



Look Around You

By Pam Morris, Early Learning Center director

It is the most wonderful time of the year... While I know that these lyrics (because the tune is running through my head) is a Christmas song, it is the sentiment I feel when the weather begins to cool down and we head into fall. Again, the calendar says that fall began on Sept. 23 but again, the daytime temperatures didn't reflect that here in Chandler. Oh, the evenings were a bit cooler, but nothing like it is now.

Windows are open, children are out on the playground, you even need a sweater at times (a light one, of course, but still). This season begins the reason we moved to Arizona. We hear the East Coast crew and their disbelief that we can live in this desert in June-September. "How can you live there??" they ask. (Who are they, you ask? Those people who live mainly on the East Coast but also Midwesterners and West Coasters.) "How can you tolerate 115 degrees?" That is easy. First of all, thank HaShem, we have air conditioning. Second of all, today. Today is how we can live here then. Tomorrow is how we can live here then. And every day (for the most part) through April-ish. Sometimes in May. But definitely April.

And it isn't just that it is cooler out. The air is a little crisper. People are smiling more. (Well, I know I am!) And that is really what it is about. People. People out of their cars. Out of their houses. Out walking their dogs or just themselves. People have a bit of a bounce in their steps.

So when I suggest that you look around, we can all be mesmerized by the people we see. Because let's face it, I don't know about you, but I see a lot of cars over the summertime but people are few and far between. And while I do enjoy the scenery, it is the people and the connections that bring me true joy.

In order to enjoy the summer with friends, it takes a lot of scheduling for where and when. Outside requires a pool. Outside requires the perfect timing. But the fall can happen anytime because weather doesn't dictate what and where an activity must take place.



Like those “other” places I mentioned before (northeast/Midwest), we have come out of hibernation. Our hibernation is opposite from New York and Chicago. We go inside just when they are coming out. And vice versa. So now is the time to be outside, be active, just be.

So, look around. Take it all in. And try not to think about May. It is so far away.

Shabbat Shalom!