

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 8, 2022

*I dreamed I stood in a studio and watched two sculptors there.
The clay they used was a young child's mind, and they fashioned it with care.
One was a teacher; the tools he used were books and music and art;
One a parent with a guiding hand, and a gentle loving heart.
Day after day the teacher toiled, with touch that was deft and sure;
While the parent labored by his side and polished and smoothed it o'er.
And when at last their task was done, they were proud of what they had wrought,
For the things they had molded into the child could neither be sold nor bought.
And each agreed he would have failed if he had worked alone,
For behind the parent stood the school, and behind the teacher – the home.*

Author Unknown

THANK YOU

Thank you, parents. It is with deep gratitude and appreciation that I thank each one of you. You openly shared your time, ideas, enthusiasm and resources this year as we worked cooperatively to educate the children, nurture their growth and development, and provide memorable experiences. Even during a challenging year of a pandemic, you helped us in so many ways. You made it possible to create in-person learning during the entire year. You are remarkable and courageous parents and I hope you are proud of yourselves for all that you have accomplished in your lives this year.

Thank you to our amazing teachers. Our teachers work creatively, thoughtfully and with great love and care to inspire higher-level thinking, creativity, compassion, respect for others, helpfulness, a love of Jewish heritage, literacy, and other important values with each child every day. Our journey is ongoing, and this year, our outdoor classrooms added a significant element to our explorations. How wonderful that we were able to joyously experience nature and the outdoor world with our children.

Thank you to our Class Parents and all those families who volunteered their time. We greatly appreciate all that you have done to make our school the best it can be.

Thank you to Nancy, my invaluable assistant, who is incredibly helpful to our teachers, parents and me. She is a wonderful support system for all of us and continues to build relationships with the children, families, and teachers.

Thank you to all the families who contributed toys, books, and other important items for our indoor and outdoor classrooms and community play areas.

Thank you for bringing Tzedakah to school every Friday. Thank you for your contributions to our Tzedakah Drive for children in Ukraine. I personally delivered the clothing to St. Josaphat Ukrainian Monastery in Glen Cove. They were incredibly appreciative of the much-needed children's clothing you purchased. The teachers and I decided to use this year's Tzedakah funds to purchase duffle bags for the Monastery. The organization is regularly sending volunteers to Poland because it's less expensive than shipping them, and they desperately need duffle bags.

Thank you to the Great Neck Vigilante Fire Company, the Alert Fire Company, the Nassau County Police Department 6th Precinct, the Great Neck Parks District, Great Neck Schools, and Butch, the Ice-Cream Man, for helping us create the best Truck Day ever. Thank you to Morah Cara and her team of teachers and parents for all your hard work in making this day so special!

Thank you to the officers of Temple Beth-El for valuing Jewish early childhood education every day.

Thank you to the clergy for providing ongoing support for the members of our community.

Thank you for reading *Growing Together* this year. I look forward to many more opportunities to grow together.

Thank you to our children. I am proud of each child – who learned to share and get along with others, who learned to love to learn, to be more persistent, to accomplish tasks, to communicate effectively, to take care of himself, herself, and each other, to love to celebrate Jewish life, to love to smile and laugh, to climb and play – to have the time to be a child.

I am delighted to say, “Mazal Tov to the Graduating Class of 2022.” Thank you and congratulations to your teachers and families who helped you reach this important milestone in your education! We are sad to say good-bye, but we are confident that you are ready for the new challenges you will face. Good luck to our graduates and their families. And, to next year's students, we are already preparing for 2022-23. We look forward to seeing you in September.

May you be blessed with restful, peaceful, enjoyable, and healthy summer days.

Warmest Wishes,
Vicki

HAPPENINGS & DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday, June 8	Last Day of School – School Closes at 12:00
Thursday, June 9	Pre-K Graduation – 10:30 AM
Tuesday, June 14	Flag Day
Mon-Fri June 13-24	Pre-Summer Enrichment
Sunday, June 19	Father's Day
Wednesday, July 6	Summer Program Begins
Friday, August 19	Summer Program Ends
Thursday, September 8	First Day of School for 2022-2023

CONNECTIONS

Happy Father's Day to our wonderful fathers and grandfathers. I want to take this opportunity to wish each one of our special fathers a beautiful and memorable Father's Day. May your children be a constant source of pride for you, and may your lives continue to be enriched by their unique and special qualities.

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 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.naeyc.org/summer-learning-families>

<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.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.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>

<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.naeyc.org/>

<http://families.naeyc.org/>

<http://www.reggioalliance.org/>

<http://www.brainy-child.com/article/reggioemilia.shtml>

<http://www.zerotothree.org/child-development/>