

**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**  
**February 5, 2021**

*A child's world is fresh and new and beautiful, full of wonder and excitement... If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder...he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in.* Rachel Carson

Dear Families,

I just love the feelings that come from children playing outdoors. And for our children to experience such wonder this week in the snow – that is the stuff about which Rachel Carson, founder of the contemporary environmental movement and advocate of nature and the environment, wrote. Her sentiments and words, especially from “The Sense of Wonder” in 1965, was designed to teach people about the wonder and beauty of the living world.

It has been particularly wonderful to be part of the children’s winter experiences this week. The sheer excitement of the children, shared with a loving teacher, conjures up childhood moments for many of us. The children spent hours frolicking through the snow, investigating the hills with their bodies as they rolled, tumbled, slid, and jumped throughout the Temple Beth-El landscape. They discovered icicles in various places, watched the snow stick to brick walls, made snow angels and fairies, and experienced freezing and melting in various stages. What sheer joy! Children need to use all their senses to awaken

their emotions, and this week was surely exhilarating for both the children and the teachers. How wonderful it is to have the companionship of an adult to share the joy!

Fill your days with magical moments and get the most out of winter this year. Experience the vast range of what our natural environment offers, capture thrilling moments with photos, and savor the joyfulness of every new adventure.

*Shabbat Shalom*  
*Vicki*

## **HAPPENINGS & DATES TO REMEMBER**

<b>Tuesday, February 9</b>	<b>Free Challah Braiding Demo at 2:00 PM</b>
<b>Fri &amp; Sat, Feb. 12 &amp; 13</b>	<b>Rosh Chodesh Adar</b>
<b>Fri-Mon, Feb. 12-19</b>	<b>Presidents' Week Recess – School Closed</b>
<b>Monday, February 15</b>	<b>George Washington's Birthday Observed - School Closed</b>
<b>Monday, February 22</b>	<b>School Reopens</b>
<b>Thursday, February 25</b>	<b>Temple Beth-El Purim Costume Parade on Zoom – For families with children in ECEC through Grade 3 - 6:30-7:00 PM</b>
<b>Friday, February 26</b>	<b>Purim</b>

## **CONNECTIONS**

**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.

**Free Challah Braiding Demo - Tuesday, February 9 at 2:00 PM.** The program will be recorded, and you can watch as you braid your Challah on Thursday!

**Registration for the Summer Program** – We are very excited to announce that Karen Wasserman, our fabulous Pre-K teacher, will be our Summer Program Director this year. Morah Karen is an exemplary teacher and has taught in our ECEC for the past 15 years. She has much experience with children in school and in camp, and she is very eager and motivated to take on this new role. **We are excited for you to get to know her. Registration will begin this month.** We are offering programs for children who are two, three, and four years old. We are excited to offer the opportunity for our students to continue their experiences at Temple Beth-El during the summer. Stress-free transitions are important for young children, and our Summer Program is a wonderful way to provide consistency and a seamless flow of the year. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call or email.

**Registration for 2021-2022** – Don't get closed out of a class! The Early Bird Registration was a huge success!! 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.

**Purim Costume Parade – Wear your costume for an erev Purim, pre-Megillah reading Zoom Costume Parade – on Thursday, February 25 from 6:30-7:00 PM!** Come in your favorite costume or fun pajamas. Join Cantor Adam in singing silly Purim songs. Have dry beans, two paper plates, markers or crayons and a stapler on hand to make groggers. Stay on Zoom for a 7:00 PM Family Purim Megillah Reading! Everyone is invited!

**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.

**Revised 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.

For more information on the quarantine requirements and other procedures for travelers, please see the NYS Department of Health guidance found at the following link [https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/11/interm\\_guidance\\_travel\\_advisory.pdf](https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/11/interm_guidance_travel_advisory.pdf)

**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.

**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 ([dharoni@aol.com](mailto:dharoni@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.

**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**- 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](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://d2gesac5hma2c2.cloudfront.net/uploads/attachment/file/1690/Winter\\_Thrive\\_Guide\\_2021.pdf](https://d2gesac5hma2c2.cloudfront.net/uploads/attachment/file/1690/Winter_Thrive_Guide_2021.pdf) (Ideas for Family Fun During Winter Months)

<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](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.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.tbe-ecec.org)

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

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

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

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