

Class update - Pre-School, February 2010

Today our class had a wonderful day learning about Purim! We started the day off, as usual, by singing with the group. We then went downstairs to say our "shaloms" to one another. It's so nice to have six of us now because our greetings are that much louder!

After that, we worked on two pages of our Humanistic Judaism coloring books. Today we talked about what it means to be a humanist and a part of the world family. We talked about how we care about other people, even ones that we haven't met. We also talked about the "power of people" and everyone came up with some things that people have the power to do, like building things, making people happy, helping sick people, and reading and writing books. We also learned the Hebrew word adam, meaning people, and colored the hebrew letters of that word.

We then started to celebrate Purim together! We talked a little bit about the holiday in general, then we made our own groggers. After we made those groggers, we put them to good use! We read the story of Purim and everyone learned to cheer and make noise when the names Esther and Mordecai were read and to boo loudly when the name Haman was read. Everyone certainly had fun with that activity!

We took a little break after that and enjoyed some Hamantaschen and started to work on coloring and making masks of Esther and the King. I hope everyone will have lots of fun with the groggers and masks when they celebrate Purim at home or at next week's carnival.

Note: The Purim story in class had a few sections that the children may have questions about, but sections that were a bit above our preschool and kindergarten level were taken out. The story began with Esther becoming the queen, therefore excluding any mention of Queen Vashti, Vashti being kicked out of the kingdom, and the contest before Esther was chosen. Additionally, Haman asked that Mordacai be sent away in this version (not hung) and Haman was sent away in the end (not hung). However, there were mentions in the story of Haman

not liking Jews and that he wanted the King to order to have them killed. In class, the children understood this issue on a basic but clear “Haman=bad guy” and “Esther=hero” level and we discussed it in that way. Please let me know if you would like help in answering any questions your child has about this topic.