

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 1, 2021

Dear Families,

Sukkot has concluded, and the lessons of the holiday are ever so relevant. The Sukkah represents a shelter of peace and a haven from our vulnerabilities. Especially during this pandemic, we are cognizant that nothing can last forever, and that life is fragile. Sadly, we all know too well that even sturdy walls can't protect us from the trials of life. And yet, with much persistence and perseverance, life at school is becoming easier, and we are looking forward to creating joy, wonder, and stimulating new adventures in a more rhythmic cycle of the weeks.

This Shabbat, we scroll the Torah back to the beginning – Creation – and we don't only begin, we begin again. The story of Creation – Bereisheet - is also the story of the creation of humankind. So important is this concept, that "Tzelem Elohim – Divine Image" is one of our school's most valued principles. We strongly believe that each child is created in the image of G-d, and this translates into respecting and holding them in high regard. Children are capable, competent, and creative thinkers, and bring a wealth of knowledge to their educational setting. The heart of our curriculum originates from the children's own ideas and interests. Once their interest is captured, it is pursued. Because children create their knowledge from prior experiences and through current exploration, their interests continually deepen with ongoing investigation. Inquiry and problem-solving are a

major focus of our ECEC. Play encourages the children to engage joyfully in the process of learning and truly to have fun.

It has never been more important to provide the opportunity to nurture children's emotional and social development, and we are providing endless hours of exploration. The children are learning values of kindness, honesty, trust, respect, compassion, empathy, love, and courage. Working with the children to create positive social experiences, we know that they will become self-confident and will develop meaningful and lasting friendships throughout the year.

As we wind down from this past month's dynamic schedules, I hope that 5782 is a year of peace, health, blessings, accomplishments and growth, for you, your children, and your loved ones.

Shabbat Shalom

Vicki

HAPPENINGS & DATES TO REMEMBER

Tuesday, Oct. 5	Pee Wee Pros Sports Program Begins for 3s and Pre-K
Wed & Thurs, Oct 6&7	Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan
Thursday, Oct. 7	Child Car Seat Safety Check at Great Neck House 9-1 PM
Monday, Oct. 11	Columbus Day – School Closed
Tuesday, Oct. 12	Pee Wee Pros Sports Program for 3s and Pre-K
Wednesday, Oct. 13	Starting Together for 18-month-olds Begins
Tuesday, Nov. 2	Election Day – School Closed
Tuesday, Nov. 2	Professional Development for Teachers
Friday, Nov. 5	Rosh Chodesh Kislev
Sunday, Nov. 7	Daylight Savings Time Ends – Set Clocks Back One Hour
Thursday, Nov. 11	Veterans Day – School Closed
Wednesday, Nov. 24	Thanksgiving Recess – School Closes at 1:00 PM
Thurs & Fri, Nov. 25&26	Thanksgiving Recess – School Closed

CONNECTIONS

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.

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, and a warm jacket 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 for your cooperation.

Shabbat Sing – On 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 are 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 – Plain pasta, sauce, and cauliflower

Tuesday – Baked chicken fingers and corn

Wednesday Pizza and Israeli salad

Thursday- Sliders/hamburgers, tater tots and vegetables

Friday – Baked fish, rice and string beans

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. **Hot Lunch begins on Thursday, September 23.**

Car Seats are Mandatory - New York State law requires that all children eight years old and younger wear a safety restraint that meet the manufacturer's suggested weight and height requirements. The following is New York State's Car Seat Laws: **Children two and younger should use a rear-facing car seat until they exceed the manufacturer's suggestions. Once a child is over the age of two and goes over the manufacturer's weight and height requirements, s/he can move on to a forward-facing seat. After the age of four and when a child is over the manufacturer's requirements for a forward-facing seat, s/he can be placed in a booster seat with both the shoulder and chest straps. Although not required, NY authorities strongly recommend parents keep their children in the back seat until they reach the age of twelve.**

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 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.naeyc.org/resources/pubs/vc/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/>