

**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**  
**June 3, 2022**

*“Teach the child the way to go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.”* Proverbs 22:6

Dear Families,

It is fitting that we celebrated Teacher Appreciation Day this year right before Shavuot. *Zeman Mattan Toratenu*, the time of the giving of the Torah, symbolizes and epitomizes teaching. Whether through stories, songs, or play experiences, our remarkable teachers honor the Torah, inspire children, develop their interests, and nurture their growth.

Unless you have walked in the shoes of an early childhood educator, it would be hard for you to understand the extent of the care and responsibilities of our teachers. It begins with setting up their classrooms, to lovingly greeting the children and families at drop-off, to the daily health checks and documentation of their arrival. And then the pre-planned, exciting and dynamic day, filled safely and lovingly with beautiful learning experiences begins. Our teachers love their profession. They are passionate about helping children grow and develop a kind heart as well as learning how to be critical thinkers and becoming the best they can be. And they love every child with all their heart and soul.

I commend and thank the teachers for their dedication, commitment, kindness, love, expertise, and infinite patience. It is an honor and a privilege for me to work with such exceptional and caring people. Throughout the year, our teachers created beautiful experiences for the children to have joyful discoveries and delightful

adventures. And now, at the end of the year, we celebrate the fruits of our labor. Thank you, teachers, for planting the seeds of a great future in every child. I am extremely grateful that you have trusted the teachers and me to nurture your child throughout these critical early years.

*Shabbat Shalom*  
*Chag Shavuot Sameach*  
*Vicki*

## **HAPPENINGS & DATES TO REMEMBER**

<b>Friday, June 3</b>	<b>Spread the Light – Take a Photo of Your Child Lighting Shabbat Candles</b>
<b>Sunday, June 5</b>	<b>Shavuot</b>
<b>Wednesday, June 8</b>	<b>Last Day of School – School Closes at 12:00</b>
<b>Thursday, June 9</b>	<b>Pre-K Graduation – 10:30 AM</b>
<b>Tuesday, June 14</b>	<b>Flag Day</b>
<b>Mon-Fri June 13-24</b>	<b>Pre-Summer Enrichment</b>
<b>Sunday, June 19</b>	<b>Father’s Day</b>
<b>Wednesday, July 6</b>	<b>Summer Program Begins</b>
<b>Friday, August 19</b>	<b>Summer Program Ends</b>
<b>Thursday, September 8</b>	<b>First Day of School for 2022-2023</b>

## **CONNECTIONS**

**Spread the Light** – Take a photo of your child lighting Shabbat Candles on Friday, June 3 and send it to your teacher. We will be making a beautiful display of “Spreading the Light.” Thank you!

**Truck Day** - After two years of a pandemic interruption, our children, once again, were able to enjoy Truck Day, a yearly tradition at the end-of-the-year at our school. We’re thrilled that the children had the opportunity to experience this fun-filled day of learning and excitement.

Truck Day 2022 was a happening! The Temple parking lot was filled with so many different types of trucks - a fire truck, an ambulance, a school bus that was designed for children who are disabled, a police car, and a front loader, a bobcat, a cherry picker, and a dump truck from the Great Neck Park District. You can see from the many photos your teachers sent how much the children loved climbing into these trucks and learning how everything worked. Our community helpers were knowledgeable and engaging and spoke to the children in the most beautiful ways. And the highlight at the end was the ice cream truck, where every child purchased their own ice cream.

**Handprint Tile Fundraiser is Back** – **Muddworks** came to our school last week. We are very excited about our wall outside the entrance to the Early Childhood Education Center. This visible space serves as a beautiful way to remember your child’s years at Temple Beth-El ECEC by adding an imprint of your child’s hand. Your tile dedication helps support the many programs for our children and families. The cost is \$40 per tile. **If you did not have a chance to get your child’s handprint, Muddworks has graciously offered to create Handprint Tiles for us at their location – 6C Bond Street, Great Neck. Just tell them that you’re from Temple Beth-El.**

**Registration for the Summer Program** – **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. Stress-free transitions are important for young children. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call or email me.

**Registration for 2022-2023 - Don't get closed out of a class 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 provide a tour and talk about our school.

**Health and Safety Precautions** – Wash your hands!! Hand washing, when done correctly, is the single most effective way to prevent the spread of communicable diseases. Good hand washing technique is easy to learn and can significantly reduce the spread of infectious diseases among both children and adults. The health and safety procedures in the ECEC are very specific as we strive to reduce the spread of infection in our school. Your cooperation is essential and very much appreciated.

**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. Please label all children's clothing!

**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.

**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** – 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](mailto: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://pjlibrary.org/shavuot>

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

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

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

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

<http://www.jnf.org/> (Plant a tree in Israel for Yom Ha'Atzmaut)

<https://tinyurl.com/yb9uuvtk> (Ideas for Children's Independent Play Experiences Outdoors)

[https://www.huffpost.com/entry/childrens-books-empathy-kindness\\_1\\_5d52e7b1e4b0c63bcbec2699](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/childrens-books-empathy-kindness_1_5d52e7b1e4b0c63bcbec2699)

<https://www.ujafedny.org> (Support Humanitarian Aid in Ukraine)

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

[https://www.peacequarters.com/harvard-psychologists-say-parents-raise-good-kids-5-things/?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=Facebook&utm\\_campaign=hiylfb](https://www.peacequarters.com/harvard-psychologists-say-parents-raise-good-kids-5-things/?utm_medium=social&utm_source=Facebook&utm_campaign=hiylfb)

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

[https://d2gesac5hma2c2.cloudfront.net/uploads/attachment/file/1690/Winter\\_Thrive\\_Guide\\_2021.pdf](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>

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

<https://www.naeyc.org/resources/pubs/yc/mar2018/promoting-social-and-emotional-health>

[www.tbe-ecec.org](http://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/>