

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 6, 2020

Hallelujah - Hodu Lashem

Hallelu, hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah, Hodu Lashem (2X)

Hodu Lashem, Hallelujah, Hodu Lashem, Hallelujah

Hodu Lashem, Hallelujah, Hodu Lashem

Dear Families,

The month of November is National Gratitude Month, and during Shabbat Sing we sing a very beautiful song that expresses gratitude. *Hodu* means thankful, an expression of gratitude in Hebrew, yet gratitude is much more than simply saying “thank you.” According to leading psychologists, gratitude is essential to improving physical and psychological health, self-esteem and empathy.

During this month, it is customary to ask the children in our school what they are thankful for. Their ideas reflect their individual thoughts, and they share them with their classmates. Though we focus on gratitude and giving thanks in November, this question should not be asked only once a year. The power of gratitude is significant. Research correlates children’s social well-being and achievements in school with gratitude. Studies show that grateful students perform better in school, experience more positive

emotions, and, ultimately, tend to live more meaningful lives. Young children who are involved in experiences that value gratitude have also shown higher levels of self-control and self-regulation. They simply learn best in an environment that fosters tolerance and gratitude.

Giving thanks, showing gratitude, and acting graciously and generously are part of daily Jewish practices and rituals. Judaism places an enormous and unique emphasis on our role and responsibility to be partners with others in repairing what has been broken in the world, and on our commitment to act now, not later. Caring for others, helping those who are less fortunate than us, and expressing gratitude are important values that we teach in our school. From complying with classroom rules to acts of kindness to *Mitzvah* projects, we ask our children and families to participate in opportunities for *Tzedakah* and acts of *Tikkun Olam* – the healing of our world. Please help us help others during our school Tzedakah Drives as well as other related efforts promoted by our community.

Children inspire and are inspired by joy, love and gratitude. It is imperative that we help the youngest members of our society learn how to be grateful, caring and kind-hearted people. In this way, we will secure a more perfect world for our children.

Shabbat Shalom
Vicki

HAPPENINGS & DATES TO REMEMBER

Tuesday, Nov. 10	Pee Wee Pros – Sports Program for 3s and Pre-K
Wednesday, Nov. 11	Veterans Day – School Closed
Thursday, Nov. 12	Chanukah Shopping Boutique-PTC Fundraiser-11:00 AM–3:00 PM
Tuesday, Nov. 17	Rosh Chodesh Kislev
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

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

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 will begin November 1st and run until November 30th.*

ECEC Chanukah Shopping Boutique – Support this PTC Fundraiser on Thursday, November 12, 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), 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 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.

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://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/>