

Dear Families,

The next Jewish holiday is Purim which occurs on March 21st. This holiday celebrates the salvation of the Jewish people, in the year 356 BCE, from the leader of the Persian Empire. A wicked advisor to the emperor, Haman plotted to destroy the Jewish people. Queen Esther, the Jewish heroine, engineered Haman's downfall and the sage Mordechai rallied the Jews. Queen Esther and Mordecai instituted the holiday to be observed for posterity as the festival of Purim by public readings of the story of the miracle as recorded in the megillah (Scroll of Esther), sending food gifts to friends, giving gifts of money to the poor, and enjoying a festive meal. A time-honored Purim custom is for children to dress up and disguise themselves -- an allusion to the fact that the miracle of Purim was disguised in natural methods (unlike Passover or Chanukah which contain outright miracles). This is also the significance behind a traditional Purim food, the hamantash -- a pastry whose filling is hidden within a three-cornered crust.

In school all children will hear the Purim story read from the megillah (Scroll of Esther), have Purim treats (we will be aware of all allergies), and take part in many fun Purim activities! We will send a separate note with more details but **all children (preschool through fifth grade) are welcome to wear costumes**. We ask that children NOT have weapons as part of their costumes, not wear very scary masks, or dress up as Haman (the wicked man who planned the destruction of the Jewish people). The costumes do not have to be connected to the Purim story.

**Dates:**

March 21<sup>st</sup> Jewish holiday of Purim celebration in school

**News and Notes:**

One of our former students and current after care providers, Ms. Lilly Coveney is available to babysit. Her number is 803-553-1688.

Another former student, Elliot Scher (age 14.5), is offering tutoring and babysitting services. Scan QR code (app download needed) below or text 803-873-3478 to set up a consultation.



**Health Update:**

Each week I will supply a list of illnesses experienced by children and staff. This list is a compilation of the week as collected on Friday morning. I cannot guarantee that the list is comprehensive but we do our best.

Infants	All well.
Ones	Several out with stomach virus
Twos	Three out with a stomach virus.
Threes	Two out with a stomach virus.
Fours	All well.

K	All well
1st	All well
2nd	All well
3rd	All well.
4 <sup>th</sup>	All well
5 <sup>th</sup>	One out with a stomach virus

Shabbat Shalom,  
Rabbi Meir