

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
October 2, 2020

Dear Families,

Yom Kippur is over and tonight we will light the candles that usher in Sukkot. Even as we recite the Shehechyanu for Sukkot, the concept of newness and beginnings is still present on our minds. This week, one of our Pre-K students told me that she threw away all of her mistakes and she was going to make better choices next year. The children in our school have learned about the choices they make and how they have the opportunity to discard and redo those that did not have the positive outcomes we desired and expected. How wonderful that we can leave our old deficiencies behind, change course, and start the New Year with a clean slate. The messages of the High Holidays can be as empowering to children as to adults. As members of our school community, we learn together that mistakes can be repaired, that there is always an opportunity to change, and that that we have the power to be a good friend to others.

As we prepare for Sukkot, we are keenly aware that this year we will not be welcoming guests to the Sukkah in the same way we have experienced in the past. We will miss this authentic value of welcoming guests to our Sukkah. However, just as the walls of the Sukkah are temporary, this pandemic is temporary too. Celebrating the harvest, enjoying the splendor of nature, and valuing our outdoor world

are also central themes of the holiday, and we are blessed to be spending so much time outdoors. Sukkot, also known as *Zeman Simchateinu*, the “Season of Rejoicing,” is a beautiful opportunity to celebrate our blessings and rejoice in our community. When the children and I sing together at Shabbat Sing each week, we feel community. Soon our families will join together on Zoom for Back to School Night, and I hope to feel community. And, as the members of our Parent Teacher Council work together to choose and provide programs and support for families and teachers in meaningful ways, we feel community. Each September and October, I am struck by the feeling of openness in our school. Our open outdoor environment this year loudly reflects the values we promote in our school, and it is heartwarming to see the wealth of communication through conversations, phone calls, Whats App, and email correspondence between faculty and parents. I can already feel the pulse of this year, and we are, together, creating stronger connections and bonds.

May each of us continue to enjoy the blessings in our lives with those we love. May this Shabbat and Sukkot inspire you to celebrate nature, family, and community, creating stronger interactions and relationships.

Shabbat Shalom
Chag Sukkot Sameach
Vicki

HAPPENINGS & DATES TO REMEMBER

Sat & Sun, Oct. 3&4	Sukkot
Tuesday, Oct. 6	Pee Wee Pros – Sports Program for Threes and Pre-K
Thursday, Oct. 8	Tkiya – Jewish Music Program for the School
Sat & Sun, Oct. 10&11	Shmini Atzeret/Simchat Torah
Monday, Oct. 12	Columbus Day – School Closed
Tuesday, Oct. 13	Pee Wee Pros - Sports Program for Threes and Pre-K
Wednesday, Oct. 14	Matt the Music Man Program for the School
Thursday, Oct. 15	PTC Meeting – 9:20 AM – Back Parking Lot – Bring a Chair
Sun & Mon, Oct. 18&19	Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan
Tuesday, Oct. 20	Pee Wee Pros – Sports Program for Threes and Pre-K
Wednesday, Oct. 21	Matt the Music Man Program for the School
Tuesday, Oct. 27	Pee Wee Pros – Sports Program for Threes and Pre-K

CONNECTIONS

Parent Teacher Council – Thank you to our special Parent Teacher Council (PTC) for arranging additional programming for the children. The entire school loved Matt the Music Man, and he will be back to our school on two Wednesdays, October 14 and October 21. Pee Wee Pros will continue to provide sports programming for the three-year-olds and Pre-K on Tuesdays in October. Next Thursday, October 8, Tkiya, a well-known Jewish music program, will provide music experiences for the children. All programs are held outdoors and are fully aligned with our ECEC health and safety requirements and procedures.

The first meeting of the PTC will be held on Thursday, October 15 at 9:20 AM. Please join us. 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. They are off to a fabulous new beginning and we thank them for their 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, and especially want to thank Dalia, Marianna and Sam for helping us provide excellent programming for the children.

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 hope that arrival will be more organized and efficient. 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. We have been blessed with magnificent weather, and we pray that it will continue.

Shabbat Sing – Every 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- Breakfast for lunch (waffles, french toast or pancakes), vegetables, fruit

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.

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.

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 (See below) – 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.

Links to Remember

<https://pjlibrary.org/sukkot>

<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>

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

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/>