

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 20, 2020

Dear Families,

“Just Say No” – a familiar slogan – originally referred to saying no to drugs, when it was first used in the 1980s. Early childhood educators also use this phrase during conversations with parents, but their reference to “Just Say No” relates to saying “no” to their children.

We have all been in situations with our children when it was much easier to say “yes” than “no.” A simple request for a cookie before dinner or for a particular toy in the toy store might turn into a “scene,” when the child’s request is followed by a mere, “no.” Persevering through children’s crying and temper tantrums may be extremely difficult and upsetting to parents, but saying “no” to children is so important that entire books and articles have been written about this topic alone. The use of the word, “no,” actually teaches children delayed gratification and patience, and can be used quite effectively for setting goals.

Adversity has its blessings, and persevering through this Covid-19 pandemic as it continues to rage on requires us to say “no” to some of our most precious and valued family traditions. Thanksgiving, Chanukah, and Winter Break - times when travel is common in a typical year, and when many traditional family gatherings take place - must be celebrated differently this year, in school and at home, if we want

to keep our community safe and make sure that we continue learning together in-person. We must continue to persevere – even though we are tired and want to give up. We cannot let our guard down, not even once, without risking the spread of the virus in our community. We must uphold masking and social distancing, and we must not allow large gatherings for any reason – not Thanksgiving, not Chanukah, and not even a family Simcha.

This pandemic has caused major chaos, inconvenience, frustration, and loss, but it is also teaching us patience, persistence, love, and gratitude. Miraculously, we might begin to see some light as new vaccines are on the horizon. But they are not here yet, and we must remain vigilant. Saying “no” is really all about setting limits. No matter how old we are, we are learning huge lessons about coping with life’s disappointments.

So, as you plan for your family’s celebrations, please think and rethink – and “Just Say No” to any temptation you may have to attending or hosting a gathering or party at which some participants may not be wearing masks, or at which social distancing may not be possible at all times, or at which attendees might engage in other unsafe behaviors. **Please do not do so.** To host or attend such an event would be to put at risk not only your own health, but the health of our entire community - and it would jeopardize the viability of the in-person learning that has been so vital for so many students and families.

Perseverance is the ability to keep doing something in spite of obstacles. People who persevere show steadfastness despite the difficulty or length of time it takes to reach the goal. We can help each other inspire perseverance by being role models for each other and our children.

Shabbat Shalom
Vicki

HAPPENINGS & DATES TO REMEMBER

Wed-Sun, Nov. 25-27	Thanksgiving Recess – School Closed
Tuesday, Dec. 1	PTC Meeting – 1:00 PM
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

ECEC Chanukah Shopping Boutique – Yesterday’s Chanukah Shopping Boutique was a spectacular day, truly a happening! We hope you enjoyed the camaraderie and warm feelings that permeated throughout our school. Despite the cold weather, we persevered and had a very successful turnout! We are indebted to our outstanding PTC Co-Chairs, Marianna Costa, Dalia

Hagooli, and Samantha Talasazain and their amazing team, especially Adrienne Hollander, who organized so many of the details. Thank you, Johanna Perler, and the group of participants and vendors who helped set up the event. As always, thank you all for your continued support and for your friendship. Our families are the BEST, and it was also thrilling to see our former families come back to support our school. Everyone was grateful for the opportunity to be able to shop in-person, and I hope you enjoyed connecting with your ECEC community in our outdoor environment. We are looking forward to hosting another event in the spring.

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.

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, then input this code: **DUK-FKE to join**. Then you're all set to begin to shop! *The pasta fundraiser began November 1st and run until November 30th.*

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

Talaszain. 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.

Thanksgiving & Chanukah Tzedakah Drive – Jackson’s 2nd 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@tbgreatneck.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.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>

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