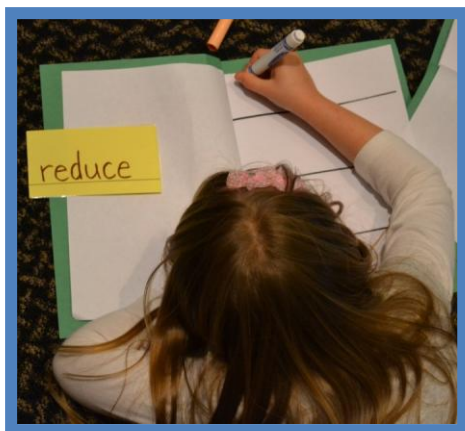


Green Blog 2.10.12

No matter what we're learning at any given time—science, math, history...--it's always time throughout the full day for language arts to seep into our lessons. I see this happening in so many areas at Beth Yeshurun Day School: flexible and conscientious teaching, the kind that seizes on that teaching moment, the kind that weaves a lesson from another subject into the lesson you're working on now.



This is also happening in our science and environmental science programs throughout the Early Childhood and Elementary School Programs.

Let's look at what our Pre-K students were doing during Tu Bshevat Day on Wednesday this week. They were working on handwriting, on science learning, on creativity, on Judaic traditions—all at once. But they were also working on vocabulary. On Wednesday, the Pre-K teachers were introducing some R words that relate to good environmental practice. Words like "Reuse," "Recycle," "Replace...these are words with a prefix, and they are words about the environment, and specifically they are about protection of trees and the importance of trees. It was a celebratory lesson, because our Pre-K students were also honoring the birthday of the trees on Wednesday, much like we celebrate each other's birthday in our Friday Shabbat program.

Just take a look at these photos, showing the words the children were learning. When we talk about the outdoors and the about gardens in particular, we are always talking about the opportunity to expand our language, to see words that apply to our caring for the world, words that will have relevance for our students and will thus stay with them for all their days going forward.



→ Check back from time to time to read Mr. E's Green Blog--Mr. Elieff is Head of School at Beth Yeshurun Day School in Houston, a preschool through fifth grade Jewish day school and a member of the Schechter Day School Network. Also, follow Mr. Elieff on twitter: @EliezerElieff [Eliezer is his Hebrew name], where you can follow his links to current environmental and educational technology topics.