

## News from YEDA-Leo Baeck, Petach Tikvah

At YEDA Petach Tikva we are concentrating our efforts on improving the Hebrew language skills of our pupils. In all of the grade levels we are trying to nurture in the children a love of the language through reading, writing and stimulating stories. In addition we are modifying the learning environment since that also conveys to the children the importance of reading and writing and can cultivate a love of books.

To achieve our goal we've redesigned the hallways and corridors of the first and second grade classrooms as we attempt to foster a love of the Hebrew language. In early December, during the week leading up to the Hebrew Book Week, we divided the hallways up into a number of activity stations:

- The Writers' corner where the children met Israeli authors, and worked on a range of activities designed to enrich their Hebrew vocabulary.
- The 'Shopping Mall' corner where the children strengthened their arithmetic and numeracy skills through role-play and hands-on activities related to buying, selling and giving change.
- The Craft area where the children engaged in creative writing and craft work which was then used to decorate the classrooms and corridors. This enabled us to incorporate the halls and corridors into the existing learning environment.

Connecting with the Kindergartens: First-graders and their form teachers, sixth graders and their teachers, together with the gym teacher, entertained the kindergarten children that will be starting school next year, with a fun morning of shared activities and experiences. The kindergarten children teamed up with the first graders and together they moved between the various work corners in an enjoyable round of cooperation, planning and coordination. Over the next month the kindergarten children will have another three meetings with the first grade pupils, to help them get to know the school where they will be studying next year.

**Our best wishes for a happy and healthy 2016!**

Yours,

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