

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
February 11, 2022

"The most important thing in the Olympic Games is not to win but to take part, just as the most important thing in life is not the triumph but the struggle..."

Baron de Coubertin, The Olympic Motto

Dear Families,

The Winter Olympics has officially begun! It doesn't take much to get me into the right mood for the Winter Olympics. For many years, our family ski vacations in Canada were timed perfectly with the Olympics. Skiing during the day, and watching the strategies and techniques used by the Olympians in the evening, was inspiring and motivating. Although I'm not going skiing this year, I am watching the Olympics. The Olympic motto, *Citius, Altius, Fortius*, which means *Swifter, Higher, Stronger*, is meant to encourage each athlete to embrace the Olympic spirit and perform to the best of his/her ability.

Olympians achieve their goals not only with intense desire to succeed, good self-confidence, and persistent physical training, but also because parents recognized their child's natural skills and talents at an early age. Though it is a long shot that our children will become Olympic contenders, every child is born into this world with strengths. It is our responsibility as parents and educators to discover each child's strengths and to work toward having each child reach his or her potential. We all know that today much emphasis in public school is

put on academic skills and performance on tests. However, Dr. Howard Gardner, an American developmental psychologist who is based at Harvard University, has identified and tested eight distinct intelligences, known as his Theory of Multiple Intelligences. What are your child's strengths?

VERBAL/LINGUISTIC –The linguistically gifted child is probably an early and constant talker. The child usually memorizes long strings of words and can pick up foreign phrases easily.

MUSICAL/RHYTHMIC – The musically gifted child loves making music. The child is interested in all types of sounds and has sensitivity to rhythm and beats. S/he can probably recognize familiar songs when played without their lyrics.

LOGICAL/MATHEMATICAL – The child who is strong in math and logic is usually fascinated by category and pattern, such as sorting toys in categories by size and color. Later, this child is usually good at checkers and chess and loves abstractions.

VISUAL/SPATIAL – This spatially gifted child is a superb visualizer. This child can draw objects in the correct perspective, even at an early age.

BODILY/KINESTHETIC – This child does well at tasks requiring motor skills such as playing catch and working with a variety of tools. The two basic skills involved here are how to manage your own movements gracefully and how to handle objects skillfully – athletes, dancers, and many engineers are bodily-kinesthetic gifted.

INTERPERSONAL - This child operates primarily through person-to-person relationships and communication.

INTRAPERSONAL – This child relates to inner states of being, self-reflection, and awareness of spiritual realities.

NATURALIST – This naturalistic child is a keen observer and uses his/her senses to gather information about the world.

According to Dr. Gardner, “Rarely does anyone shine in all areas.” Therefore, it is vital to appreciate where one’s strengths are rather than focus on where they are not. It is also important to use children’s strengths to help them overcome their weaknesses. Formal education seems to overemphasize the area of verbal and mathematical logical intelligences. It is, then, essential for us as parents and early childhood educators to recognize achievements in other areas as well. “Children make their mark in life by doing what they can do, not what they can’t,” states Dr. Gardner. “School is important, but life is more important. Being happy is using your skills productively, no matter what they are.”

It is always exciting to discover children’s strengths, especially in areas that you had not previously recognized. You might even identify multiple intelligences in your child! Enjoy the process and enjoy the Olympics!

Shabbat Shalom
Vicki

HAPPENINGS & DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday, February 21

George Washington’s Birthday Observed – School Closed

Mon-Fri, Feb. 21-25
Thurs & Fri, March 3&4
Sunday, March 13
Thursday, March 17
Tuesday, March 29

Presidents' Week Recess – School Closed
Rosh Chodesh Adar II
Daylight Savings Time Begins (Set Clocks Forward One Hour)
Purim – Dress in Costume
Parent-Teacher Conferences – School Closed

CONNECTIONS

We Don't Celebrate Valentine's Day in our School - The origins of Valentine's Day are Christian and, therefore, we feel it is not appropriate to encourage its celebration in our school. Please do not send Valentine's Day cards or candies to your class with your child. Judaism is rich in its own traditions pertaining to friendship and love. The Purim custom of "mishlo'ach manot," sending treats to family and friends, is an expression of the beauty of friendship and the joy of giving. Children and families in our school will be able to experience this wonderful tradition together next month during Purim. In addition to Purim, we also have the holiday of Tu B'Av, often known as the Jewish Valentine's Day. Please see this link for more information: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tu_B%27Av

Registration for the Summer Program – We are very excited to announce that our wonderful Summer Program Director, Karen Wasserman, will be returning to Temple Beth-El this summer. She is very excited to re-connect with our returning families and to meet our new families. **Stress-free transitions are important for young children. Our Summer Program is a wonderful way to provide consistency and a seamless flow of the year.** We are offering programs for children who are two, three, and four years old. We are excited to offer the opportunity for our students to continue their experiences at Temple Beth-El during the summer. **Registration begins TODAY.**

Registration for 2022-2023 - Don't get closed out of a class! Registrations are still coming in for the 2022-2023 school year. If you have any questions about our program for your child for next year, please don't hesitate to call or email me. I'm always happy and proud to talk about our school.

School Closings - Snow Policy – Our Parent Handbook details the Snow/Inclement Weather Policy on Page 11 – School Closings. Please familiarize yourself with the policy: “If Great Neck Schools are closed, we are closed, if Great Neck Schools has a delayed opening, we usually have the same delayed opening.” Our emergency text messaging system is up and running. We have been very pleased with the results of using this technology to make time-sensitive school communication more efficient and effective. You can also find the closing listed on www.News12.com and FIOS 1 (under Temple Beth-El Early Childhood Education Center). Thank you, in advance, for your cooperation and flexibility during the winter season.

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, a warm jacket, snow pants and snow boots 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.

Health and Safety Precautions During the Pandemic – During this current wave of infection, please continue to wear your masks, stay physically distant from each other and wash your hands frequently. **If your child or anyone in your household is sick, DO NOT send your child to school.** Your cooperation is essential and very much appreciated.

Challah Fundraising Program - We are offering an opportunity for you to order a weekly challah dough to take home on Thursdays. This is a fun and educational way to enhance your Shabbat experiences with your children by making a fresh challah at home every week. The Challah Program began on January 6. You can still sign up.

Nut-Free School – Reminder - We are a Nut-Free and Sesame-Free School. Please do not send food with nuts or sesame seeds in any form. And please do not give any of these foods to your child on school grounds. We have many children with serious food allergies this year. Thank you so much for your cooperation.

Mask Protocols – Masks are mandatory for all students when indoors, except when eating, drinking or napping. Wearing masks outdoors is optional. All students are required to arrive at school with their mask on. Some days, we go directly inside; other days we stay outdoors. Because we are in close contact at the entrance area, teachers, parents, siblings and ECEC students must wear a mask in these outdoor areas when arriving and dismissing students at all times. Thank you for your cooperation.

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 – Plain pasta, sauce, shredded mozzarella and vegetable

Tuesday – Baked chicken fingers and corn

Wednesday Pizza and Israeli salad

Thursday- Sliders/hamburgers, sweet potato fries and cucumber salad

Friday – **New Lunch** – Pancakes and applesauce

Our 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.

Shabbat Sing – Every Friday, I celebrate Shabbat with the toddlers, three-year-olds and Pre-K students. We join together on Friday mornings 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. We sing, dance, and work together as a school community to create a joyous Shabbat celebration.

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 yperler@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.peacequarters.com/harvard-psychologists-say-parents-raise-good-kids-5-things/?utm_medium=social&utm_source=Facebook&utm_campaign=hiylfb

<https://www.naeyc.org/our-work/families/explore-great-outdoors>

<https://www.invajy.com/20-happiness-quotes-for-making-you-smile/>

https://d2gesac5hma2c2.cloudfront.net/uploads/attachment/file/1690/Winter_Thrive_Guide_2021.pdf
(Ideas for Family Fun During Winter Months)

<https://www.mindful.org/noticing-connecting-with-our-kids-in-the-midst-of-busy-lives/>

<https://pjlibrary.org/beyond-books/pjblog/february-2017/how-to-talk-to-children-about-anti-semitism>

<http://www.jnf.org/> (Plant a tree in Israel for Tu B'Shevat)

<https://www.naeyc.org/our-work/families/playing-music-home>

<http://www.cnn.com/2010/OPINION/12/29/christakis.play.children.learning/index.html>

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/answer-sheet/wp/2015/09/01/the-decline-of-play-in-preschoolers-and-the-rise-in-sensory-issues/?noredirect=on>

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/answer-sheet/wp/2015/04/12/report-debunks-earlier-is-better-academic-instruction-for-young-children/?noredirect=on>

<https://pjlibrary.org/beyond-books/pjblog/june-2021/what-is-rosh-chodesh>

<https://www.mommyshorts.com/2015/03/5-ways-kids-learn-at-a-reggio-emilia-preschool.html>

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

<https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/223-creating-routines-for-love-and-learning>

<https://www.naeyc.org/resources/pubs/yc/may2019/outdoor-play-is-essential>

<https://www.communityplaythings.com/resources/articles/2010/outdoor-play>

<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/>