents regarding summer planning

Although the cold weather is still with us, it is that time of year where plans for summer camp need to be made in order to ensure your child a spot.

If you require any assistance with this process, or in finding a 1:1 worker, please contact the social work department at 905-738-5542 ext 307 and leave a message on that line. A social work team member will respond at their earliest convenience.

Music Therapy Department

In the dreary winter months we keep our spirit high by making lots of great music.

Once again, we are grateful to the Tauba Spiro Foundation for the donation of three Preludes concerts for our children this year. This January we welcomed Julie Spring with her



Sarah Weitz who welcomes a granddaughter into her family in December

Announcements/Future Events

Purim Chocolate Bar Sale
Please contact Shirit Oren at shirit@sympatico.ca

Winter Break & Family Day
Friday February 12 & Monday February 15
(school closed)

Purim Costume Parade
Monday March 1, 2010

Zareinu Golf Tournament
May 25, 2010

harp charmed children and staff alike with the dulcet tones of that special instrument. Julie is the principal harpist for the TSO and she performed music of many different eras and styles. It is wonderful to watch the awestruck faces of even some of our youngest children as they listen intently to the beautiful music.

Of course, we don't just listen to music in music therapy – we like to make music too. It may be cold outside but we have been snug inside singing our pretend songs about winter fun and activities. In the preschool, the 'Jolly Snowman' has been a big favourite this month especially as he melts into a puddle at the end of the song.

January has also been a good month to start exploring emotional expression through music. Children singing and playing 'happy', 'sad', 'angry' and 'frightened' music can be heard all the way down the hall many days of the week. Although our children at Zareinu do not always have the words to express themselves that does not mean they do not have something important to say!

Wishing everyone a short winter,
All the best from the music therapy department

Speech and Language Therapy Department

We've had a busy January. At the beginning of the month we had a new Communicative Disorders Assistant (CDA) join our department. Many of you may remember her as she was a former educational assistant here at Zareinu. Shirley Tsivian will be working with many of the children during her placement in January and February. She has already been very helpful

in creating communication books for several of the students.

As part of our continuing education efforts, during our last department meeting we discussed a recent article entitled: When "Simon Says" Doesn't Work: Alternatives to Imitation for Facilitating Early Speech Development published in the May 2009 issue of the American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology. This article presented evidence-based research supporting many of the techniques and strategies currently in use by our department with the children of Zareinu. As always we strive to offer our clients treatment that is current and backed by scientific research.

We hope you are enjoying our mild weather even though it might be harder to teach kids winter vocabulary when there is no snow on the ground!

Occupational Therapy Department

The Occupational Therapists have been busily providing groups for every class throughout each day of the week. Swim program with Masha is the main group program on Mondays. A "Snoezelen" Program was introduced and incorporated into the water therapy, where we added relaxing music, lights low and soft coloured lights for relaxation. Throughout the week, Karolyn and Behnaz continue to provide sensory, fine motor and relaxation groups. Ashleigh leads the High School Boys' Life Skills at the DANI House, where they learn domestic life skills and maintenance such as cleaning, and cooking, and is followed with a hygiene course.

Masha is involved in a Wood Workshop course once a week with the High School Boys' Vocational skills class and some students of the Boys' Life Skills class. They have made a tool box, a *shtender* – a lecturn. The Boys' class is now working on a model catapult based on an historical model. Masha mentioned that they have learned how to select the correct screws and screwdrivers, hammers and nails according to the usage. The OT also had a lesson about body mechanics and dynamics for working with these materials and the importance of planning, organizing and accuracy in measuring and working. The students have had the opportunity to use both power and manual equipment. The program will continue on and move into focusing on other household tasks, like changing light bulbs, furnace filters, and fuses. Great work High School Boys!



Ashleigh and Masha lead an art workshop with Melanie Seigel for the High School Boys, which usually takes place alternating weeks. The class has been working on creating templates/models of paper mosaic pictures to be used as examples when they lead an art group for the other high school boys class. They are also planning and preparing for a workshop that they will be helping to facilitate at the Bernard Betel Center on Monday March 1st. It is an intergenerational art project of making creative Tzedeka Boxes to go on display at Baycrest Center. The boys will be the leaders of tables comprised of senior citizens and elementary school children. They need to plan, order, and organize the supplies needed, arrange the room (tables and chairs), prepare snacks, communicate with participants, and clean up. The students also need to figure out timelines, and delegate responsibilities....A million life skills tasks. It is great work and quite an enjoyment!!

