



Good Beginnings Last a Lifetime

Welcome Back

What a wonderful start to the school year!! We have children excited to be here, really devoted staff and very supportive parents. What more could a director ask but of course I do ask for more.

- I ask that we get to know the whole child, their strengths, learning styles and their unique personalities. That is why our classes and staff/child ratio are so low. It benefits the children and the staff who work so closely with them.
- I ask that the staff support learning opportunities. That is why we have supervisors for each age level and we have regularly scheduled team meetings. All staff in each age group attend these meetings. Their input is invaluable. We tailor the curriculum to meet the needs of the children and can vary from year to year and class to class.
- I ask that the staff prepare conferences that are meaningful and informative. That is why our observations and assessments are so detailed and take so long to complete and prepare.
- I ask our staff to participate in continuing education workshops and use their new found knowledge in the classroom. That is why our staff just completed a series of workshops on children's learning styles. The workshops were given by our very own Amy Denkin and Paula Shavell. They were awarded a grant from the Lasko foundation in order to do this. They were required to attend a series of classes throughout the year and then present a series of workshops to our staff. It was very hard work and rewarding work for them. The proof of their success was in how well they were received by staff.
- I ask that we think a little bit out of the box and do some things that we haven't done before. That is why we were open for Sukkot and Simchat Torah.

I ask a lot of our staff. After all, these first five years are the most important in development. What is really true, however, is that I do not have to ask. Everyone on staff is just as passionate and committed to these children as I am.

Barbara Cohen- Pre School Director

Book Corner

The PJ Library® program supports families in their Jewish journey by sending Jewish-content books and music on a monthly basis to children from age six months to eight years old. Visit www.pjlibrary.com to sign up. Check out our book suggestions for Chanukah.

The Chanukah Guest by Eric Kimmel

Hanukkah Lights by David Martin

Happy Hanukkah by Linda Glaser

*David Grover - Chanukah at Grover's
Corner Music - PBS*

Taste Buds- Be'teavon!

HONEY CHICKEN

Despite its name, this chicken is not too sweet. The olive oil, soy sauce, garlic and pepper temper the honey perfectly.

Prep Time: 5 minutes

Cook Time: 1 hour

Chill Time: none

1 chicken, about 3 1/2 pounds, cut into 8 pieces
(can also use cutlets or pack of wings)

3/4 cup honey

1/4 cup soy sauce

1/4 cup olive oil

1 Tbsp garlic powder

1 tsp black pepper

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees F. Lightly grease a 9 x 13-inch pan with non-stick cooking spray.
2. Rinse chicken, pat dry and place in prepared pan.
3. In a small bowl, mix together honey, soy sauce, olive oil, garlic powder and pepper and pour over chicken.
4. Bake, uncovered, at 375 degrees F for 1 hour until slightly browned.

Yield: 4 servings. Multiplies well for a crowd.
Freezes well.

TEACHER FEATURE

A tribute to our wonderful educators - take a moment to get to know our staff! In this feature we ask teachers how long they have been teaching and their favorite children's book.



Miss Donna:
Taught 7 years prior to Shir Ami. Substituted for 1 year and this is my 6th year teaching at Shir Ami.

Charlotte's Web



Miss Amy:
Has been teaching for 12 years at Shir Ami (plus 2 years subbing at Abrams and Shir Ami).

Lamont the Lonely Monster



Miss Sara :
This is my twenty-first year teaching and I love it!

Rainbow Fish



Miss Pam:
Has been teaching for 24 years.

The Giving Tree



Miss Amy:
This is the start of my 14 year teaching.

Harold and the Purple Crayon and Love You Forever



Miss Sue:
Has worked at Shir Ami since fall of 1996. In class for nine years.....office since then.

Love You Forever by Robert Munsch.



Miss Jill:
Has been teaching for 10 years at Shir Ami.

The Very Hungry Caterpillar



Miss Laurie :
Has been a teacher for 21 years.

The Runaway Bunny



Miss Teresa:
Has been a
teacher for 16
years.

The Ugly Dudding



Miss Lynn:
Has been a
teacher for
22 years.

Punk Farm



Miss Sharyn:
Has been a
teacher for 10
years.

If You Give A Pig
a Pancake



Miss Esti:
Has been a
teacher for 17
years.

Dr. Suess books



Miss Paula:
Has been a teacher for
30 years, this is her
10th year as the
Leaming Spedalist for
Shir Ami ELC.

The original WINNIE-
THE-POOH by A. A.
Milne.

"I have loved Pooh
Bear and all of his
friends since I was a
child".



Miss Beth:
Has been
teaching at Shir
Ami for 8 yrs.

The Giving Tree



Miss Sheryl:
Has been a teacher
for 6 years.

The Giving Tree



Miss Ronnie:
Has been a teacher
for 25 years.

The Matzah That
Brought Papa Home



Miss Beth :
Has been a teacher
for 6 years

Where The Wild
Things Are



Miss Nicole:
Has been a
teacher for 8
years.

Brown Bear
Brown Bear



Miss Robyn:
Has been a
teacher for 15
years.

The Very
Hungry
Caterpillar



Miss Linda:
Has been a
teacher for 13
years.

Chicken Little



Miss Joanne:
Has been teaching
for 30 years.

The Giving Tree



Miss Linda:
Has been a teacher
for 17 years and
only at Shir-Ami!!!

Are You My
Mother.... by Dr
Sues and anything
SEUSS!



Miss Alyssa:
Has been teaching at
Shir Ami for 8 years.

There's A Monster At
the End Of The Book



Miss Rhonda:
Has been a teacher
for 9 years at Shir
Ami.

The Giving Tree.



Miss Sue:
Has been a teacher
for 18 years.

Love You Forever.



Miss Rachel:
Has been a teacher for
10 yrs.

Love You Forever



Miss Nancy:
Has been a teacher for 4
years.

Beatrice's Goat



Miss Diane:
Has been a teacher
as long as I have
been working at Shir
Ami.

The Giving Tree

Alexander and the
Terrible, Horrible,
No Good, Very Bad
Day



Miss Sandi:
Has been a
teacher for 22
years.

Goodnight Moon



Miss Nadine:
Has been a
teacher for 9
years .

Goodnight Moon



Miss Sharon (The
Chicken Lady): Has
been a teacher for 23
yrs.

Hershel and The
Chanukah Goblin

The Passover Parrot

Who Wouldn't Take a
Bath

I also love love love ice
cream!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



Miss Denni:
Has been a teacher
for 20 years.

Goodnight Moon



Miss Debbie:
Has been a
teacher for
21 years.

Olivia



Miss Karen:
Has been a teacher for 23
yrs.

Where The Wild Things Are



Miss Hope:
Has been teaching
for 5 yrs

I Love You Stinky
Face



Miss Tracy:
Has been a teacher
for 15 yrs

Always Wear Clean
Underwear



Miss Etta:
Has been a teacher
for 19 years.

Good Night Moon



Miss Ilene:
Has been a
teacher for 20
years.

But No Elephants

Classroom news



Bright Beginnings News:

WOW!! Already November! The Bright Beginning children have adjusted nicely to school and to the classroom routine. They love to sing the circle song and our snack song. Art is a big hit. Every child wants to be first in line at the art table. Playground time is another favorite of these precious children. Each child's personality is emerging and it is so much fun to see this stage of development. Thanks for sharing your children with us.

2's News:

It's official!! The two's are all settled in and having a ball. We have been learning all about the holidays, starting with Sukkot and Yom Kippur and now we are heading into Thanksgiving and Chanukah -If you can believe it!! We have also been learning about autumn and how the leaves change colors and fall off the trees. We took several nature walks to prove this, the children love all of the songs Miss Parker has been teaching them. As always, the kids love circle, snack and outside time. Our farm unit is next. Wait until you see how they milk a cow!!

3's News:

Our special breakfast in the Sukkah was a smashing success. The children really enjoyed all the preparation leading up to the main event. Our invited guests had so much fun with the children that they did not want to leave. We have taken advantage of the beautiful weather by going on a nature walk. We explored with our five senses by listening to outside sounds, looking for leaves and their changing colors, feeling the different textures and enjoying the scents of the season.

Pre- K News:

In addition to our units on whales, Fall Holidays, five senses and owls, our Pre K children have just loved the weekly music program that are Pre K staff developed for them. Perhaps you have noticed them spontaneously bursting out in song while either playing in the classroom or walking through the halls of Shir Ami. The children have also picked up the many Hebrew words we have taught them and are using them quite appropriately. We are sooo proud of them!!!

Kindergarten News:

The Kindergarten classes are enjoying all of our special fall activities. They are learning many new words by reading our morning story sentences and participating in small group reading instruction. Everyone loved seeing our twelve baby chicks hatch from their shells, and learning about how the incubator and brooder box are used. Our Apple unit was a great success with "Switch Day" when we all switched rooms three times to participate in the apple activities with four different teachers. For the children, the highlight of this unit is baking our yummy apple pizza with all of the different types of apples.



Upcoming Important Dates:

November:

- Monthly Pretzel Sale- more detailed information to come in your child's back pack.
- November 9-10th: Wrapping for Chanukah Secret Shop
- November 16-17th: ELC Chanukah Secret Shop (for preschool children)
- November 21st: 10am social hall: Sisterhood Chanukah Bazaar

December:

- December 1st: 1st night of Chanukah
- December 3rd: Chanukah Synaplex- open non members and members
- December 6th: 2's and 3's Chanukah Play and Party
- December 7th: Pre- K's Chanukah Play and Party
- December 8th: Kindergarten Chanukah Play and Party

- Don't forget our annual mitzvah collections sponsored by the preschool committee. This year we will be collecting:
 - used books to be donated to the READS Foundation in Philadelphia.
 - food, blankets, animal collars, leashes, dog toys for the local SPCA- let's not forget our furry friends.

You can start sending in items at any time or drop at preschool office.

School Calendar:

November:

- November 23rd- 26th: Thanksgiving Break

December:

- December 21st- 22nd: Parent Teacher Conferences
- December 23st- December 31st : Winter Break





Thoughts for the Holiday:



During the eight days and nights of Chanukah, we celebrate the triumph of the light of Torah. As we focus on the purity that the Maccabees returned to our Temple, we could use these eight holy days to focus on our Jewish values in our every day lives.

1. Speak kindly to everyone you encounter.
2. Save some energy at the end of the day for special people in your lives.
3. Overlook the little things that you normally find irritating.
4. Praise your children every day.
5. Remember to smile and laugh throughout the day.
6. Make Chanukah cookies or other activities together with the children and family.
7. Learn to focus on the positive – glass is always half full.
8. Focus on the Sabbath of Chanukah as a special day for your family.

Most of all remember to feel the warmth of the menorah's lights reflected in each member of your family.



Winter Break Activities:

Menorah Family Workshop: December 5-December 12, 2010

Family members will work together to create a one-of-a-kind menorah out of clay. The first class you will use slab, coil and extruded clay to build your masterpieces. The second class you will colorfully glaze your bisque-fired menorahs so that they are ready to be picked up in time for the Festival of Lights and your Hanukkah celebrations. Open to ages 6 and up with an adult.

http://www.mainlineart.org/education_class_details.php?id=3141&cont=%2Feducation_class_es.php%3Fclasstype%3Dfamilyworkshops%26semesterid%3D36

Buckingham Friends Winter Art Classes: www.bfs.org

Babes in Toyland Holiday Spectacular- Bucks County Playhouse

With new, fresh music, this classic tale will wow your audiences, both young and old. The villainous Barnaby has fallen in love with sweet Mistress Mary Quite Contrary. If he can't buy her love, then he'll force her to marry him by threatening to foreclose on her mother, the poor Widow Piper. Mary already has her heart set on marrying Barnaby's nephew Alan—but not if Barnaby can help it! He hires two bumbling ruffians to do away with Alan, but Alan returns to Mother Goose Land amidst much rejoicing. Mary journeys to the mysterious Toyland through the dangerous Spider Forest. But wait! Barnaby hasn't given up, and he herds the whole gang of Mother Goose Land characters to Toyland in pursuit of Mary. There we encounter the magical mystery of Toyland as we meet the Master Toymaker and his quirky assistants Grumio and Marmaduke. This charming musical tale through the worlds of Mother Goose Land and Toyland will delight your audiences year-round.

<http://www.buckscountyplayhouse.com>



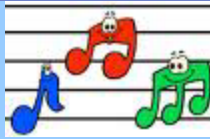
Some fun ideas:

Bowling

Ice Skating

Rock Climbing Gym

Story time at your local library or bookstore.



Want to learn the words to some of our new songs? Here you go! Now you can sing along with your children as they bring home some wonderful melodies they are learning in school. Enjoy!

Tzedakah for Shabbat

Melody: Ba Ba Black Sheep

Pennies in the pishkah
Pennies in the pot
We bring it for Tzedakah
Right before Shabbat

Counting up the nickels
Pennies, quarters too
It's good to help others
That's what we do

One for the homeless who live on the streets
One for the little boy without enough to eat
One for the little girl who learns in special ways
Of course, some for Isreal
And that's just why we say....

Pennies in the pishkah
Pennies in the pot
We bring it for Tzedakah
Right before Shabbat

Challah In The Oven

Melody: Raffi's 2nd song on Baby Beluga-Biscuits in the Oven.

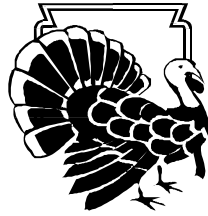
Challah in the oven
Gonna watch it rise (x3)
Right before my very eyes
Hey Hey Hey Hey

When it get's ready
Gonna jump and shout (x3)
Roll the dough and turn it out
Hey Hey Hey Hey

Gonna clap my hands
And stomp my feet (x3)
Shabbat Shabbat is really neat!
Hey Hey Hey Hey



BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION : The Pre School Committee has begun a new on-going activity. We are going to be collecting the Box Tops for Education sections that appear on many food and household products. For every box top that we send to the company, we receive \$.10. It is a very simple process where you cut these sections off of boxes and send them to school. Two of our staff members, Amy Denkin and Nancy Doyle have volunteered to be our co-coordinators.



SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

in conjunction with the

Shir Ami Sharing is Caring Committee and the Shir Ami Tikkun Olam Committee

Seventh Annual Thanksgiving FOOD DRIVE FOR THE NEEDY

Please donate Thanksgiving food for the needy
KOSHER OR NON-KOSHER FOOD IS ACCEPTABLE

Bring your donations to the
Shir Ami Gift Shop
9AM – Noon on Monday, November 15, 2010

SUGGESTIONS

Frozen Turkeys- Stuffing
Canned Soup
Canned Yams - Canned Gravy
Soda – Canned Juice - Applesauce - Cranberry Sauce
Non-perishable Packaged Snacks
Tea - Coffee
Supermarket gift certificates

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR HELPING
THE NEEDY IN OUR COMMUNITY

For more information call: Elaine Shapiro 215-741-3960
or email eshapiro2@verizon.net

let's celebrate!

MAKING CONNECTIONS

Hanukkah at Oxford Valley Mall

Sunday, December 5, 2010 • 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Location: Courtyard Space (front of the former Boscov's store)



For more information contact:
Liz Gellis - Director,
Kehillah of Bucks County
215.579.9300

All are welcome!

- Craft projects for kids
- Performance by David Jack at 3 p.m.
- Raffle basket of holiday goodies

E.J. Kremer









Pre School Committee

The preschool committee has been busy at work planning some wonderful events to help raise funds for the school. Please take a moment to become familiar with our upcoming events and meet our parent volunteers. We have attached a list of all committees and contact information if you'd like get involved.

For the 2011-2012 school year we will be looking for parents to volunteer for committees.

Please email Barbara or Melody if interested.



Shir Ami Food Pantry



Please help us replenish our food pantry by having your child bring in food or dropping off near synagogue office.

Donation bins located near office

Check us out on the web- view our school calendar and

don't forget to visit our facebook group page. 



KUDOS Corner...

Special thank you to Jessica Schaeffer, the entire ELC staff and parent volunteers for your fabulous help with the back to school picnic.

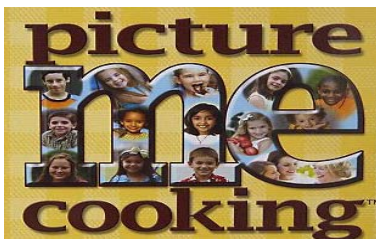
Stephanie Cramer, Diana Cohen, the parent volunteers and the ELC staff for all their effort in getting our wonderful lunch program begun and running smoothly.

Lori Seigel for running our Latke Sale.

Mindy Mendleson and her committee for their efforts for our Secret Shop event.

To our ELC families for your constant support!

Barbara Blumberg & Melody Hassid



Picture Me Cooking Cook Books:

The Pre School Committee will be offering a wonderful book for your own use or to give as a gift. Picture Me Cooking is a combination cookbook, photo album and activity book all in one. Cook with your children, take photos of who they cook with and what they create, then slide the pictures into the provided pockets and you have an heirloom in the making. A detailed flyer about this sale will be sent home with your child.