

Dear Parents,

Next week we celebrate the **Jewish holiday of Purim** on **Thursday, March 5th**. This is a happy holiday with many fun traditions including costumes, carnivals and special treats. The story of Purim comes from the Bible in the Book of Esther. It celebrates Jewish survival, courage, community responsibility and faith in God. (For anyone looking to learn more about the holiday, there are many wonderful websites like: [Judaism.about.com](http://Judaism.about.com); [aish.com](http://aish.com); [www.Chabad.org](http://www.Chabad.org); and [www.Jewishvirtuallibrary.org](http://www.Jewishvirtuallibrary.org))

At The Lippman School we all celebrate this holiday with special Purim traditions.

- On **Monday and Tuesday** we will be **baking** traditional holiday cookies called **hamantashen**.
- It is tradition to start celebrating the merriment even before the holiday. We will have two Purim Spirit days prior to the holiday:
  - **Tuesday, March 3** students can come to school ready to celebrate with **“Crazy Hat or Hair Day”**
  - **Wednesday, March 4** students should come to school dressed for **“Pajama Day”**
- Since exchanging gifts and food baskets are a holiday tradition, the students will also be making small Purim gifts and snack bags for their “buddies”
- Another holiday tradition is gifts for the needy. We will be baking cookies to make cookie baskets as a Mitzvah gift to the needy.
- On **Purim Day, Thursday, March 5**, children should come to school in **costumes**. Our celebration will include
  - a school assembly with a chance to see everyone’s’ costumes
  - a lot of noise (a fun tradition) as we tell the Purim story by reading from the traditional Hebrew Megillah (Book of Esther)
  - a funny Purim skit (Purim Shpeil) performed by the 7/8<sup>th</sup> grade and staff
  - a Purim carnival for TK- 4th grade run by the 5th and 6th grade
- Our **first graders** will be going to **Chambrel** to sing songs and visit the elderly Jewish residents on **Friday, March 6th**.

This is a great holiday and we look forward to celebrating as a school community. We could use some extra helping hands for the festivities and preparations- baking hamantashen (next Monday, March 3rd and Tuesday, March 4th), bagging Purim goodies (next Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>), picking up the refreshments for Thursday’s festivities, helping the 5/6<sup>th</sup> graders set up, run and cleaning up the carnival on Thursday from 1-3:30.

Please contact me if you are available or if you have any questions. Thank you!!

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