

**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 13, 2020**

*“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, Biologist and Writer

Dear Families,

Spending significant periods of time in the great outdoors has provided so many rich and rewarding experiences. The photos you lovingly receive from the teachers reflect beautiful stories of just how curious, creative and engaged your children are. We truly appreciate your comments and expressions of gratitude, and we are very happy that the photos are reflecting the extraordinary experiences the children are having.

Seeing the world through the eyes of a child can be a wonderful experience for adults as well. This week, I was delighted by the children’s fascination with the falling leaves. Some children were running around, bucket in hand, trying to catch the falling leaves. Others were jumping and rolling in large piles of leaves, some down a newly discovered hill. One child found a branch that had fallen from a tree. She carefully swept the branch along the leaves, using it like a rake. It worked, and she was ecstatic. All of them were curious, eager to explore, and overjoyed. When given new materials and experiences, children usually

engage in new and fascinating ways. In the process, they eventually discover differences in size, shape, weight, and color. What may seem like “just a rock” to an adult may be an endless source of discovery for a young child. When we use new vocabulary words to describe these objects, children acquire the tools they need to name the materials and accurately describe their experiences.

Our long days outside are exactly what children need – time to think, time to explore, and time to discover new concepts. Nurturing curiosity can be one of the most important things a parent can do for a child. A child who is not afraid to ask questions like, “I wonder what’s inside?” “Why do leaves fall from trees?” and “What will happen if...?” is a child who wants to find out more. Children who are between the ages of two and five are making sense of the world in their own ways: They are curious, active, and excited to explore, and they learn mostly through playing with real objects. They ask a lot of questions and use all their senses to investigate the world and discover things. They are thinking critically and are learning to skillfully analyze, assess, and reconstruct. By observing, investigating and testing ideas, they are developing a sense of wonder and a scientific mind.

### **Ways for Parents to Help Children Explore Science Concepts in Everyday Life**

#### **Animals**

Watch a spider spin its web.  
Look for animal tracks in the mud or snow.  
Act out how different animals move.  
Dig up some worms and feel them.  
Lift a big rock or piece of wood to see what lives under it.

#### **Weather**

Watch the sky.  
Read a thermometer.  
Fly a kite in the wind.  
Splash around in puddles.

#### **Energy and Conservation**

Replace flashlight batteries.  
Experiment with magnets.  
Recycle household materials.  
Black things warm up in the sun. White things don’t.

#### **Earth and Space**

Observe changes in the moon’s shape in the sky.  
Collect rocks and group the ones that are similar.  
See how shadows change during the day.  
Point out bright and/or colored stars and planets.

#### **Plants**

Plant seeds or small seedlings.  
Care for house plants.  
Examine parts of a flower. Smell them.  
Identify trees.  
Identify poison ivy.

#### **Physical and Chemical Properties**

Measure and mix ingredients while cooking.

Sink and float toys in the tub.  
Make and play musical instruments.  
Make soap bubbles.  
Sort objects (leaves, shells, rocks).

Stop, look, and listen to the sights and sounds around. Find a beautiful leaf, watch a squirrel climb up a tree, or listen to bird calls with your child. As you observe, explore materials, and express your thoughts, you and your child will discover the wonders of the world together.

*Shabbat Shalom*  
*Vicki*

## **HAPPENINGS & DATES TO REMEMBER**

Tuesday, Nov. 17	Rosh Chodesh Kislev
Tuesday, Nov. 17	Pee Wee Pros – Sports Program for 3s and Pre-K
Thursday, Nov. 19	<b>NEW DATE - Chanukah Shopping Boutique-PTC Fundraiser-11:00 AM-3:00 PM</b>
Wed-Sun, Nov. 25-27	Thanksgiving Recess – School Closed
Tuesday, Dec. 1	Registration for Temple Members
Wednesday, Dec. 2	Registration for Currently Enrolled and Former Students
Thursday, Dec. 3	Registration Open to the Community
Tuesday, Dec. 8	Parent-Teacher Conferences – School Closed
Thurs-Fri, Dec. 10-18	Chanukah
Wednesday, Dec. 16	Rosh Chodesh Tevet
Friday, Dec. 18	Early Bird Deadline for Registration
Monday, Dec. 21	First Day of Winter
Mon-Fri, Dec. 21-Jan. 1	Winter Recess – School Closed

## **CONNECTIONS**

**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.

**Registration for 2021-2022** – We are pleased to announce that we are having an Early Bird Registration for the 2021-2022 school year. You will receive the registration materials next week. **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.**

**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.

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

**Pasta Fundraiser** - You received an order form for a variety of pastas. 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 pasta fundraiser began November 1<sup>st</sup> and run until November 30<sup>th</sup>.*

**ECEC Chanukah Shopping Boutique – NEW DATE - Support this PTC Fundraiser on Thursday, November 19, 11:00 AM–3:00 PM.** This is a wonderful opportunity to purchase your Chanukah gifts early and support our school at the same time. A percentage of proceeds will also be donated to the charitable organization, “Fountain of Kindness.” If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to members of the PTC. Thank you for your support. Happy shopping!

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!

**Tzedakah Opportunities** - There are other opportunities in the community to provide food for needy families for Thanksgiving. If you would like more information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

**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.

**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.

**November is Jewish Book Month – Have You Read a Jewish Book to your Child Lately?**

**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.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>

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