



## Students are teachers for a day

### St. John's Episcopal and New Horizon students met at Morasha Jewish Day School to learn about Judaism.

By ALEJANDRA MOLINA STAFF WRITER

Morasha Jewish Day School students played teachers for a day last week to educate their new Muslim and Christian friends about the origins and customs of Judaism.

The fourth- through eighthgrade students are taking part in a semester-long study of Christianity, Islam and Judaism orchestrated by the Anti-Defamation League Orange County/Long Beach Region's Jerusalem Sky Project.

Creation, redemption and revelation were the themes of the second interfaith gathering of the Jerusalem Sky Project where students from St. John's Episcopal School and New Horizon Elementary met at Morasha Jewish Day School to learn about the holy books, rituals and holidays of their Jewish peers.

Morasha students held three different stations to teach their colleagues what the three themes means to them.

"Our ideals are similar," said seventh grader Emily Spaide from St. John's Episcopal School, after learning what revelation means to her Jewish peers.

Through her Morasha colleagues, Spaide learned that revelation, to them, means to reveal God's words and they do so through the Hebrew Bible.

Christian students from St. John's and Muslim students from New Horizon also learned that Jews commemorate the event of God redeeming the Hebrews from slavery during Pesach, a spring harvest holiday, and that Shabbat is a day of rest, which is when God rested after he was finished creating the world.

"We all have the same God but we call him different names," said seventh grader Elise Dobberman from St. John's Episcopal School.

Students will meet next on Nov. 8 at St. John's Episcopal School, in Rancho Santa Margarita. At the end of the program, students will exhibit poetry and art from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Nov. 27 at Rancho's Bell Tower.

"They're very nice," said New Horizon's fifth grader Amina Soliman of her new Morasha friends.

#### **Judaism has over a dozen holidays. Some of the upcoming Jewish holidays are:**

**Hanukkah** - An eight-day holiday celebrating the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem after it was defiled by the Selucid Greeks. This year it falls on Dec. 16.

**Purim** - A holiday celebrating the rescue of the Jews from extermination at the hands of the chief minister to the King of Persia. It will fall on March 4, 2007.

**Pesach** - A holiday commemorating the Exodus from Egypt, known in English as Passover. The holiday also marks the beginning of the harvest season. It will fall on April 3, 2007.

The **Tanakh** or **Hebrew Bible** is made up of three parts: **Torah** - the first five books of the Bible: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy, sometimes called the Pentateuch. **Nevi'im** - prophets **Ketuvim** -

writings

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**INTERFAITH:** Students from Horizon and St. John's schools got to view an open Torah scroll at Morasha Jewish Day School. (l-r) Omar Ozgur, Andrew Cusator, Emily Woods, Madison Jaros, Emily Spaide, Dean Cook, and Amina Soliman.