

# Early Learning Center



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Director, ELC

To start our Hanukkah celebration, a parent read us a story about why we celebrate Hanukkah. We had already been reading about the Maccabees and Judah “the Hammer,” and all enjoyed the beautiful book that parent Rachel brought to share with us. We also colored



dreidels and went home with some yummy treats.

Learning about the miracle of Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights, was fun.

While we missed having our usual celebration with families in attendance, we improvised. We made applesauce in the classroom and brought in *sufganiyot* for one day’s snack. Each child took home a Hanukkah gift bag that contained latkes, applesauce, *sufganiyot*, dreidels with instructions to play, and homemade cards for their family.

For another project, the children cut strips of paper to work on cutting skills and finger strength, and Elian and I stapled them together to make a colorful hallway menorah. Every day, we “lit” the menorah with the *shamash* candle and said the Hanukkah blessing, *Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu melech ha-olam, asher kid’shanu b’mitzvotav v’tzivanu l’hadlik ner shel hanukkah*.

The last day of Hanukkah we celebrated with Rabba Kaya. She played her guitar for us to sing some Hanukkah songs and led us in the lighting of the last candle, saying the blessing, and celebrating Shabbat with us. Thank you, Rabba Kaya! The ELC hopes that everyone had a happy Hanukkah!



We also played in the snow and explored the courtyard while construction was taking place near the playground.

Preschool will resume from our winter break on January 4, 2021.

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