

**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**  
**December 4, 2020**

Dear Families,

When one of my sons was eight years old, we went on an outing together to the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. The trip was a short train ride from our home in Potomac, Maryland. My desire to have my son experience a pleasurable trip to the art gallery reflected his budding interest and talent in art.

It was a wonderful day; my son was explicit in his taste and appreciation of the paintings. I found it fascinating that he did not want to look at the art from the Modern Period. The art from the Renaissance Period, however, captivated him. When we arrived at the area where Leonardo Da Vinci's, "Ginevra de' Benci" was kept, he stood in one place for a very long time and studied the piece carefully and thoughtfully.

I had long forgotten this experience until many years later after he finished his final exam in an art history course at the University of Michigan. He wanted to "tell me something important." "The course was very enjoyable," he said. "But an amazing thing happened during one of the sessions. The professor showed a slide of 'Ginevra de' Benci' and the full memory of our trip to the National Gallery came back to me." He told me that he continued to think about the experience for a long time after the class. He realized that the

trip to the museum had a great impact on him during his childhood, especially in his quest to draw, paint, and study art. He called me because he “wanted me to know.”

We all take the responsibility of parenting seriously and we continually strive to introduce our children to new experiences. Children are all different, however. A trip to an art museum for one child is not equal in excitement to a trip to a science museum for another child. Each child’s interests and talents are unique. As parents and educators, it is our responsibility to know each child’s strengths and to work toward having each child reach his or her full potential.

At next week’s Parent/Teacher Conferences, our teachers and you will work together to create goals for each child. Understanding that learning involves thinking, and that quality thinking can best happen when children have first-hand experiences, we strive to provide opportunities for children to explore and discover, and we challenge them to think and figure things out for themselves. As early childhood educators, we are consistently aware of nurturing all the children’s development, recognizing that each child possesses many different strengths.

Decades ago, Psychologist Howard Gardner proposed his influential theory of multiple intelligences which more comprehensively describe the range of children’s and adult’s capabilities and potential than traditional I.Q. testing. When asked for advice on how parents could rear successful children, Gardner replied that we should not try to make our children good at what we ourselves were good at, or what we ourselves were not good at. Dr. Gardner said that our job is to find our children’s strengths and to help them become who they are supposed to be, not what we think they should be. Gardner’s multiple intelligences theory is still significant today.

### The Multiple Intelligences

1. Linguistic - Children with this kind of intelligence enjoy writing, reading, telling stories or doing crossword puzzles.
2. Logical-Mathematical - Children with lots of logical intelligence are interested in patterns, categories and relationships. They are drawn to arithmetic problems, strategy games and experiments.
3. Bodily-Kinesthetic - These kids process knowledge through bodily sensations. They are often athletic, dancers or good at crafts such as sewing or woodworking.
4. Spatial - These children think in images and pictures. They may be fascinated with mazes or jigsaw puzzles, or spend free time drawing, building or daydreaming.
5. Musical - Musical children are always singing or drumming to themselves. They are usually quite aware of sounds others may miss. These kids are often discriminating listeners.
6. Interpersonal - Children who are leaders among their peers, who are good at communicating and who seem to understand others' feelings and motives possess interpersonal intelligence.
7. Intrapersonal - These children may be shy. They are very aware of their own feelings and are self-motivated.

Since publishing his original list of seven intelligences, Gardner added Naturalist and Existential to bring the total number to nine intelligences.

8. Naturalist – These children are keen observers and use their senses to gather information about the world.

9. Existential – These children have the ability to understand religious and spiritual ideals. They have a strong understanding of things that are not visual to the eye but through faith and belief.

According to Dr, Gardner, “Rarely does anyone shine in all areas.” Therefore, it is important to appreciate where one’s strengths are rather than focus on where they are not. Formal education often seems to overemphasize the areas of verbal and mathematical logical intelligences. It is, then, very important for us, as parents and early childhood educators, to recognize achievements in other areas, as well.

“Children make their mark in life by doing what they can do, not what they can’t,” states Gardner. “School is important, but life is more important. Being happy is using your skills productively, no matter what they are.” Here, at Temple Beth-El Early Childhood Education Center, we strive to provide a loving and accepting environment where children can thrive, grow in every area of development, and feel good about themselves. We, as teachers, enjoy each child’s gifts. Thank you for sharing them with us.

*Shabbat Shalom*  
*Vicki*

## **HAPPENINGS & DATES TO REMEMBER**

<b>Monday, Dec. 7</b>	<b>Last day of PTC Pasta Fundraiser</b>
<b>Tuesday, Dec. 8</b>	<b>Parent-Teacher Conferences – School Closed</b>
<b>Wednesday, Dec. 9</b>	<b>Tkiya – Jewish Music Chanukah Program for the School</b>
<b>Thurs-Fri, Dec. 10-18</b>	<b>Chanukah</b>
<b>Monday, Dec. 14</b>	<b>Covid-19 Informational Seminar for Great Neck Community – Specific details will be available next week</b>
<b>Wednesday, Dec. 16</b>	<b>Rosh Chodesh Tevet</b>
<b>Friday, Dec. 18</b>	<b>Early Bird Deadline for Registration</b>
<b>Monday, Dec. 21</b>	<b>First Day of Winter</b>
<b>Mon-Fri, Dec. 21-Jan. 1</b>	<b>Winter Recess – School Closed</b>

## **CONNECTIONS**

**Parent Teacher Conferences** – Parent Teacher Conferences are held twice during the year. During this first conference on December 8, you and the teachers will work together to set goals for your child. Please arrive at the conference prepared with information that will help during this process (child’s interests, needs, and any information you want to share that is pertinent to your child’s growth and development). This will help the process greatly. The ultimate goal of our continuing communication and collaboration is to assist each child in achieving his/her maximum potential in school as well as at home. If you need us to provide translation services, please let me know. We, as teachers, thoroughly enjoy each child’s gifts and continue to be excited about working toward helping each one reach his/her highest potential. Thank you for sharing your precious children with us.

**Registration for 2021-2022** – We are pleased to announce that we are having an Early Bird **Registration** for the 2021-2022 school year. **The deadline for the Early Bird is December 18, 2020.** Prices will be locked-in at the Early Bird rate for next year’s tuition. If you have any questions about our program for your child for next year, please don’t hesitate to call or email me.

**Covid-19 Informational Seminar for Great Neck Community – Monday, December 14** – Time TBD Presented by the Health Education Committee of the UPTC for GNPS. It will feature a panel of physician experts from community partners (Cohen Children’s Medical Center, LIJ/Northwell and Prohealth). Physicians will discuss COVID-19 issues as they relate to the children in our community. More information will be available next week.

**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.

**Yellow Zone Classification for the ECEC** - As you know, Great Neck has now been classified as a “Yellow Zone” by Governor Cuomo. Our ECEC is considered a childcare program, licensed by the Office of Children and Family Services. According to the guidelines, standards and expectations for childcare programs are unaffected by the designation of a red, orange, or yellow zone, (except if the childcare program is housed within a school). Our goal is to remain open, and we will succeed only if all of us are consistently and persistently vigilant in our personal lives away from school. Thank you for your extraordinary efforts and I implore you to stay Covid-safe during Thanksgiving.

If, unfortunately, we need to quarantine a class at home for 14 days, every teacher is ready to begin remote learning the very next day. The teachers have prepared curricula and experiences for this period of time, and the teachers will instruct you to prepare a box of supplies to keep on hand at home, just in case. Hopefully, we will not need to use this box. Thank you for your continued cooperation and support.

**Gathering limit** - On November 11, Governor Cuomo announced that gatherings at private residences (indoors and outdoors) is **limited to a total of 10 people.** All other gatherings are limited to a total of 50 people, this includes catered events. Please adhere to these new regulations for everyone’s safety.

**Dressing for the Outdoors** – Please be attentive to the weather every day to ensure that your child is appropriately dressed for outdoor play. 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, an extra pair of sneakers, two complete changes of clothing (to be left in school), sweaters, hats, mittens, and a warm jacket are necessary. As the weather becomes colder, we will be outdoors when the temperature is above 30 degrees. Please label all children’s clothing! Thank you for your cooperation.

**Parent Teacher Council Fundraising Events** – **The PTC is raising money for our wonderful school.**

**Pasta Fundraiser** – **The last day to order pasta is Monday, December 7.** The more you order; the more money is raised for our school. These can be a great holiday gift and/or a donation to local food pantries.

Download the Fun Pasta App on your phone or from your computer go to [funpastafundraising.com](http://funpastafundraising.com), then input this code: **DUK-FKE** to join. Then you're all set to begin to shop!

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](mailto:dharoooni@aol.com)), Marianna ([mari.mostovaya@yahoo.com](mailto:mari.mostovaya@yahoo.com)) or Sam ([stalis625@gmail.com](mailto:stalis625@gmail.com)) at any time. We are grateful to all of you for your participation.

**Thanksgiving & Chanukah Tzedakah Drive – Jackson's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Sock Drive – November 1– December 22.** Help us help others! Our children are learning about the value of giving and helping other people. It is always a blessing to help those who are in need, especially during holidays, and we are supporting homeless individuals by providing **NEW or GENTLY USED socks for men, women and children.** Warm the feet and hearts of those in need. A collection box is outside the main entrance. Thank you, in advance, for your generosity!

**Inclement Weather Arrival and Dismissal Procedures** – Please arrive on time and sit in your car until the teacher notifies you. Your child's teacher will text you to inform you that it is your turn for arrival. **By intentionally following this staggered procedure, we have created an organized and efficient arrival and pick-up.** Thank you, parents, for your help and cooperation. Please note that during these extreme inclement weather days, the designated outdoor drop-off and pick-up location for the Rabbi's Garden Play Area is outside the Temple's main entrance. The designated outdoor drop-off and pick-up location for the two-year-old classes is the Rudin Garden entrance.

**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**- Bake Ziti and vegetables

**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](mailto: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://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.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/vc/mar2018/promoting-social-and-emotional-health>

[www.tbe-ecec.org](http://www.tbe-ecec.org)

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

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

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

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