

The Charlotte Jewish Preschool Roars into March Like a Lion and Exits Like a Lamb

By Elka Bernstein, Executive Director

The year is just flying by at the Charlotte Jewish Preschool. The teachers cannot believe it is already March. The saying is true – Time flies when you are having fun. The fun continues as we enter into our spring months. The letter “P” will pop up all over the place at the The Charlotte Jewish Preschool as we enjoy learning and celebrating Purim, Pajama Day, and Passover.

As CJP students get ready for the holiday of Purim, you could get lucky and see a Queen Esther or Uncle Mordechai parading around the halls of Shalom Park. Our students and teachers will be telling the story of Purim through puppets, dramatic play, and of course, eating hamantaschen. Many crowns and groggers will be made, as we dress up as our favorite characters. If you dress up like Haman, get ready for the “boos.” We invite parents and friends to watch our parade on Friday, March 6 and listen as the noise from our groggers announce our arrival. The smell of hamantaschen will permeate the school corridors as we bake our very own cookies and fill them with toppings such as apricot, strawberry preserves, and chocolate chips. We also celebrate Purim by the giving of Shalach Manot baskets to our friends. Pint-size Esthers and mini-King Ahashueruses will be sauntering through the halls of the LJCC, Levine Sklut Judaic Library, Jewish Family Services and Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte, as well as, to each other classrooms distributing goodies to each other.

Our year would not be complete, without our annual Pajama Day. I am not sure who enjoys this day more - our students or are teachers. It is so much fun coming to school/work in pajamas and slippers. From learning Jewish bedtime rituals to bouncing on beds to learning about nocturnal animals to eating pancakes, Pajama Day is full of learning and fun.

Shortly thereafter, Charlotte Jewish Preschool begins to learn about Pesach. The classroom will be transformed into Egypt. In Egypt the CJP students will work as slaves to build the pyramids. Many babies will be floating down the Nile River. And the plagues will descend and spill over the sensory tables in the classrooms. As the March sneaks out quietly, the children will prepare for their school Seder. Everyone wants to participate in our delicious Seders including Sammy Spider who has to be told over and over again that “spiders don’t celebrate Passover, spiders spin webs!” Classes discover science as they make their own haroset with delicious apples and grape juice. Fine motor skills will be honed as they create décor for the tables with Seder plate place-mats, Elijah cups and frogs. For gross motor fun, Pharaoh will lead our 4s/5s in a slave walk. Movement and imagination come alive as Miss Patty and Morah Becca lead the children in their very own Seder with lively music as we sing our way through the Haggadah. But, don’t forget, CJP teaches our students to be techno savy. Our students are better directors than Steven Spielberg. Our four year old classes along with PreK will produce a Passover film of the Passover story. What, you ask, are the four questions? Just come to Miss Carol, Miss Lois, and Miss Stephanie’s PreK class to hear them recite the four questions and ask, “Why is this night different from all other nights?” Of course before Pesach actually arrives, the school will be scrubbed and all chometz removed.

The Charlotte Jewish Preschool - in like a lion. We will learn of the strength of the Jewish people through our history and go out like a lamb as we celebrate our victories with family and friends and retell the stories of our heritage. At Charlotte Jewish Preschool, our teachings become your traditions.

Have your child enjoy special

days like Purim, Pajama Day, and Pesach. The Charlotte Jewish Preschool is currently enrolling for the 2015-2016 school year. We are happy to give you a tour at your convenience. For more information or to schedule a tour,

please contact Alyson Kalik at akalik@shalomcharlotte.org or 704-944-6776. We look forward to meeting you. ☆



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