

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 24, 2020

Dear Families,

Thanksgiving is a time for giving thanks. This year, many of us will not be celebrating in the usual way, but it is during these times that we need to give thanks and show our gratitude. Rabbi Naomi Levy wrote the following poem in Talking to God: Personal Prayers for Times of Joy, Sadness, Struggle, and Celebration.

A Thanksgiving Prayer by Rabbi Naomi Levy

*For the laughter of the children
For my own life breath,
For the abundance of food on this table,
For the ones who prepared this sumptuous feast,
For the roof over our heads,
The clothes on our backs,
For our health,
And our wealth of blessings,*

*For this opportunity to celebrate with family and friends,
For the freedom to pray these words
Without fear,
In any language,
In any faith,
In this great country,
Whose landscape is as vast and beautiful as her inhabitants.
Thank You, God, for giving us all these. Amen*

Rabbi Levy recognizes the blessings of family, friends and freedom and the physical, emotional and spiritual comforts of our lives as gifts from God. As we celebrate Thanksgiving this year, it is my hope that each one of us can focus on the abundance within our own homes, find comfort with our families at home and those visiting virtually, and enjoy the food and shelter that nourish us.

*Warmest Wishes for Happy Days of Thankfulness
Vicki*

HAPPENINGS & DATES TO REMEMBER

Wed-Sun, Nov. 25-27

Tuesday, Dec. 1

Tuesday, Dec. 1

Wednesday, Dec. 2

Thursday, Dec. 3

Tuesday, Dec. 8

Thurs-Fri, Dec. 10-18

Wednesday, Dec. 16

Friday, Dec. 18

Monday, Dec. 21

Mon-Fri, Dec. 21-Jan. 1

Thanksgiving Recess – School Closed

PTC Meeting – 1:00 PM

Registration for Temple Members

Registration for Currently Enrolled and Former Students

Registration Open to the Community

Parent-Teacher Conferences – School Closed

Chanukah

Rosh Chodesh Tevet

Early Bird Deadline for Registration

First Day of Winter

Winter Recess – School Closed

CONNECTIONS

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.

ECEC Chanukah Shopping Boutique – Last week’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. **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 runs 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 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), 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@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.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/>