

Dear Early Childhood Families,

At the center of our work with our Early Childhood students, is our belief that children are competent and driven by their interests and curiosities to understand and know more. As your children's teachers, we are always looking for opportunities to help our students find their voices, ask questions, and recognize that what they think and what they have to say is important. Project-based learning, a classroom approach in which students gain knowledge and skills by working for an extended period of time to investigate and respond to an authentic, engaging and complex question, problem, or challenge is one of the best ways for our students and teachers to co-construct knowledge, which means to work collaboratively to make meaning of the world around them.

Community, or *kehillah*, is a central theme for our youngest learners. From day one, our students come together to build community by learning about one another, sharing about their families and experiences, and finding commonalities that strengthen their bonds as classmates. Our children recognize that community goes beyond themselves, and this is what our Nursery and Junior Kindergarten students have been exploring over these first few months of the school year.

On Friday, as our Nursery and Junior Kindergarten families gathered for our annual Shabbat B'Yachad Thanksgiving program, the children were able to make visible their learning around what it means to be thankful or to show gratitude and how to use their words and actions to make the world a better place, the Jewish values of *Hakarat HaTov* and *Tlkkun Olam*. During their long-term studies, the children explored questions such as:

- Why do we say blessings?
- What does it mean to be thankful?
- Who are the people who help to take care of us at school?

• How do you show others appreciation?

Our pride in our students' serious approach to these important wonderings are beyond compare and we look forward to seeing how their studies continues to evolve.

Wishing you a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday!

Warmly,

Abby Aloni Head of Early Childhood



