

# Early Learning Center

Temple  
Israel



**Tammy Labonté**  
Director, ELC

Shalom,

The Early Learning Center had a busy December. Early in the month we were invited to a Kittery, Maine business - Mainely Fun. There I got to spend some time with children and families interested in learning about Hanukkah. The children enjoyed playing with

Hanukkah materials including a menorah, pan with latkes, dreidel, and gelt. Thank you, ELC mom Amy Bedrick for attending with me, to share Hanukkah traditions from your family and the Early Learning Center.

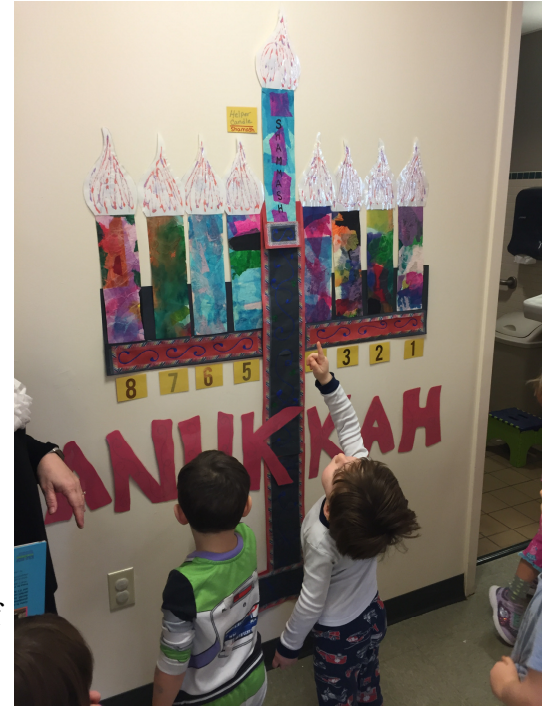


**Celebrating in the classroom.**

Many thanks to Laura Sher for cooking with the ELC students! This time we made yummy sufganiyot – donuts that traditionally have jelly inside. Ours did not, but were coated in powdered sugar. We ate them with our homemade applesauce, latkes, and sour cream at the ELC Hanukkah family celebration. During the celebration we said the blessing for lighting the menorah, told the story of the Maccabees for parents, and marched like the

Maccabees to the Paul Zim song “Maccabee March.” Thank you, Rabbi Ira, for joining us during the family celebration.

The ELC also “lit” our hallway menorah each morning, and ended the week with a pajama party and winter activities in honor of the winter solstice



that started the first day of vacation on Saturday, December 21. The ELC students will return on Thursday, January 2, 2020.

We wish everyone a happy Hanukkah and a safe and happy New Year!

L’shalom,

Tammy Labonté

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**Note to educators:** The Early Learning Center is looking for substitute teachers. If you have an Early Childhood or Elementary Education background and would be interested in substituting in the ELC, please contact Tammy Labonté via email at [preschool.director@templeisraelnh.org](mailto:preschool.director@templeisraelnh.org) or call 603-380-5589.