



Gan Chamesh
• 74 Maple Ave, Cedarhurst, NY 11516 • 516-295- 2479 •

Gan Chamesh Early Childhood Center

PARENT HANDBOOK ~ September 2013 ~



GAN CHAMESH EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

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Welcome



Let's Play Word Association - you start.

First word is *Preschool*.

My Answer... LOVE! - Come and visit Gan Chamesh!

How do you get a child to separate from his family, to love preschool, and to cherish learning about his/her three thousand year old heritage and abide by a set of demanding and seemingly

restrictive rules?

Gan Chamesh has the answers. Make the school into a home. Out with rote learning - In with creativity and imagination. Make the teacher into an ally. Out with power and intimidation - In with care and respect. Let the children feel important, allow them to learn naturally.

"Sounds good, but how does it happen?" You ask. Well, it starts with the environment. Let's have an exciting view for your child, a room that empowers and encourages competence. It's a question of structuring the environment to foster the kinds of interactions that will optimize learning for each individual child. Organize the space into attractive learning centers, with furniture that literally shapes your experience; whether sitting, kneeling, working alone or together, your child directs himself/herself independently and feels invited to explore.

Next ingredient is brainy materials that enable us to bring the world to the classroom. Let's research the most age-appropriate educational materials, concept games, skill-building tools, and sensory-stimulating toys as well as nature and real-life objects and exhibits. Let's weave them into a child-centered curriculum, with activities centered around a common theme – all to bring out the Jewish thinker, the artist, the musician, the problem-solver, the scientist, the mathematician, in your child.

BEAUTIFUL JUNK



Please add to our creative program by collecting the following items and bringing them to school.

SCIENCE

Pinecones
Magnets
Leaves

Rocks
Bird pictures
Birds' nests

Dried plants
Animal pictures
Small pets on loan

ARTS AND CRAFTS:

Brown paper bags
Rolls – toilet & paper towel
Beads
Eggshells
Flowers
Cellophane
Chocolate papers
Confetti
Doilies
Egg cartons
Elastics
Feathers
Fuzzy paper

Lace, netting
Milk cartons
Newspapers
Shells
Shiny gift-wrapping
Velvet
Yarn, felt,
Leather, burlap
Plastic bags
Magazines
Buttons
Macaroni

Seeds
Sequins
Ribbons
Felt
Crepe paper
Plastic pill bottles
Silk
Spools
Wires
Styrofoam trays and blocks
Shirt cardboard



Please consult our office regarding your possible 'discards' from home and work since they may be considered "BEAUTIFUL JUNK" for our school. THANKS!

and parents are both aware of the procedures that will be followed. Our aim is the safety of all children and to help them through this stage. Information will be distributed by your child's teacher.

Please review our policy and familiarize yourself with it.

ORIENTATION – MEET THE TEACHERS NIGHT

An Orientation for parents will take place early on in the school year at Chabad, 74 Maple Ave. It will begin by an address from Susy Adler. You will then be directed to your child's classroom or designated area where you will meet your child's teacher and get acquainted with her unique philosophy and goals for the year. You will also be encouraged to "become a preschooler" and engage in a predetermined activity so that you can get a hands on appreciation of your child's experiences at Gan Chamesh.

CHECKLIST OF ITEMS TO BRING TO ORIENTATION

Please bring the following items to school on Orientation day:

- ☐ A change of clothing (please label the clothing by writing your child's name on each item.)
- ☐ A long smock- with long sleeves
- ☐ A box of tissues
- ☐ Two recent photos of your child
- ☐ For boys – A Yarmulka (please label it with your child's name)
- ☐ A 1" thick mat
- ☐ Diapers, pull-up and wipes if necessary
- ☐ Wipes
- ☐ A box of disposable gloves
- ☐ Any outstanding forms – see below

Please complete the following forms and mail them back before the start of school:

- ☐ Medical form
- ☐ Permission / Release form
- ☐ Emergency sheet
- ☐ Child's profile

to Gan Chamesh

Now we have a real preschool. Now we have Gan Chamesh.

Next ingredient is the faculty. Let's find people who love children, are interested in the children's lives and who appreciate every child's individual potential and multiple intelligence. Let's find educators who understand the learning process and revel in the successes of their students. Let's find role models whose love for Judaism is contagious and whose dedication to their students is boundless. Now we have the faculty at Gan Chamesh.

The last ingredient is the children. Welcome them with open arms. Make sure they are comfortable and secure. Let them know that it's okay to make a mistake, as long as you try to correct it. Give them tools to develop healthy social attitudes, a positive sense of self, and joyfulness in Judaism. Let's hear them say: **I am! I Can!** Now we have the Nachas sounds of Gan Chamesh.

None of these ingredients would mix well without You – the parents. You are your child's first teacher and you are our strongest partners. We welcome you to our center anytime; we value your input and cherish every moment you volunteer. We believe that such a partnership will ensure continuity between home and school.

With all these ingredients in place, we are proud to welcome you to Gan Chamesh, the garden we tend with love and care. In this handbook, you will find a full overview of our program. Please review it carefully.



Susy Adler
Educational Director



Welcome to Gan Chamesh.

Here, in a warm and nurturing environment, children thrive under the guidance of dedicated and loving teachers.

Days are filled with fun and excitement as Torah and academics are integrated in a developmentally appropriate approach.

Great emphasis is placed on each child's spiritual, physical, intellectual, emotional, social and creative needs and interests. Through the development of sound educational techniques, we inculcate a love of Torah and learning.

The home and the school are a child's universe. We encourage partnership between them through open communication and participation in school related activities and events.

We look forward to a wonderful school ahead and please be in touch with me with any questions or concerns,

Suzanne Wallin
Administrative Director

be considered in determining if your child must go home:

- Fever of 100 degrees or more
- Inflammation in the eyes
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Communicable disease
- Unknown rash

Contagious diseases must be reported to the school, by the parent, as soon as the illness has been diagnosed so that other parents may be notified of the exposure. We would also like to know if your child is going to be absent for several days.

- Children must have a doctor's note saying they are fit to return after an infectious disease.
- No child will be allowed in the school until s/he has been free of diarrhea for 24 hours.
- A child needs to be on antibiotics and fever-free for 24 hours before returning to school

No Medication will be admitted in school except on extreme emergency (e.g. Epi pen). If necessary, the parent can come to the school at the proper time to give it, or else the child should be kept home while such treatment is necessary.

Please provide us with all necessary information in order to best care for your child: special diet, allergies, sleeping habits, etc.

All our health procedures are in accordance with NYC department of Health, Bureau of Day Care and have been reviewed by experienced pediatricians as well.

BITING POLICY

Children sometimes bite other children. Although not all toddlers bite, biting is considered a normal stage in a child's development. At Gan Chamesh, we have established a biting policy to ensure that in the event of a biting incident, teachers

TZEDAKAH

Part of your child's program at our school is to develop an awareness and commitment to share with others who are less fortunate. Your child's teacher will inform you of the specific Tzedakah procedures for the class.

MITZVAH NOTE

Please send a Mitzvah Note periodically. This is a note that tells something special your child has done. The Mitzvah Notes are read aloud in the classroom during circle time. Children really look forward to hearing what their parents have to say.

PARENT ABSENCE

If, for any reason, parents will be away from home for any length of time, please advise the school. This is especially important if the absence is due to special conditions, such as hospitalization, which may be upsetting to the child. When teachers are aware of such conditions, they often can be of great help in alleviating the child's distress.

SCHOOL RECORDS

Parents should notify the office promptly, in writing, of any change in address, telephone number, as well as any change in information regarding emergency situations, contacts, etc. Promptness and accuracy are necessary to keep records up to date, enabling us to communicate with the home when necessary.

HEALTH

You are the best judge of your child's health and we trust you will not bring a sick child to the center. However, if in the opinion of the teaching staff your child is sick, we will call you to come and pick up your child. The following criteria will

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STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY



Gan Chamesh welcomes families from all walks of life to its preschool. The programs of Gan Chamesh arise from a common desire for excellence in meeting the needs of children and their families for nurturing, growth and development, relationships and

understanding - all in the goal of establishing a love for learning, a fascination with holidays and life cycles events, and a passion for approaching the world in a Jewish way.

Children are treasured for their uniqueness and individuality and are encouraged in self-expression.

The basic philosophy behind our curriculum is that children learn best by doing. The program activities are therefore designed to help children learn more about the world, their heritage, and their values through hands-on activities and active involvement.

While Gan Chamesh operates classrooms which are individualized in their goals & objectives, each classroom forms its specific aims within the context of these principles.

WE BELIEVE ...

- That the home is the most important factor in a child's development. We will always strive to support and complement the family in order to promote healthy development of children and parents
- That loving, trusting, and respecting each child makes that child capable of loving, trusting and respecting others
- That each child should be helped to have a positive self-image

PIZZA DAY

We will be offering a complete Pizza lunch every Monday, which includes pizza and french-fries. If you are interested in purchasing Pizza Lunch for your child please bring in \$150 for the year to Parent Orientation. Contact the school office with any further questions.

BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays are so special to a child. We welcome you to celebrate this special day with your child's class. Your child's teacher will be in touch with you to arrange an appropriate time. At Gan Chamesh, we strive to celebrate birthdays around the child's accomplishments, growth and unique personality and character traits. As part of the celebration, we encourage parents to bring a gift for the class in honor of their child's birthday. A birthday cake or cupcakes can be brought in to be shared with the class.



The birthday child has the honor of presenting a gift for the class on his/her special day. Parents often donate a book, puzzle or game to the classroom. If you wish to donate an item, teachers can give you ideas of what the class would enjoy.

Please remember that that all snacks must be from a Kosher brand, Pas Yisroel and Pareve.

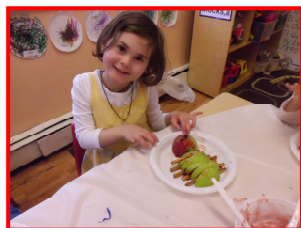
ALLERGY ALERT

We are an ALLERGY AWARE SCHOOL. This is a very very serious concern and we expect everyone's full cooperation.

5. Yarmulkes/Kippot: all boys over the age of three are encouraged to wear Kippot every day to school. Please send a Kippah with your child's name on it.
6. After the winter break, it is a good idea to check your child's box to make sure the extra clothing still fit and is weather appropriate.
7. Please send a rest mat. The Health Department requires that the children use a standard rest mat, 1" or 2" thick, 24" W and 48" L. (Please note that our Green Room/Kindergarten Class does not need mats.)

If necessary, please send along diapers, pull-ups, wipes, disposable gloves and a box of tissues for your child. It will be kept in his/her cubby. Please replenish the supply when necessary.

LUNCH AND SNACK



We ask you to please send in a nutritious lunch with your child Monday through Thursday. We do offer a Pizza lunch on Monday – see below. If any item in your child's lunch need to be refrigerated please let the teachers know. Lunch should

be Pareve or Dairy and **CHOLOV YISROEL**, with a proper Kosher certification and **NUT FREE**. When sending a snack along with your child's lunch, we encourage you to choose a healthy snack.

Some suggestions for nutritious snacks are: fruit salad, melon balls, fruit and cottage cheese, fruit and juice bars, raw vegetables and dip, carrot cake, apple cake or muffins, granola cookies, cornmeal muffins, etc. Chewing gum is not allowed in school. We serve yummy nutritious snacks once or twice a day.

- That children deserve a nurturing, safe and happy environment which promotes their natural curiosity and desire to learn
- That Play is the Work of children and through it children explore the world around them by using their senses.
- That children deserve to have teachers whose values enable them to be excellent role models.

CURRICULUM



Our curriculum is all about S.P.I.C.E.S., the Social, Physical, Intellectual, Creative, Emotional and Spiritual development of your child.

How do we cater to all these areas of development day in and day out? We follow a daily schedule that creates a balance of activities and we base our instructional strategy on the famous Jewish adage of "Chanoch Le'nar Al Pi Darko"-"Educate the child according to his way". His way is best explained by the following motto:

Tell Me I forget

Show Me I remember

Involve Me I understand

At Gan Chamesh, we will not merely Tell your child or Show your child. We will actively involve your child in every aspect of his/her education. This is why you will not find us just telling your child about apples & honey, the Shofar, the Aleph Bet or the weekly Torah Portion. Nor will you find us just showing any of the above. Rather you will see your child involved in manipulating, transforming objects to make real-life connections rather than memorizing facts he will quickly forget. Your child will be discovering bees making honey, feeling horns

on ram's head, engaging in tactile and visual discrimination activities to differentiate letters and shapes etc.



Our curriculum strives to create a balance between the Jewish calendar and the every day lives and interests of the children. It is therefore designed around common monthly themes that web concepts from our Torah portions, values

curriculum, and holidays and explore them in the various disciplines of art, math, science, reading, listening, music, and drama.

Our curriculum offers a good balance of child-initiated and teacher-directed activities. We believe that when this balance is struck and when the various areas of the curriculum are truly developmentally appropriate, then children can begin the process of building a strong enthusiasm for learning, a love for being Jewish and the deep foundation for a positive Jewish identity which will serve them throughout their lives.

The goals of our curriculum include the development of fundamental skills including:

- Auditory Discrimination skills
- Listening Comprehension
- Following directions
- Predicting
- Comparing& Contrasting
- Visual Memory
- Patterning Skills
- Problem-Solving skills
- Seriating skills
- Shape Recognition skills
- Alef Beis
- Alphabet
- Print Concepts
- Writing
- Numbers (0-12)
- One-to-One correspondence
- Classification skills
- Color Recognition
- Small Motor Skills
- Large Motor Skills
- Eye-hand Coordination
- Self-concept
- Dramatic Play
- Cause & Effect

determine a future course of action that might include professional referrals. The school will work closely with you throughout the process.

SNOW DAYS

In case of school closing due to the weather you will get a phone call from your child's teacher before 8:00am or you can check the website www.ganchamesh.com after 7:30 am.

GAN CHAMESH T-SHIRTS



Please note that each class will receive their room color t-shirt. The children will wear their t-shirts on trip days and other special events. The t-shirts will be labeled and kept in school; the children will take them home after the Gan Chamesh Grand

Graduation Parade at the end of the year.

APPAREL NEEDS

1. Please send a complete, labeled change of clothing, in a box (i.e. socks, underwear, shirt, and pants/skirt.)
2. Please keep in mind that your child will be engaged in messy crafts, floor activities and water play. Play clothes are a must. Please send along a smock or an old large shirt for painting.
3. Please see that a pair of labeled, shoes or sneakers is kept in school for daily use during the boot season.
4. Please dress your child appropriately for outdoor play. A label on coats, hats, scarves, mittens and boots minimizes loss and confusion.

Car pool schedules and drop off procedures will be handed out by your class teacher on the first day of school. Please note that a staff member will be waiting in front of the building from 8:55am to 9:20am daily for your drop off convenience.

ARRIVAL

The center opens each weekday at 9:00 AM for full day and half day programs. All children not using the drop off option must be escorted, by an adult, to and from the classrooms. Classroom doors open 5 minutes before the scheduled time. We request that children arrive by 9:00 AM so they may take full advantage of the entire morning program, especially the free choice time, which allows them to smoothly transition into the daily routine and provide them with focused and individual attention.

DISMISSAL

The center closes at 2:30 p.m. for full-day programs and 12:00 p.m. for half-day programs. Children are to be picked up punctually. In case of lateness for unforeseen circumstance, please notify the center as soon as possible so the child does not feel abandoned.

If someone other than persons on the “Authorized Pick-Up list” is to pick up your child, a written, dated and signed note should be given to the teachers at the child’s arrival. Changes made during the day are disruptive and cause confusion. Exceptions will be made in case of emergencies.

Please make sure your child understands what his/her after school plans will be. We have found that children worry if they are uncertain about their after school plans.

HELPING TO INSURE YOUR CHILD’S SUCCESS

We will be watching your child’s development throughout the year. At any point if we determine that there is an area that needs to be addressed, the school will contact you to help

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| • Self-help Skills | • Shapes |
| • Language | • Colors |
| • Emergent Literacy | • Science |
| • Photographical Awareness | • Experimenting |
| • Counting | • Independent Thinking |
| • Sorting | • Small/Large muscle control |
| • Sequencing | • Socialization |
| • Positional Concepts | • Creative Expression |
| • Graphing | |
| • Classifying | |

CHILD ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES

We will be observing the children throughout the year to assess their development in physical, emotional, social, cognitive, creative and language skills. A “Child progress report” will be completed. This information will provide the basis for parent-teacher conferences. Conferences can be held at any time if either parent or teacher requests one.

CENTER EVALUATION

Parents will be given the opportunity on an annual basis to evaluate the center, its program and our ability to meet your specific needs. This is very important to us. Please take the time to complete it when it is received.

PARENT COMMUNICATION



Parent-teacher Conversation: Parents and teachers need to communicate! Please feel free to talk to your child’s teacher at a convenient time. We are confident you understand that pick up and drop off time are not good times for parent-teacher conferences.

You may arrange a convenient time to talk when you pick up or drop off your child or you may drop a note at the office requesting a call back or a note of response.

An informative newsletter will be sent home by your child's teacher every Friday with an overview of everything covered during the week. Please take the time to read it, it will give you insight into what your child has been involved with during the week and it is a great springboard for discussion.

Please check our website **www.ganchamesh.com** for news bulletins, updates and pictures.

PARENT CONFERENCES

Teachers will offer parent conferences on an annual basis. We will observe your child, and assess their level of development prior to this conference. Conferences are your opportunity to sit down with your child's teacher and discuss your child in depth. The center or parent may request a conference at any other time throughout the year if there are any special concerns.

DAILY SCHEDULE

Daily Schedules vary a bit from room to room, but generally, a day proceeds as follows:

9:00-9:15	Arrival, Greetings, Informal conversation
9:15-10:00	Discovery time: Free choice among a variety of activities in the learning centers: literacy, reading, writing/listening, manipulatives, dramatic, cooking, science, sand/water, music, etc.

May

- Trike-a-thon & Picnic
- End of Year Trips
- Mess Day

June

- Bikkurim Celebration
- Grand Graduation Parade

*Please note some activities might change

GUIDELINES AND POLICIES

OUR COLORFUL SCHOOL



To make arrival at school fun, easy and educational we have designated a color to each classroom. Your child's class will be known by its color (e.g.: The Red RoomThe Green room). Welcome signs, sign in charts, cubbies and most labels will reflect the color of the room so it will be clear and easy for children to find the corresponding color.

LOCATION AND ENTRANCE

Gan Chamesh has two sites:

① 748 Central Avenue (corner of Linden Street) in Woodmere. If you choose to use the Linden Street entrance, go up Pine Street and come down Linden to avoid dangerous turns & illegal parking. Parking is also available on Central Avenue. ② 74 Maple Avenue, in Cedarhurst. Please make sure to observe the Enter & Exit signs; there is only a one-way entrance.

CAR-POOL AND DROP OFF OPTION

A Year at a Glance

September

- Bee Presentation "The Queen Bee Makes Honey"
- Shofar Factory
- Rosh Hashanah Fair

October

- Kapparos Farm
- The Little Expert Shoe Store
- Tashlich Pond

November

- A visit from the Zoo- Veterinarian Visit
- Hachnasos Orchim Party with the Seniors
- Family Day

December

- Chanukah Fun House
- Light Museum

January

- Rambam's Yartziet Doctor Visits our Gan

February

- Pajama Party
- Tu B'Shevat Celebration

March

- Five Senses Carnival & Purim Masquerade

April

- Mitzrayim Experience
- A visit from a sheep
- Matzah Bakery
- Model Seder

10:00-10:20	Clean up and Snack
10:20-10:45	Circle time with music, stories and games to introduce the theme and its concepts
10:45-11:30	Project time: opportunities for children to choose between 2 or 3 projects to further explore the theme and sharpen specific skills. Children who finish early have a chance to pull our "magic carpet activities" which provide them a chance to choose a transition game they can play on their own
11:30-12:00	Active play (indoors or outdoors) Large muscle development. Use of equipment & games.
12:00- 12:30	Washing hands, Lunch and Conversation
12:30-12:45	Story Time
12:45-1:15	Quiet time and Rest; Lying down and stretching out. Listening to Soft music, looking at books
1:15-2:00	Work/Play area Small group project time with table activities and at learning centers
2:00-2:20	Music/Movement/Creative Dramatics and/or Story time Movement to music, dance, rhythm band, bean bag and parachute activities
2:20-2:30	Discussion of day's activities and planning for next day Preparation for Dismissal and Greeting parents



Your child's teacher will send you a specific notification of the schedule for our special events as well as extra curricular activities such as the "The little hour with Mommy/Daddy", "Music Time" etc.

EXTRA CURRICULAR PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

MUSIC PROGRAM/DRAMA PROGRAM



During the year, the Gan Chamesh children are exposed to an array of music and drama experiences with talented teachers. The musical experiences focus on learning about different instruments and music from around the world.

GYM

Gan Chamesh is proud of its portable state of the art gym equipment. This equipment is set up on a regular basis in our indoor spaces to engage your child in a host of fun physical activities aimed at stimulating gross motor skills and self confidence.

SHOW & SHARE

On the pre-assigned day designated by your child's teacher, your child will be encouraged to bring in an item, a poem, a song, a letter, anything he/she wishes to show and tell his/her classmates. Children will have the opportunity to talk about it to their classmates during circle time and to share it with their friends during free play. It gives the children an opportunity to share their belongings with others while boosting their confidence. The item will then be prominently showcased in the children's classroom "Museum", a special area for one day. Children will record their Show & Tell experiences in various ways including children-made books, journals, memory books etc.

GAN CHAMESH SUPPERETTE



On the designated day on the calendar we will invite all mothers and women in our community to an annual Supperette. It is a great opportunity to shep Nachas together with other mothers and bask in your child's accomplishments. The evening will feature the children's work and a slide show presentation will culminate the event.

GRAND GRADUATION PARADE

To culminate our wonderful year of learning The Gan Chamesh children (from both locations) will participate in a Grand Graduation Parade down Maple Ave on the designated date on our calendar. We have chosen to do it on a Friday so children can go home with their parents after the festivities on an early dismissal day. Family and friends will be invited as spectators to cheer our students on.



GARDENING

The children in Gan Chamesh have developed a 'green thumb' in a new gardening program developed by Mr. David Marc from "Organic Gardens". Children witness the miracles of growth and the wonders of Hashem's creations as they work in the potted gardens and are involved in planting, watering, caring and harvesting the fruits and vegetables. The highlight of course is when they get to taste the yummy produce they grew all by themselves.

VISITORS

The staff welcomes interesting visitors (i.e. doctors, musicians, artists) to the school, who talk with the children about their professions, interests, or hobbies. Please inform us of any such people you know and would like to recommend, as the children will enjoy their participation in the program.

SPECIAL EVENTS/FAIRS

In addition to our exciting curriculum, we will be culminating each monthly theme with a special extracurricular event. For example, Family day when exploring the theme of Families, Pajama Party when learning about health and healthy habits, Brachos fair when learning about Nutrition etc. You will be notified through our newsletter. We encourage you to volunteer your time.

**MESS DAY**

On designated days on our calendar we will be having our fun filled "Mess Days". Your child will engage in a variety of messy activities that will enhance their fine motor skills and sensory growth. Various materials will be offered (i.e. Paints, shaving cream, flour, jello, water etc...) for children to explore freely in an uninhibited way. Please dress your child in appropriate clothing for this purpose.

**SHABBOS PARTY**

Friday is a very special day at Gan Chamesh. We organize a Shabbos Party for the children and enjoy Challah and a special treat. Every week a different boy and girl will be chosen to be the Ima (Mommy) and Abba (Daddy) and will be responsible to bring in a small Kosher/Pareve/Pas Yisroel snack for the class. At times, each class will be invited to another class at Gan Chamesh; they will be the "Shabbos guests" of the class they will be joining for the Shabbos party, thereby encouraging the Mitzvah of Hachnosas Orchim in a real and meaningful way. Parents are welcomed and encouraged to join their children for the Shabbos party when they are the Abba or Ima.

Please remember that that all snacks must be from a Kosher brand, Pas Yisroel and Pareve.

ALLERGY ALERT

PLEASE NOTE THAT WE ARE A NUT AWARE SCHOOL. BEFORE YOUR SON/DAUGHTER IS SHABBOS ABBA OR IMA, WE WILL SEND OUT A DETAILED LETTER ABOUT WHAT AND OR WHERE TREATS AND SNACKS CAN BE PURCHASED.

ROSH CHODESH SING ALONG

All children will join together for a special Sing Along party every month in honor of Rosh Chodesh, the beginning of the Hebrew month. Children enthusiastically wait to see what will come out of the magical "Rosh Chodesh Box". Every month different surprises pop out, introducing the themes that pertain to the upcoming month and special days. The party will also include a special Rosh Chodesh treat.



LIBRARY HOUR

We are thrilled to have developed an interactive Library Hour in conjunction with the unique Levi Yitzchak Library on Central Avenue. Our students visit the library regularly and are exposed to an array of books, introduced to styles of different authors, and are encouraged to become authors themselves. By having constant access to this world-acclaimed library, children develop a love of literacy and of reading.

ENRICHMENT TIME

During enrichment time each class will come periodically to a special area/room, which is set up with innovative, creative, skill building materials and equipment aimed at enriching children's discovery and extending children's classroom learning experiences on the theme/Parsha/Yom Tov of the week.



Children will explore, manipulate items, pets, artifacts, and play enrichment games, which will be communicated to you in our newsletters.

TRAVEL MANIA DAY

Gan Chamesh believes in providing children a culturally rich program where children understand that they belong to a larger group of children around the world. Each month children will be "traveling" to a different country, exploring on Travel Mania days



specific components of the country. Show & Tell, cultural foods, folklore songs, artifacts, family stories, letters etc. are just a few of the activities included in the program. Children will have a passport, a journal and a suitcase. We encourage parents to get

involved and assist children in gathering props, songs, pictures, recipes etc, especially if you or family members originate from any

of the countries we'll be exploring. Details will be given by your child's classroom.

TZITZIS & HADLAKOS NEIROS PARTY

For our 3 year old students, we will be celebrating the special time in their lives when they start wearing Tzitzis and taking on special Mitzvos. For the boys we will have an in depth unit exploring Tzitzis and their individual Mitzvos culminating with a meaningful party, to instill real pride in who they are. For the girls we will delve into the Mitzvos of Hadlakos Neiros and Challah, ending off with a special Shabbos party celebrating their special Mitzvos.

FEELING CENTERS

We have created a unique feeling and emotions center in each one of our classrooms. At these centers children are



encouraged to Problem solve and deal with all kinds of situations. Children are given the tools to understand the various emotions that they may be feeling and are provided with the opportunity

to express themselves appropriately. We will be focusing on different emotions through out the year so children will gain a deeper understanding of their feelings.

P.T.A.

The Gan Chamesh P.T.A. organizes all kinds of programs and extra curricular activities through out the year. An optional After School Program will start after Yom Tov that will include hands-on fun for your preschooler. We encourage parents to get involved in our P.T.A... We look forward to greeting you as a volunteer and working together with our parent body to create the most meaningful P.T.A. activities.