

SHARING OUR LEARNING - WAS NATURAL! AND SECOND NATURE for our students as they provided snapshots of their work with a room full of family members and friends. The students did a terrific job of sharing their learning as they sang, danced, and presented science information with poise... and joy. One of the clear advantages of a school like Hillel is the ability to integrate the curriculum so that it is responsive to students' needs and interests as they work to meet state and national learning standards. And yes, another advantage, is being able to have fun along the way.



How did all of this come about? Last summer we approached Aullwood with an idea we had to deepen the work we are doing with our Hillel students through an expansion of the kinds of artist-in-residence programs we'd done in other schools. Using nature and hands-on discovery as the core theme, we planned an early field trip to Aullwood for all our students. Immediately following that field experience, Chris Rowlands worked intensively in a one-week residency format, helping the children write original lyrics and develop new music based on the content learned from the visit to Aullwood. Again, Hillel Academy is a school where students can have their work integrated and thus link art, science, music... and as you saw, dance.



Through their close relationship with Chris Rowlands, students learned that writing lyrics is fun... and very hard work. They began to open up to new ways of thinking, new ways of expressing what they'd learned and experienced. As evidenced from their in-school science extensions, our teachers worked hard to guide our children's science explorations to include close observation of the world around them. Through good fortune, we were lucky enough to meet Christie Bealer, who so generously volunteered to teach the children traditional, Israeli dances with a special focus on our nature theme.

The November 2nd performance, however, was just the first step. The students now have a better sense of working together as a team, paying attention to details, and how to follow up on inquiries and questions they have about the world around them. Our staff plans to use the work to date as a springboard for further explorations with authentic connections to the real world our children live in.

Whew! Okay, so we're on our way. Hillel Academy is certainly a place where we can make connections for children and their learning, and do quality work by taking advantage of our non-traditional setting. Thanks to everyone for the support, trust, and encouragement you've given us along the way.

PREVIEW THE PERFORMANCE!!!! Many thanks to parent and Hillel board member, Brad Jacobs, for volunteering to put together a video of *Sharing Our Learning: It's Natural*. He already has a trailer ready for you to look at – it's an invitation only, Hillel friends and family video. You can get to it by clicking on this link or typing it into your browser. Here's the link:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r1R0g-Q-vSQ&hd=1>



PICTURE YOURSELF AT HILLEL Our multipurpose room has taken on an added air of sophistication as the “library” end became a portrait gallery last week. Students learned quite a bit about proportion as they looked at themselves in mirrors in the art room. Where do my eyes fall in comparison with the top of my head and chin? How big should a neck be? Where am I in my world... and what is around me? Lots of decisions that artists need to make. Once made, the results are there for all of us to enjoy!

VISITED OUR WEB SITE LATELY? Our teachers’ blogs are the best way to keep up with the real Hillel *happenins*: continuing discoveries about trees and apples, reader’s theater, and reflections about having fun visiting Mangel’s sukkah. Want a friend or family member to enjoy learning the first blessing of Birkat Hamazon? Then get to our home page and click on the YouTube link. Enjoy!

