

Plenty of Fun to Go Around at JPS

By Sarah Fligel
The fun hasn't stopped at The Jewish Preschool on Sardis in recent weeks. There's been plenty to celebrate, from the annual 100th day party to a Purim parade.



Ava Cohen, Kate Levin, Sam Olinger, Toby Howie, and Sam Fligel proudly display their food collections for JFS.

March 1 marked a milestone for the four-year-olds at JPS: the 100th day the children had been in school. Since the beginning of the year, they've been tracking the days. To commemorate the 100th, each child brought in their own special collection of 100 items, which they've been busy counting, weighing and categorizing ever since. The day was filled with fun activities, from dancing

in the dark to special snacks to a lunch with all the four-year-old classes.

But perhaps the best way the children chose to recognize the 100th day was by doing a mitzvah. The three- and four-year-olds brought in canned goods, paper products and cleaning supplies to donate to the Jewish Family Services food pantry. The goal was to collect 100 goods. The result? 256 donations. The food and supplies lined the hallways in groups of ten so all of the children could see their good deeds - and count them.

Just days later, something else filled the halls at JPS. Kings, queens, clowns and a host of animals gathered to welcome Purim this year. And the children were happy to play the parts. To prepare for the special holiday, they had spent time in Judaica every day learning and acting out the Purim story, with masks, puppets, songs, games and activities. They finished up the celebration with a costume parade, a shaloch manot gift exchange and a megillah reading. ☆

Spectacular Science

By Jessica Sammis
At the Barbara and Jerry Levin Jewish Middle School, we are fostering future scientists and critical thinkers. Our science topic this year is a unit on Energy, Machines, and Motion. At this point, the students have finished their exploration of different types of energy and how it is transferred, and simple machines including pulleys, inclined planes, and levers. They are now moving into the final section.

Over the next two months, the students will apply their newly acquired knowledge of energy and machines to the concept of motion. The unit will culminate

with groups building their own roller coaster to investigate its motion. They will also be participating in an "Anchor Activity" mostly outside of the classroom. While the students were given several choices as a culminating activity, most have chosen to challenge themselves by building a 'Rube Goldberg' inspired machine.

Rube Goldberg was an American cartoonist who began his career in 1904. His cartoons, which poked fun at the unnecessary complications of modern technology, often depicted complicated devices used to complete simple jobs. For instance, he cre-

ated a "chin-wiper" that required 13 steps in order to move a napkin. In honor of these absurd creations, the students have been challenged to create a machine that completes 13 simple tasks after a single action sets the machine in motion. The students will have to apply everything that they have learned in science this year to this project and by attempting it, whether they are successful or not, they will learn more about physics than they ever would in a classroom.

If you have any questions about the Barbara and Jerry Levin Jewish Middle School, please contact Jessica Sammis at 704-366-4885 or jsammis@jcd-school.org. ☆

Mathematical Minds

By Jessica Sammis
Earlier this year, the students at the Barbara and Jerry Levin Jewish Middle School competed in a national math competition, the AMC 8. This contest is a 25-question exam that challenges middle school students across the nation! As taken from their website, "The American Mathematics Competition (AMC) is dedicated to the goal of strengthening the mathematical capabilities of our nation's youth. The AMC contests are intended for everyone from the

average student at a typical school who enjoys mathematics to the very best student at the most special school."

Academic competition drives the students to do their best in class and absorb as much information as possible. The students were intrigued by the level of mathematical reasoning required for some of the problems on the exam, and they were excited to receive their scores. While several of our students did notably well, one of our eighth graders, Zachary

Shporer, received national recognition.

Zachary's score of 21 out of 25 awarded him a Distinguished Honor Roll Certificate from the American Mathematics Competitions group. It is estimated that his score falls in the top 1% of students all around the country who take this test. Congratulations to Zachary for his achievement in this academic area! The Levin Jewish Middle School will continue to participate in the AMC 8 contest in the future to inspire the best from our students academically. ☆

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