

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 23, 2022

"I'm thankful for hugging my friends." Pre-K student, Thanksgiving 2022

Dear Families,

During the difficult pandemic years of uncertainty and quarantine, we were always certain about one thing – that we could count on our children to help make our days happier and more meaningful. Day after day, the children in our ECEC continue to show us how compassionate, strong, creative, self-confident, intelligent, and resilient they are. Day after day, the children bestow their special gifts on our teachers, and our devoted teachers work thoughtfully and creatively to foster a warm and loving place for our children to grow, learn and thrive.

As we prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving, I want to express my thankfulness and gratitude to all of you, the special and beautiful people who enrich my life every day. The blessing of family and friends coming together to share this holiday is a reminder to slow down and be grateful for all the blessings in our lives. These blessings of family, friends, and freedom are gifts from God, and it is my hope that each one of us can focus on the abundance within our own homes, and find comfort with our families, friends, and the food and shelter that nourish us.

Warmest Wishes for Happy Days of Thankfulness
Vicki

HAPPENINGS & DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday, November 21	Thanksgiving & Chanukah Tzedakah Drive Begins – Children’s Coats, Hats and Gloves
Wednesday, November 23	Thanksgiving Recess – School Closes at 1:00
Thurs & Fri, Nov. 24&25	Thanksgiving Recess – School Closed
Thurs & Fri, Nov 24&25	Rosh Chodesh Kislev
Tuesday, November 29	Pee Wee Pros for 3s and Pre-K
Wednesday, Dec. 7	Registration for Temple Members
Thursday, Dec. 8	Registration for Currently Enrolled & Former Students
Thursday, Dec. 8	Parent-Teacher Council (PTC) Meeting 9:15am
Friday, Dec. 9	Registration Open to the Community
Tuesday, December 6	Pee Wee Pros for 3s and Pre-K
Wednesday, December 14	Parent-Teacher Conferences – Evening Hours
Thursday, December 15	Parent-Teacher Conferences – School Closed
Tuesday, December 13	Pee Wee Pros for 3s and Pre-K
Tuesday, December 20	Pee Wee Pros for 3s and Pre-K
Thursday, December 22	Early Bird Deadline for Registration
Sun-Mon, Dec. 18-26	Chanukah
Sat & Sun, Dec. 24&25	Rosh Chodesh Tevet
Mon-Mon, Dec 26-Jan 2	Winter Recess – School Closed
Tuesday, January 3	School Reopens

CONNECTIONS

Thanksgiving & Chanukah Tzedakah Drive – 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 families in need by providing **NEW or GENTLY USED** children’s coats, hats and gloves. **Let’s all work together to help children stay warm this winter. A collection box will be placed outside the main entrance.** Thank you, in advance, for your generosity!

Registration for 2023-2024 – We are very pleased and excited to announce Early Bird Registration for the 2023-2024 school year. Registration materials will be sent out next week. **The deadline for the Early Bird is December 22, 2022.** Prices will be locked-in at the Early Bird rate for next year’s tuition. Please remember that families of current students can register before the general community. You can find the specific registration dates on “Dates to Remember” above. If you have any questions about our program for your child for next year, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Parent Teacher Council (PTC) - The ECEC’s Parent Teacher Council meeting will be held on Thursday, December 8 at 9:15 AM. The PTC is comprised of parents and teachers who work together to make decisions and provide ongoing support for the school and temple community. We are blessed to have two very enthusiastic PTC Co-Chairs this year, Debbie Rutstein and Rojeen Cohan. Please volunteer your time to help make our PTC strong and vibrant this year. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting!

Class Parents – We need one or two class parents for each classroom. Volunteer to be a Class Parent and please let your child’s teacher know that you are interested. Thank you!

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. **Do not bring your child to school if s/he appears ill.** We appreciate your cooperation at all times.

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

Dressing for the Outdoors – Please be attentive to the weather every day to ensure that your child is appropriately dressed for outdoor play. We go outside every day for long stretches of time, unless it is raining, or the temperature is below 30 degrees. 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. Two complete changes of clothing (to be left in school), sweaters, hats, mittens, and a warm jacket are necessary. As the weather becomes colder, we will continue to be outdoors. It's a good time to start purchasing waterproof snow pants, jackets, snow boots and mittens for the winter. **Please label all children's clothing! Thank you for your cooperation.**

Pre-K Program at Temple Beth-El for 2023-24 – It seems as though many parents are not familiar with our highly regarded Pre-K program. In order to meet the ever-changing needs of families, a few years ago Temple Beth-El generously reduced the tuition significantly, increased the number of hours for the Pre-K (from 9-2 to 9-3), and included lunch. We have an outstanding Pre-K program, taught by exceptional and highly qualified teachers, and our school meets and exceeds New York State's Prekindergarten Next Generation Learning Standards. Our students are very well-prepared for kindergarten. As you know, Temple Beth-El strives to provide an excellent early childhood Jewish experience for our toddler through pre-kindergarten children and to keep our programs accessible to our community. We are very grateful for the generosity of our Temple to help families out in this way. **I hope you take advantage of this opportunity. If you would like a tour, please contact me to arrange a date. We are proud to show you our dynamic Pre-K class in action. Registration begins on December 7.**

Hot Lunch - 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 with sauce on the side, and vegetable
- Tuesday** – Baked chicken fingers, French fries and vegetable
- Wednesday** Pizza and Israeli salad
- Thursday**- Cheese quesadillas and beans
- Friday** – Grilled chicken, rice and vegetable

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.

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.

Shabbat Sing –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. Our Shabbat Sing experiences are outdoors, especially during these beautiful days. Singing and music is a vital part of education, and we embrace the language of music as often as possible.

Shabbat with the Rabbi or Shabbat with the Cantor – This year, we are also blessed with having Rabbi Stoller and Cantor Adam share beautiful Shabbat experiences with the children in our Chapel every week. Having meaningful relationships with the Rabbi and Cantor are one of our goals this year, and we look forward to creating joyous and memorable Shabbat celebrations with them every week.

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://archive.nytimes.com/parenting.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/09/04/teaching-children-empathy/?_php=true&_type=blogs&_php=true&_type=blogs&smid=fb-share&r=5

<https://www.wbur.org/cognoscenti/2016/04/08/children-play-nature-john-lee>

<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/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/>