

# Celebration Calendar 2011-2012

The following is a listing of Jewish and secular events throughout the school year, that each class will celebrate. Use the Hebrew Class Key to the right to help you identify which days and with which classes your child will celebrate any one particular event. Teachers can always use a helping hand, so if you can participate in set-up or clean-up, please let your child's teacher know at least a week prior to any event.

*(All celebrations listed below are scheduled for 11:30 a.m. and incorporate snack unless otherwise noted.)*

DATE	EVENT	CLASSES
<b>Oct 18, Tuesday</b>	Sukkot in the Sukkah	Adom, Shafan, Parpar
<b>Oct 19, Wednesday</b>	Sukkot in the Sukkah	Sagol, Kof, Pilim
<b>Nov 16, Wednesday</b>	Thanksgiving Feast	Sagol, Kof, Pilim
<b>Nov 17, Thursday</b>	Thanksgiving Feast	Adom, Shafan, Parpar
<b>Dec 20, Tuesday</b>	Hanukkah Celebration	Adom, Shafan, Parpar
<b>Dec. 21, Wednesday</b>	Hanukkah Celebration	Sagol, Kof, Pilim
<b>Feb 7, Tuesday</b>	Tu B'Shevat Seder	Shafan
<b>Feb 8, Wednesday</b>	Tu B'Shevat Seder	Kof & Sagol (individual celebration)
<b>Feb 9, Thursday</b>	Tu B'Shevat Seder	Adom, Parpar & Pilim
<b>Mar 7, Wednesday</b>	Purim Party	Sagol, Kof, Parpar & Pilim
<b>Mar 8, Thursday</b>	Purim Party	Adom, Shafan, Parpar & Pilim
<b>March 28, Wednesday</b>	Pesach Seder	Sagol, Parpar, Pilim - Kof individually
<b>March 29, Thursday</b>	Pesach Seder	Adom, Parpar, Pilim-Shafan individually
<b>April 23, Monday</b>	Yom Ha'atzmaut	Sagol, Kof, Parpar, Pilim*
<b>April 24, Tuesday</b>	Yom Ha'atzmaut	Adom, Shafan, Parpar, Pilim*
<b>June 8, Friday</b>	Stepping Up/Graduation	Pilim @ 11:30

\*Program begins at 9:30. Check with your class as to exact celebration time.

## JEWISH HOLIDAYS IN BRIEF

**SUKKOT IN THE SUKKAH** A harvest festival that marks the end of the agricultural year and is celebrated by taking four species of plant; palm (lulav), citron (etrog), myrtle and willow - and carrying them in procession in the synagogue. The Sukkah is a booth erected during this festival which commemorates G-d's protection of the Jews in the desert. One is prescribed to dwell and eat in the Sukkah during Sukkot.

**TU B'SHEVAT SEDER** Tu B'Shevat, the 15th day of the Jewish month of Shevat, is a holiday also known as the "New Year for Trees." The word "Tu" is the number 15 in Hebrew. Special fruits are consumed on this holiday and in modern Israel the day is celebrated by tree-planting. Look for the Jewish National Fund blue boxes that your children will bring home.

**PURIM** Purim is a joyous holiday that recounts the saving of the Jews from a threatened massacre during the Persian period (539-330 BCE) and is the theme of the Book of Esther, whose eponymous heroine plays the leading role. Etz Hayim Preschoolers will come dressed as characters from the Purim story and participate in a re-enactment as part of their class celebration.

**PESACH** Hebrew for "Passover." Pesach celebrates the liberation of the Jews from slavery in Egypt, which is thought to have occurred about 3,300 years ago. The week of Pesach opens with a festive ritual meal, called the Seder (meaning "order"). The Seder ritual is contained in a book called the Haggadah which means "telling," from the Biblical injunction to "Tell thy son" of the deliverance from slavery in Egypt. During the week of Pesach, Jews eat only unleavened cracker-like bread (matzoh) made from special flour that has been stored so that no yeast cells or other leavening agents could get into it. The Matzoh commemorates the unleavened bread that Jews had to bake in a hurry when leaving Egypt. Etz Hayim preschoolers will celebrate Pesach with a Seder in the social hall.

**YOM HA'ATZMAUT** Israel's Independence Day or 'Birthday.' It is celebrated on the fifth day of the month of Iyar, which is the Hebrew date of the formal establishment of the state, when members of the "provisional government" read and signed a Declaration of Independence in Tel Aviv. The original date corresponded to May 14, 1948. At Etz Hayim Preschool the social hall will be transformed into a learning center full of fun activities and exhibits dedicated to Israel.

## CLASS KEY



**CHATOOL SAGOL**  
"Purple Cat"  
Monday & Wednesday



**CHATOOL ADOM**  
"Red Cat"  
Tuesday & Thursday



**SHAFAN**  
"Rabbit"  
Older 2's  
Tuesday, Thursday & Friday



**KOF**  
"Monkey"  
3's  
Monday, Wednesday & Friday



**PARPAR**  
"Butterfly"  
4-day class  
Tuesday - Friday



**PILIM**  
"Elephant"  
5-day class  
Monday - Friday