

TEMPLE BETH-EL EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CENTER
The Marjorie and Mark Gershwind Campus of Living Judaism
5 Old Mill Road, Great Neck, NY 11023



GROWING TOGETHER

Vicki Perler, Director
April 9, 2021

Dear Families,

Welcome back! I hope Passover was as memorable for you and your family as it was for mine. “Next Year in Jerusalem,” the culmination of the Passover Seder, has been chanted loudly and strongly in Jewish homes for generations. Next Thursday, Jews around the world will celebrate Yom Ha’Atzmaut - Israel’s Independence Day, and here, in our school, we will have a day of celebration. Helping children develop a love for Israel is a core value of our school and has become an ongoing and integral part of the learning in our classrooms. Our young children learn that Jewish holiday rituals and celebrations, Torah stories, and the foods we eat during Shabbat and the Jewish holidays are all linked to the seasons and land in Israel. They learn to watch the sky and to see the seasons as more than warm and cold weather. Israel is a beautiful country - full of mountains and deserts, fertile valleys and farms, babbling brooks and ocean vistas. It is the place that gave birth to our ancestors and our culture.

Our children will be investigating Israeli artifacts, learning about the various regions of the country, tasting typical Israeli foods, and learning about Israel’s flag and the Star of David in the center. As they “explore” this beautiful country, their connections to Israel are strengthened. Next week’s celebration will be the culmination of these explorations. An entire school, with everyone dressed in blue and white,

the colors of Israel's flag, will be waving flags to Hebrew songs and singing joyously to the music. Evoking deep feelings, we hope the celebrations will be beautiful, meaningful and memorable.

HaTikvah - The Hope - Israel's National Anthem

Transliteration:

Kol od baleivav p'nima
Nefesh Yehudi homiya
Ulefaatei mizrach kadima
Ayin letsiyon tsofiyah
Od lo avda tikvateinu
HaTikva bat shnot alpayim
Lihyot am chofshi be-artseinu
Eretz tsiyon virushalayim.

Translation:

As long as the Jewish spirit is yearning deep in the heart,
With eyes turned toward the East, looking toward Zion,
Then our hope – the two-thousand-year-old hope - will not be lost:
To be a free people in our land,
The land of Zion and Jerusalem.

Shabbat Shalom

Vicki

HAPPENINGS & DATES TO REMEMBER

Mon&Tues, April 12&13	Rosh Chodesh Iyar
Tuesday, April 13	Pee Wee Pros Sports Program for 3s and Pre-K
Wednesday, April 14	Yom Hazikaron
Thursday, April 15	Yom HaAtzmaut – Dress in Blue and White
Thursday, April 15	Special Music and Dance Program for School with Tkiya
Tuesday, April 20	Parent-Teacher Conferences – School Closed
Tuesday, April 27	Pee Wee Pros Sports Program for 3s and Pre-K
Friday, April 30	Lag BaOmer
Monday, May 3	Picture Day
Wednesday, May 5	PTC Mother's Day Boutique

CONNECTIONS

Parent/Teacher Conferences - will be held on Tuesday, April 20. The conference will focus on achievement of the goals that were set by you and the teachers in the fall. The goal of our collaboration this year has been to assist each child in achieving his/her maximum potential in school as well as at home. We are happy about the progress your child has made and are excited to share these accomplishments with you.

The length of each conference is 20 minutes. We are committed to making sure that our communications with you are effective and appropriate. Please let me know whether you would like us to provide translation services to assure your comfort during conferences.

Registration for the Summer Program – The Summer Program registration is in full force. We still have spaces available. Give your child a summer of fun. Stress-free transitions are important for young children. **Our Summer Program is a wonderful way to provide consistency and a seamless flow of the year. We are offering programs for children who are two, three, four and five years-old.** If you would like more information about our programs, please don't hesitate to call.

Registration for 2021-2022 – Don't get closed out of a class! Registrations are still coming in for the 2021-2022 school year. If you have any questions about our program for your child for next year, please don't hesitate to call or email me.

Travel Requirements – **Please continue to be safe. We have been blessed with continuous in-person education for our children, and we want to continue that way until June!** It is highly recommended that you do not travel unless it is absolutely necessary. If you must travel, it is imperative that you follow all travel-related quarantine protocols set by New York State. Any traveler coming into NYS (who traveled outside NY, PA, NJ, CT, MA or VT for more than 24 hours must quarantine for 14 days UNLESS they receive a negative Covid test before departure and then again on day four of their return. A 14-day quarantine is mandatory for a return to school unless two negative tests results are provided to the school in writing.

PTC Challah Fundraising Program - We are offering an opportunity for you to order dough for your weekly challah to take home on Thursdays. This is a fun and educational way to enhance your Shabbat experiences with your children by making a fresh challah at home every week. **The Challah Program began this week. You can still sign up!** A huge thank you, to Marianna Costa and our extraordinary PTC, for initiating this wonderful experience for our children and families.

Challah Dough Details if Your Child is Absent from School – The school will put your dough in the freezer, and we will give it to you when you return. Once you receive the dough, it will need to be completely defrosted. It takes 6-7 hours to completely defrost, and then needs to be brought to room temperature before you prepare it and braid.

Dressing for the Outdoors – **Thank you for being so attentive to the weather every day to ensure that your child is appropriately dressed for outdoor play. We have had extraordinary experiences in the school this year!** Our goal in all weather is to keep the children warm, dry and comfortable. If they are not dressed properly, the class is unable to take advantage of the open air and the many interesting outdoor spaces around the temple building. Boots, raincoats, snow pants, an extra pair of sneakers, two complete changes of clothing (to be left in school), sweaters, hats, mittens, and a warm jacket are necessary. We are outdoors when the temperature is above 30 degrees. Please label all children's clothing! Thank you.

Health and Safety Precautions During the Pandemic - The health and safety procedures in the ECEC are very specific this year. Please wear your mask, stay physically distant from each other, and never bring your child to school if s/he appears ill. We will need to send your child home if s/he exhibits symptoms. **All children in the school MUST be symptom free.** Your cooperation is essential and very much appreciated.

Parent Teacher Council – The PTC is comprised of parents, teachers and lay leaders from the Temple and school community who work together to make decisions and provide ongoing support

for the school. Our PTC Co-Chairs for the 2020-2021 school year are Dalia Hagooli, Marianna Costa, and Samantha Talasazain. Thank you for your hard work and dedication to our school. If you would like to be a part of our exciting Parent Teacher Council, please feel free to contact Dalia (dharoooni@aol.com), Marianna (mari.mostovaya@yahoo.com) or Sam (stalis625@gmail.com) at any time. We are grateful to all of you for your participation.

Shabbat Sing – On Friday, we join together to experience a beautiful sing-along with me. It is the highlight of my week - every week. I feel very blessed to be able to teach your children beautiful Shabbat melodies. Our Shabbat Sing experiences will be different this year as they will be outdoors and physically distant. We look forward to creating joyous Shabbat celebrations every week.

Hot Lunch Program - The foods children eat and lifestyle habits they learn have a lasting effect on their health. Due to the overwhelming interest of our families to provide nutritious meals for lunch, we offer meat and dairy lunches for all students. As you know, one of the values of our school is to maintain the highest quality of care whenever possible. This value should also be reflected in the foods we eat.

Lunch Menu:

Monday – Pasta, meat sauce, vegetables

Tuesday – Baked chicken fingers and vegetables

Wednesday Pizza and Israeli salad

Thursday- Grilled cheese and vegetables - NEW

Friday – Baked fish, rice, vegetables

This year, the lunch is provided in individual packages for each child. We also have whole wheat bread and soy butter available to children who have not yet acquired the taste for these new foods. We hope that over time, children will discover and enjoy a variety of foods.

Important ECEC Telephone Information – If you have an important message and cannot reach me or Nancy on the telephone during the day, please ask someone in the main office to find us and relay the message. We hope this system will help you if you are unable to talk to us in person.

Contact Information - Please call, email or see me if you have anything you would like to discuss. My email address is vperler@tbegreatneck.org. This is usually the best way to reach me.

Links to Remember – I invite you to visit the websites connected to the links below. The links relate to information about early childhood education, Jewish life and learning, and helpful hints for parents.

<https://pjlibrary.org/yomhaatzmaut>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ysg4R_LMzeI (Children singing Hatikvah)

<https://www.wbur.org/cognoscenti/2016/04/08/children-play-nature-john-lee>

<https://www.naeyc.org/our-work/families/explore-great-outdoors>

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/joyful-parenting/201705/not-naughty-10-ways-kids-appear-be-acting-bad-arent>

<https://www.jnf.org> (Plant a tree in Israel for Tu B'Shevat)

https://parenting.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/09/04/teaching-children-empathy/?_php=true&type=blogs&_php=true&type=blogs&smid=fb-share&r=5

Harvard Psychologists Say: Parents Who Raise ‘Good’ Kids, Do These 5 Things!
<https://tinyurl.com/y97pbd6p>

35 Children's Books That Teach Empathy and Kindness <https://tinyurl.com/y5aczd6p>

<https://www.pbs.org/parents/thrive/helping-kids-navigate-scary-news-stories>

<https://www.zerotothree.org/early-development>

<https://www.mommyshorts.com/2015/03/5-ways-kids-learn-at-a-reggio-emilia-preschool.html>

<https://pjlibrary.org/home>

<https://pjlibrary.org/getmedia/c63e85f1-58d9-44fd-ae8a-696825e88d25/Jewish-values-ECE.pdf>

<https://childhood101.com/an-image-of-the-child-understanding-emergent-curriculum/>

https://www.huffpost.com/entry/if-we-dont-let-our-children_b_1017485?guccounter=1

<https://www.wbur.org/cognoscenti/2016/04/08/children-play-nature-john-lee>

<https://www.naeyc.org/resources/pubs/yc/mar2018/promoting-social-and-emotional-health>

www.tbe-ecec.org

<http://www.naeyc.org/>

<http://families.naeyc.org/>

<http://www.reggioalliance.org/>

<http://www.brainy-child.com/article/reggioemilia.shtml>