

January/February 2012

www.FelsKids.org

Tishrei 5772 / Cheshvan/Kislev 5772

Happy New Year! I hope that everyone enjoyed the holiday season. All of the children welcomed in the New Year with a lively celebration. They made hats and noise makers and paraded through Paley's halls ringing in the New Year. Now that the holidays are behind us, we look forward to the activities in the months ahead.

Our largest fund-raising event, the Annual Purim Carnival, will be held on March 1, 2012. It includes games for the children, prizes, raffles and food. On March 2nd we will be celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday, Read Across America Day. Dr. Shorr, a representative from the Mayor's Office of Education will join us to celebrate. Further details to follow.

Once again, make sure that your child is dressed properly for outdoor play and don't forget to send boots whenever there is snow on the ground.

At this time I would like to extend our warm wishes for a happy, safe and healthy 2012.

Sandy Chernow, Center Director



National Eye Care Month
National Thank You Month
National Book Month

African American History Month
American Heart Month
Children's Dental Health Month

January 1
Happy New Year

January 2
New Year Observance
School Closed

January 4
Music Program with Arlyn Wolters

January 16
Martin Luther King Day
School Closed

January 23
Chinese New Year

February 1
100th day of School Celebration
Music Program

February 8 & 9
Pediatric Dental Assoc. Educational Dental Program

February 14
Clifford the Big Red Dog's B-Day
Tu B'Shevat Celebration

February 15
Mlenjani - African Storyteller

February 20
President's Day
School Closed



The Sounds of Music from Room 8

Room 8 is filled with smiling, happy faces of 13 children ages 2-3. They love to sing, dance and just have lots of fun. The sound of music is in our room throughout the day, either by our sing-along CDs, classical radio, or me playing the piano. Having both a bachelor and a masters degree in music, together with my assistant teacher, we enjoy incorporating our music in our daily activities. A child who rarely participates in circle time is enthusiastic when music is added. Shy children will start to come out of their shells and join in playing our musical instruments or sing along to songs.

Music is a great educational tool. For example, our theme "All about me" includes a lot of songs about body

parts and five senses like "Here are my ears," "I comb my hair," "All by myself" "head, shoulders, knees and toes." "I smell the roses," etc. Learning a new song requires a lot of skills. One has to remember words, pronounce words, and become familiar with the time and the rhythm. The children who play musical games and activities on rhythm instruments understand concepts such as soft and loud, fast and slow, short and long, high and low.

Our classroom is enriched by the sound of music and it is a pleasure to see the children enjoying all of our musical activities.

Irene Kornet, *Lead Teacher*
 Helen Thompson, *Assistant Teacher*





PALEY'S PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our Paley Parents a very Happy and Healthy New Year!

The Paley Parents' Association fundraisers are off to a great start! Our pie, candle and Kid Stuff books were very successful, helping to raise money to fund our music and yoga programs.

New this year was our fundraiser at Chuck E Cheese. Parents and children had a great time while raising funds for Paley. This was so successful that we plan on holding another event at Chuck E Cheese this summer.

The Parents Association held two programs in the evening. The first was dinner in the sukkah with guest Rabbi Sandi Berliner. The second was our annual Lots of Latkes night. The parents and children ate delicious potato latkes and made beautiful homemade crafts such as menorahs and dreidels.

What's Next?...

January - Joe Corbi pizza and desserts fundraiser until January 18th. Get your orders in for delivery before your Super Bowl parties!



March - 1st Purim Carnival 5:30 - 7:00 PM - Games, prizes, refreshments, raffles.

March - 5th Make and take Hamantashen 5:30 - 7:00.

Thanks to all of our Paley families and friends for all of your support.

Please join us at our next PA meeting which is scheduled for January 9, 2012 from 5:00 - 6:00 PM.

PA Executive Board

Winter Weather Warnings

Paley's Snow Closing Number Is:
303 I

WHAT DETERMINES WHEN FEDERATION EARLY LEARNING SERVICES CLOSSES DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER

THE AGENCY REMAINS OPEN WHENEVER POSSIBLE TO PROVIDE SERVICE TO OUR FAMILIES. WE RECOGNIZE THAT PARENTS NEED TO GO TO WORK AND DEPEND ON US FOR CHILD CARE. WE THEREFORE, MAKE A CONCERTED EFFORT TO OPEN, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE.

Unfortunately, we are at the mercy of the meteorologists and sometimes storms do not follow the path predicted. It is disconcerting to all of us when this occurs. It is also challenging to make these determinations at 5:00 am as information about road conditions is not readily available

The following guidelines for closing or opening late were developed, taking into consideration the safety of children, families and staff. In most cases when the public schools are closed **and** the forecast anticipates hazardous road conditions, a heavy snowfall and major power outages, the agency will be closed. This information is publicized as follows:

- * Posted on the homepage of **FelsKids.org**
- * Posted on CBS (KYW), ABC and NBC websites and TV stations
- * Announced on KYW radio
- * Announced on each center's telephone answering machine (sometimes we encounter technical difficulties - not as reliable)
- * Sent to your cell phone *if you registered for this service with the TV stations*

When hazardous road conditions exist, but the forecast indicates that an increase in temperature will eliminate the hazard, we may delay opening up to 2 1/2 hours (9:00 am) for all locations except Buerger and Kol Ami, which would open by 9 am.

Another critical factor in determining whether we can open is the ability to staff the program adequately, since many of our teachers do not live in the vicinity of the center. Many depend on public transportation and, as you know, SEPTA has been cancelling bus routes with greater frequency.

In rare situations, we may need to alter a decision to open late and close for the day. This occurs when temperatures suddenly increase or decrease or when heat, electricity or water is not operable in the building. We urge you to continue checking the notification systems cited above that we have in place.

We thank you for your understanding and patience.

When will Sophie Speak?

by Shannon Rosenman, OTR/L

Dear FELS' Parents,

Parents and teachers frequently ask me if a child is speaking well for his or her age. According to the American Speech and Hearing Association (ASHA), most toddlers who aren't talking 'well' aren't really delayed. They may not be talking as much as you expect, but that can still be normal.

Consider that most toddlers' speech develop as indicated:

- 7 - 15 months begin to say "Mama" and "Dada"
- 11- 22 months say 4-6 words
- 18 - 27 months say 50+ words
- 36 months - use over a hundred words/phrases so someone, who does not know them, can usually understand them.

Young children understand many more words than they can say. Hearing affects a child's speech development. Pay attention to ear problems and infections, especially when they keep occurring. An audiologist is the medical professional who can best evaluate your child's hearing.

The ability to use words and phrases to express wants and needs affects development, especially social and emotional development. Children get frustrated more frequently when they can't put their wishes and needs into words. For example, Aiden cannot ask for a turn with the fire truck, so he grabs it. Celia who is unable to say "My turn!" tries to bite Aiden's hand. Lilly wants milk, but cannot say the word clearly. Her babysitter misunderstands and gives her juice. Lilly throws the cup, crying angrily. Tantrums, biting and other troublesome behaviors often start to diminish when your child gets better at making his or her words understood.

To help your young toddler develop his or her skills ASHA suggests the following strategies:

Reinforce your baby's communication attempts by looking at him or her, speaking, and imitating his or her vocalizations.

Teach animal sounds (e.g., "A cow says moo").

Teach your baby to imitate actions, such as peekaboo, clap hands. These games teach skills needed for conversation.

Talk while you are doing things, "Mama is sweeping the floor!"
Talk about where you are going, "Judy is going to Grandma's house."
Practice counting. Count toes and fingers.

When a second language is introduced, some children may not talk much for several months. This is normal and will go away.

Many factors affect a child's ability to speak. If you are concerned about your child's speech development, talk to his/her teacher and pediatrician. If you are still troubled, call Early Intervention services in your county. They will come to your home or your child's school, evaluate his or her skills and reassure you. If needed, they can help. All services provided through Early Intervention are totally free of charge!

For more information: <http://www.asha.org/public/speech/development/>

Shannon Rosenman brings 35 years of experience as a licensed Occupational Therapist to her role as the Director of Child Development for Federation Early Learning Centers. We are fortunate to have her expertise to help teachers and center directors adapt their classroom activities so each child's individual needs can be addressed.

Spread the Word!

Parents, please spread your Federation Early Learning Services pride!!!

We need your help and support. We know your time is valuable and your schedules are full, but there is a fast way that you can spread the word about our center!

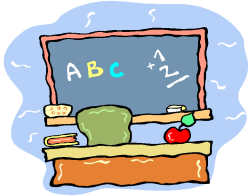
Parents who are shopping for a high quality child care center trust the opinions of parents just like them. Please take a moment and go to any of the websites below to share your experiences. Help us reach out to new parents, so we can keep expanding our FELS family.

Thank you so much for your help!

www.yelp.com
www.saavysource.com
www.citysearch.com
www.greatschools.org
www.schooldigger.com



SCHOOL AGE UPDATE



We hope everyone enjoyed the warmer than usual holiday season. During the winter break we took a trip to the Merriam Theater to see the "Wizard of Oz." It was a fun performance, enjoyed by all.

Once again, it's time to start thinking about summer and Camp Woodlight 2012. Don't hesitate to reserve your spot for another exciting summer for your child.

Parents: Please remember that if your child will be absent from the program to notify Jen (Ext. 151) or Janet (Ext. 153) the morning of the absence.

REMINDER: Schools and Pa-ley will be closed Monday, January 16 for observance of Martin Luther King Day and Monday, February 20 for Presidents' Day.

Jennifer Laverty
School Age Supervisor

Janet Werner
Assistant School Age Supervisor

FUNDRAISERS



Every Thursday is Pretzel Day. If you wish that your child has a pretzel, please give him/her \$.40 to buy one.

And . . .

Every Friday we sell Challah for \$3.00 each. No pre-ordering is necessary.

TU B'SHEVAT

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

On the fifteenth day of the Hebrew month of Shevat, the almond trees bloom in Israel. Although the holiday (Birthday of the Trees) occurs during the winter here, we celebrate the warm season in Israel. Tu B'Shevat is a holiday with strong connections to the land of Israel. In the Bible (Deuteronomy 8:8), Israel is described as "a land of wheat and barley, vines, figs, pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey."

In modern times, Tu B'Shevat has become an occasion for the reforestation of Israel. The Jewish National Fund, the organization responsible for restoring the land, sponsors worldwide fundraising activities during which trees are purchased. In Israel itself, Tu B'Shevat is celebrated with joyous tree planting ceremonies.



Trees are very important in Judaism as illustrated by this story:

Once, Honi was walking along the road when he saw a man planting a carob tree. Honi asked, "How long before it will bear fruit?" Tj man answered, "Seventy years." Honi asked, "Are you sure that you will be alive in seventy years to eat from its fruit?" The man answered, "I found this world filled with carob trees. Just as my ancestors planted for me, so shall I plant for my children."

Babylonian Talmud, Ta'anit 23a.

If you would like to buy a tree in honor or memory of someone, the number to call is:
(800) 542 - 8733.

Mitzvah Moment

Super Sunday

February 12, 2012

One community - one site!

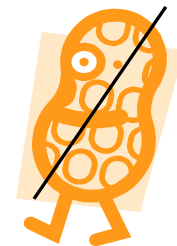
Jack M. Barrack Hebrew
Academy Schwartz Campus
Bryn Mawr, PA



Please join the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia on February 12, 2012 for our Jewish community's single most important day of fundraising.. This is a wonderful opportunity to help Federation continue its exceptional work in the community .

This year there will be three shifts (9:00 AM - 1:00 PM, 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM and 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM) to make and take calls that raise vital funds for Federation's Annual Campaign - the largest local campaign that provides critical funds to support Jews in need here, in Israel and in the former Soviet Union.

You may register on the web at www.Jewishphilly.org or by calling the Super Sunday hotline at (215) 832 -0630. Please join us (with your children).



Please Remember: We are a peanut-free facility.