

**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 7, 2022**

Dear Families,

Yom Kippur is over, and Sunday night we will light the candles that usher in Sukkot. After several challenging years of isolation and disconnection, sharing Yom Kippur day with our community was spiritually uplifting for many of us. The formality and seriousness of Yom Kippur is behind us, and we are getting ready for the joyfulness we are obligated to feel on Sukkot.

I'm looking forward to watching the beautiful Tishrei full moon on the first night of Sukkot. Sukkot has always been one of my favorite holidays, not only because it is a time to reconnect and rejoice with loved ones in our family Suckah, but it's a special time to fully enjoy the splendor of nature. Nature and the outdoor environment are central themes of Sukkot and help to create so many meaningful experiences for adults and children. It's not only a Mitzvah to entertain friends and relatives in a Suckah, it's a perfect way to truly involve and engage children in the holiday. From building and decorating a Suckah to eating outside in the crisp autumn air, every aspect of the holiday is rich with new opportunities for fun and happiness.

As we prepare for Sukkot, we are keenly aware of welcoming guests and building community. The words "community" and "communication" have their etymological root in the word "common." A community is a place to gather, a place to foster relationships, and a place to communicate with others. It is a common space where our individual selves join together to build a stronger community family. Part of that strength comes

from the weaving together of families with diverse backgrounds and experiences and the sharing of individual interests and goals. We weave these elements together to form connections, and we build relationships on this new community cloth. A strong community always has strong relationships, and we continue to strive to build relationships in our ECEC community. Next Friday, we will celebrate the beginning of your child's Jewish education at Temple Beth-El's ECEC with a Consecration ceremony in the Sukkah - truly a beautiful moment for all of us. We continue to be grateful to you, our magnificent community, for your inspiration, dedication, and commitment, and we feel blessed that Rabbi Stoller and Cantor Adam have created a special ceremony for our children. Sukkot is truly *Zeman Simchateinu*, the "Season of Rejoicing," and we hope this ceremony will add to your happiness, creating a memorable moment for you and your precious children.

One of our school's goals is to create authentic Jewish life experiences for our children and our families. May each of us continue to enjoy the blessings in our lives with those we love, and may this Shabbat and Sukkot inspire you to create stronger relationships with one another, fostering more meaningful experiences and celebrations.

*Shabbat Shalom*  
*Chag Sukkot Sameach*  
*Vicki*

## **HAPPENINGS & DATES TO REMEMBER**

Monday, October 10	Sukkot/Columbus Day – School Closed
Tuesday, October 11	Pee Wee Pros for 3s and Pre-K
Thursday, October 13	Young Family Wine and Cheese Event in the Sukkah - 7:30 pm
Friday, October 14	Sukkot Parent-Child Special Event –Toddlers (2s) 9:30-10:15 am, 3s and Pre-K 10:15-11:15 am
Monday, October 17	Shmini Atzeret/Simchat Torah – School Closed
Tuesday, October 18	Pee Wee Pros for 3s and Pre-K
Tues & Wed, October 25&26	Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan
Tuesday, October 25	Pee Wee Pros for 3s and Pre-K
Tuesday, October 25	Yoga Class for Adults begins (8 classes) – 9:00 am

## **CONNECTIONS**

**Parent-Child Sukkot Event – Save the Date** - We will be celebrating the beginning of your child's Jewish education on **Friday, October 14** with a special Consecration ceremony in the Sukkah with Rabbi Stoller. The toddlers (2s) will be in the Sukkah from 9:30-10:15 am and the 3s and Pre-K will be from 10:15-11:15 am. We look forward to sharing this sacred time together.

**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**- Quesadillas, cucumbers, salsa and sour cream

**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.

**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.

**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@tbgreatneck.org](mailto:yperler@tbgreatneck.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/sukkot>

<https://www.reformjudaism.org/jewish-holidays/sukkot>

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

[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/>