

3/14/21 Ketah Bet Newsletter

Dear Parents,

Last week we introduced the holiday of Passover, with Moses as a child until he grew up and found out he was Jewish. He left Egypt and became a shepherd in Midian. On top of a mountain he saw a burning bush, went up and he heard the words of G-d telling him to go to Pharoah and tell him to "Let my people go".

G-d punished the Egyptians with 10 plagues and finally Pharoah said the Jewish people could leave. They crossed the Reed Sea to freedom. We continued the Passover story today, listening to the Four Questions that we ask during the Seder, and looking at the items on the Seder plate. We discussed the importance of retelling the story of the Exodus from Egypt to remind us never to forget what the Jewish people went through.

I have attached three worksheets which I would like the children to complete by next week so we can discuss them in class. I would appreciate you helping the children if needed.

B'Shalom
Morah Rhonda

PASSOVER PLATE

Connect the word with the correct part in the seder plate.



bitter
herb

lamb
bone

egg

salt
water

matzah charoset parsley

WHAT WE HAVE AT THE SEDER



Haggadah



charoset



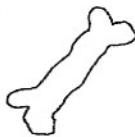
afikoman



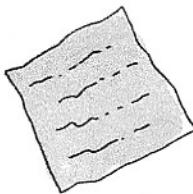
bitter herb



salt water



lamb bone



matzah



egg



parsley

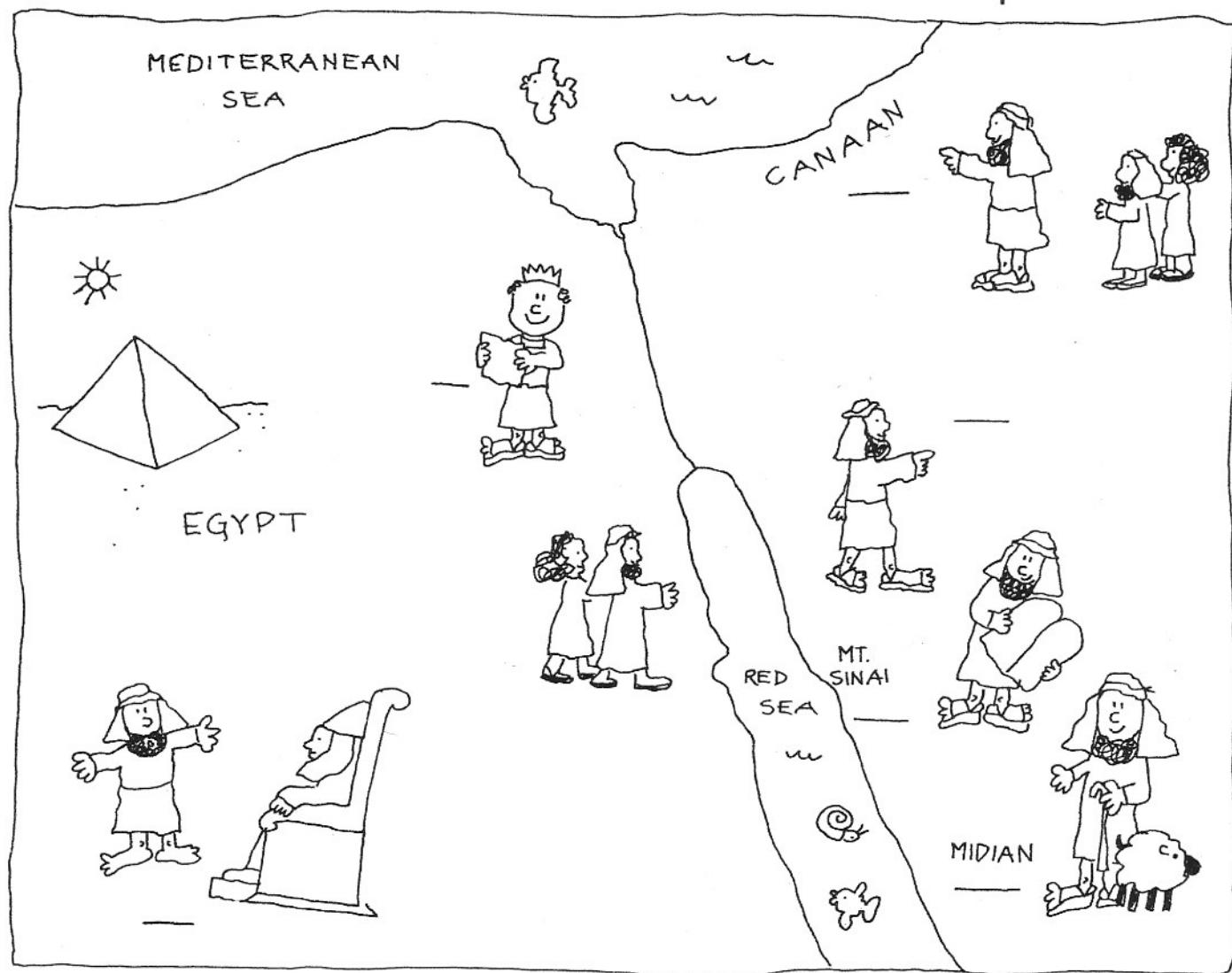


wine cup

Study these pictures. Then fill in the blanks.

1. The Jews didn't have time to bake bread. _____
2. It is the dessert matzah. _____
3. The Jews roasted a lamb. _____
4. A slave's life was hard. _____
5. Jews used cement when they were slaves. _____
6. It is springtime. _____
7. This book tells the story of Passover. _____
8. We hope Elijah will come. _____
9. We remember the tears of the Jewish slaves. _____
10. It is a special holiday reminder. _____

Fill in the blank the number of the sentence that describes each picture.



1. Moses was brought up as a prince.
2. Moses became a shepherd.
3. Moses said to Pharaoh, "Let my people go."
4. Moses led the Jews out of Egypt.
5. Moses received the Ten Commandments at Mt. Sinai.
6. Moses led the Jews to the Promised Land.

2/7/21 Ketah Bet Newsletter

Dear Ketah Bet Parents,

We concluded our study of Purim. The children know all about the characters, and how Queen Esther helped save all the Jews of Shushan. We discussed the Megillat Esther, which is written on a scroll and tells the story of Purim. Every time Hamans' name is mentioned, we shake a grogger, to drown out his name.

The children learned how Purim got its name. When Haman needed to decide when to kill the Jews, he drew a "lot", which in Hebrew means "pur". Haman picked the 14th day in the month of Adar, according to the Jewish calendar, but in the secular calendar, it is the 26th of February.

We rewatched a video of the story and listened to a song about Purim using pop songs. The children really enjoyed it.

As a reminder, please have the children complete the Purim Word Search I sent to you last week, as I will go over it with the children on the 28th. If you need another copy, please let me know through the TBS office.

Enjoy your time off and stay safe and healthy.

B'Shalom
Morah Rhonda

1/31/2021 Ketah Bet Newsletter

Dear Parents,

We had a wonderful class on Sunday. As always, we did our morning routine, doing the attendance, the days of the week in Hebrew and reciting the Sh'ma.

The holiday of Purim will be here very soon, February 26th-27th, / 13th-14th day of the month of Adar. I began by telling the children the story of Purim and introducing the important characters that make the story so exciting. Purim is a very happy holiday where we dress up in costumes, make groggers to drown out Hamans' name when we read the Megillat Esther, and remember how brave Esther was for saving the Jewish people.

I am attaching a Purim Word Search for the children to do over the next two weeks. We have class this Sunday 2/7, then our next class will be on 2/28. I will go over the word search with them on that Sunday. Also on that day, the school will be having a virtual carnival for all classes. The children can dress up in costumes of their choice, hopefully related to Purim. It should be lots of fun!!!

Looking forward to this Sunday.

B'Shalom,
Morah Rhonda

A Purim Word Hunt

Find the words listed below hidden in the grid of letters.
(One example is done for you). Words appear horizontally, vertically
and diagonally. The leftover letters spell out a sentence.

Adar	festival	mishloach
Ahasuerus	gallows	manot
banquet	gragger	Mordecai
bow	Haman	Persia
charity	Hamantaschen	plot
costume	Jew	Purim
decree	king	queen
drinking	lots	Shushan
Esther	mask	spiel
feast	Megillah	Vashti



1/24/21 Ketah Bet Newsletter

Dear Ketah Bet Parents,

We continued with a lesson on Tu B'Shvat טו בשבט, the Jewish new year for the trees. Tu B'Shvat טו בשבט is a great time to reflect on the ways we interact with, benefit from, and celebrate nature. The students and I talked about what the trees gives us (fruits, shade, homes for animals, paper) and how important they are to the environment.

Tu B'Shvat טו בשבט literally means “the 15th of the month of Shvat.” In the time of the Bible, this was the day when each tree was considered one year older. This was important to determine when you were allowed to harvest the fruit from the tree. We talked and sang the blessing over the fruits. Some of the special fruits we eat on Tu B'Shvat are pomegranates, figs, dates, apricots, almonds and raisins. We eat these fruits during the Tu B'Shvat Sedar.

Cantor Lebowitz joined our class today to sing some songs for the holiday. The children had lots of fun singing with her!!!

Looking forward to seeing the children next week. Stay safe and healthy.

Morah Rhonda

Dear Ketah Bet Parents,

Our day began with the morning routine, welcoming all, taking attendance singing the Sh'ma and reciting the days of the week b'ivrit.

We continued the virtual ShalomLearning curriculum with a lesson on ometz lev אָמֶץ לֵב. Ometz lev, the Hebrew term for courage, literally means “strengthening a heart.” This week’s unit explored ways that we can strengthen ourselves before doing things that require courage. Students learned that confidence is when they believe in themselves and their abilities. Sometimes, things that may seem challenging or hard and because they seem so difficult, children may not want to try. It can be scary to try something they think they may not be good at.

I asked the children to think of a time when they tried something that at first seemed hard, but they were brave, they tried and tried, and finally succeeded. Some of the children were able to come up with very good responses. Each of them has the ability and the courage, they just have to work on their confidence and they will be able to do whatever they set out to do.

I told the children about my own experiences, that at first I didn't think I could do but after asking for guidance, I was able to achieve what I set out to do.

We ended the day with Morah Wendy doing a scavenger hunt in the main room with the other lower grade classes.

I want to wish you all a Happy, Healthy and safe New Year.

See you all in 2021!!
Morah Rhonda

12/13/20

Dear Ketah Bet Parents,

Our morning routine is becoming second nature to the children, and this makes me extremely proud.

We had a shortened session today, so we reviewed Chanukah and the blessings over the candles. We then enjoyed a Chanukah experience with Rabbi Leiken and sang Chanukah songs with Cantor Lebovitz.

I hope you and your families have a wonderful Chanukah.

B'Shalom

Morah Rhonda

12/6/2020

Dear Ketah Bet Parents,

We started the day with our morning routine. The children are doing very well reciting the days of the week b'ivrit, and singing the Shema. Everyone was here on Sunday!!

I began our lesson of Chanukah by retelling the story of the two great miracles that happened in Israel. The small army of Maccabees led by Mattethias' son Judah, defeated the large Syrian army, and the small jar of oil that was only to last one day, but lasted eight days. We looked at a Menorah and I explained to the children how we light it. I also showed them a sufgoniot (jelly donut) which is one of the foods we eat during Chanukah.

We also talked about tzedakah, charity, the Jewish value of giving to others who don't have much. We looked at slides of different tzedakah boxes.

I read the book "Hanukkah Bear" by Eric Kimmel before ending our day.

Chag Chanukah Sameach to all of you!!

B'Shalom,
Morah Rhonda

11/22/20

Dear Ketah Bet parents,

The children were welcomed into class with a new greeting: Shalom Yeladim, which means hello children. We did our usual morning activities then proceeded to start the lesson of the day.

This being the week before Thanksgiving, we continued our lesson on gratitude and thankfulness. The children learned the word Todah, which means "thank you". To enhance their understanding of being thankful and grateful, we watched the video "Thankful by the Juicebox Jukebox" which you can find on the second grade home page in TBS Rockland/distance learning. Just click on the blue box that says Todah and go through the slides. The children really enjoyed listening to this.

We reviewed the alphabet slide by saying "Todah" and coming up with a word that begins with a particular letter. This was lots of fun.

I explained that another way to show gratitude is when you do kind, caring, and helpful things for others, they say Todah (thank you) to you!

At the conclusion of class, we returned to the main room where Morah Shanna sang prayers with all the children.

Wishing you all a safe and healthy Thanksgiving. See you back in class on December 6th.

Morah Rhonda

11/19/2020

Dear Ketah Bet Parents,

We began by welcoming each other to class, saying the Shema and the days of the week B'IVrit.

Today we began our two week study of the meaning of gratitude and saying "Thank You" for the things that they are grateful for. I began by asking the children if they knew what the word grateful meant. Some did, some didn't. So we played a game of treasure hunt, where I asked them to find something in the house that they were grateful for. Each of them brought back something that was special to them and we discuss why they were grateful for it. Ask your children what they said. You will be delightfully surprised at their answers.

We read "The Thank You Book" by Mary Lyn Ray, which the children really enjoyed hearing.

We ended our lesson singing the Shabbat blessing over the candles, wine and challah. Then we left our room to meet Cantor and sing the Alef-Bet song, our first Chanukah song (Sevivon sov, sov,sov, and Adon Olam.

As always, I look forward to seeing the children next week. Be safe and stay healthy.

Morah Rhonda

Dear Ketah Bet Parents,

We began our day welcoming each other saying Bruchim Habaim, then reciting the Shema, and singing the days of the week b'ivrit. (in hebrew).

Our topic of discussion today was the jewish value of Bikkur Cholim, visiting the sick. We talked about how a person who is sick feels, ie; sad, lonely, scared, etc. What could we do to help make them feel better? Visiting, and sending cards, were some of their answers. By visiting a sick person, you are doing a mitzvah and showing that person that you care.

I asked the children to gather 10 items of one kind, then tell me a number that they think it would take to make a person feel better. Everyone came up with different numbers, which was very good. I then explained to them that if they only had one thing, that would be sufficient to make a sick person feel better. Just by being there for a sick friend, or sending a card is more than enough to make that friend feel so much better.

We listened to the song "El Na" which you can sing with your child if you go to the second grade home page and click on slide #5 in the Bikkur Cholim box. The words for wishing the sick a speedy and full recovery are Refuah Sheleimah.

We then went to the main room and met with the Rabbi where we did prayers and learned new hebrew words.

Have a wonderful week and I look forward to seeing you all next Sunday.

B'Shalom,
Morah Rhonda