

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
November 5, 2021

Dear Families,

Today, we are celebrating Rosh Chodesh Kislev. What does this mean to us and our children? In Hebrew, Rosh Chodesh literally means the "head of the month." In traditional Jewish life, Rosh Chodesh is differentiated from other days by reading Torah. When we read Torah, we celebrate the value of this special day. So, we ask, "How is the month of Kislev special?" For one, the month of Kislev offers us a special light in this darkening month, Chanukah. The root of the word "Chanukah" means dedication because it was at this time of the year that the Maccabees re-dedicated the Temple in Jerusalem. In modern Hebrew, the basic root of "Chinuch" also means education. How meaningful it is for us to have teachers who value education and are blessed with the capabilities of drawing out the potential within each child! We continue to be grateful for their dedication in fulfilling that potential.

Our teachers are always learning and growing, too. Inspiration occurs in many ways, and at our Professional Development Day this past Tuesday, I asked the teachers to use their individual values and teaching experiences to stimulate personal and group reflection. The conversations were rich and full of possibilities, and our teachers experienced many new insights and learning strategies. Our teaching team puts years of education and experience into our work, helping families face the many challenges in their lives. And, of course, they are in

the classrooms planning and implementing ways to give our children the best possible learning experiences. Valuing each child, we continue to view children as creative and full of potential, with an enormous desire to make meaning out of everything they see and do. We believe that all children should have the opportunity to reach their greatest potential.

The children in each class will soon be having experiences related to the core concepts of Chanukah. The children will learn about courage, bravery, freedom, leadership, and miracles, and will investigate light and darkness. I'm confident that the conversations will be rich and full of potential as we elaborate on their interests.

An inquiring nature is an important goal of education in our ECEC and is an essential and invaluable ingredient in interpreting and transmitting information to each other. As we begin this new month, I wish you many joyous moments of new learning, understanding, and growth with your children.

Shabbat Shalom
Chodesh Tov
Vicki

HAPPENINGS & DATES TO REMEMBER

Mon-Fri, Nov. 1-12

Friday, Nov. 5

Sunday, Nov. 7

Thursday, Nov. 11

Wednesday, Nov. 24

Thurs & Fri, Nov. 25&26

Sun-Mon, Nov. 28-Dec. 6

Wed. Dec. 1

Thursday, Dec. 2

Friday, Dec. 3

Sat & Sun, Dec. 4&5

Wednesday, Dec. 15

Wednesday, Dec. 22

Fri-Fri, Dec. 24-31

Thanksgiving Tzedakah Drive

Rosh Chodesh Kislev

Daylight Savings Time Ends – Set Clocks Back One Hour

Veterans Day – School Closed

Thanksgiving Recess – School Closes at 1:00 PM

Thanksgiving Recess – School Closed

Chanukah

Registration for Temple Members

Registration for Currently Enrolled and Former Students

Registration Open to the Community

Rosh Chodesh Tevet

Parent-Teacher Conferences – School Closed

Early Bird Registration Deadline

Winter Recess – School Closed

CONNECTIONS

November is Jewish Book Month – Have You Read a Jewish Book to your Child Lately? Read about PJ Library - <https://pjlibrary.org/about-pj-library>

Thanksgiving Tzedakah Drive – November 1-12 – 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 partnering with St. Aloysius Food Pantry. Please help provide a special Thanksgiving for local needy families during our annual Thanksgiving Tzedakah Drive. We are grateful that we are able to teach the concept of Tzedakah (Charity) and Gemilut Hasadim (deeds of kindness) in a meaningful way to our children.

Please bring the following specific food items (no glass bottles please) to help families in need in Great Neck: Rice, Parmalat milk boxes, canned or dry beans, canned vegetables, canned fruit, apple juice, crackers or tortilla chips, cookies, oatmeal or 24 to 48oz cooking oil. [A large barrel is outside TBE's main entrance from November 1-12. Thank you for your support.](#)

Registration for 2022-2023 – We are very excited to announce that registration will begin on December 1 for the 2022-2023 school year. You will receive the registration materials next week. [The deadline for the Early Bird is December 22, 2021. Prices will be locked-in at the Early Bird rate for next year's tuition.](#) Please remember that families of current students can register before the general community. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to call or email me.

NAEYC Accreditation - While talking to families about our school during the registration process, prospective parents often ask me about our national accreditation with the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). For those who are new to our school, accreditation provides a process by which early childhood professionals and families can evaluate programs, compare them with professional standards, and identify areas needing improvement. A NAEYC accredited program has demonstrated a commitment to providing the highest quality program for young children and their families. Our school has had the honor and distinction of being accredited with the NAEYC since 2001, with re-accreditation occurring every five years since then. We are extremely proud to be considered a high-quality school and are elated that we are still the **ONLY** nationally accredited Synagogue early childhood school on Long Island.

Nut-Free School – Reminder - We are a Nut-Free and Sesame-Free School. Please do not send food with nuts or sesame seeds in any form. And please do not give any of these foods to your child on school grounds. We have many children with serious food allergies this year. Thank you so much for your cooperation.

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 continue to be outdoors. It's a good time to start purchasing waterproof snow pants, jackets, snow boots and mittens for the winter. Please label all children's clothing! Thank you for your cooperation.

Mask Protocols – Masks are mandatory for all students when indoors, except when eating, drinking or napping. Wearing masks outdoors is optional. All students are required to arrive at school with their mask on. Some days, we go directly inside; other days we stay outdoors. Because we are in close contact at the entrance area, teachers, parents, siblings and ECEC students must wear a mask in these outdoor areas when arriving and dismissing students at all times. Thank you for your cooperation.

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 – Plain pasta, sauce, shredded mozzarella and vegetable

Tuesday – Baked chicken fingers and corn

Wednesday Pizza and Israeli salad

Thursday- Sliders/hamburgers, sweet potato fries and cucumber salad

Friday – [New Lunch](#) – Pancakes and applesauce

Our 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.

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. Your cooperation is essential and very much appreciated.

Shabbat Sing – Every Friday, I celebrate Shabbat with the toddlers, three-year-olds and Pre-K students. We join together on Friday mornings 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. We sing, dance, and work together as a school community to create a joyous Shabbat celebration.

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 yperler@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/beyond-books/pjblog/june-2021/what-is-rosh-chodesh>

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

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

https://www.peacequarters.com/harvard-psychologists-say-parents-raise-good-kids-5-things/?utm_medium=social&utm_source=Facebook&utm_campaign=hiylfb

<https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/223-creating-routines-for-love-and-learning>

<https://www.naeyc.org/resources/pubs/yc/may2019/outdoor-play-is-essential>

<https://www.communityplaythings.com/resources/articles/2010/outdoor-play>

<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>

<http://www.zerotothree.org/child-development/>