

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
September 23, 2022

And a great shofar will sound, and a still, small voice will be heard...
(From the High Holiday Liturgy)

Dear Families,

Sunday night, we will light the candles that usher in Rosh Hashanah. Even as we recite the Shehechyanu, the concept of newness and beginnings is present on our minds, and I find myself thinking about how I can make the New Year experience more meaningful. Rosh Hashanah gives us a chance to reflect on the choices we've made during this past year and provides us with the opportunity to discard and redo those that did not have the positive outcomes we desired and expected. When we leave our old deficiencies behind by recognizing them and changing course, we can start the New Year with a clean slate.

Our lives have become increasingly hectic, and we are constantly juggling responsibilities to family, synagogue, community, and work. Some of us are also challenged by family illness and caring for aging parents. During these adult struggles, we must recognize that the life of a young child moves at a slower pace. We should pause and recall the slower and less complicated days of our own childhood, when technology didn't govern our daily existence, and when the relationships with the people in our lives were face to face. There is a lesson in this simplicity for adults as well, and recapturing simple pleasures is a good goal for a healthy New Year. Rosh Hashanah is a time to reflect on what's most important to us and to make healthy adjustments or changes in our relationships. When we do this, we model the kind of caring behavior we value and desire for our children and

grandchildren. The messages of the High Holidays can be as empowering to children as to adults. We learn, once again, that mistakes can be repaired, that there is always an opportunity to change, and that that we have the power to be a good friend to others.

As the New Year 5783 dawns, may we be blessed to hear the great shofar blasts, and even more, to hear and listen to the still, small voices in our lives. May each of us experience fresh beginnings, meaningful reflections, and continue to enjoy the blessings in our lives with those we love. From my family to yours, may the joyful sound of the shofar welcome in a new year of healing, health and happiness, fulfillment and peace, and the ability to focus on the things in life that are truly meaningful.

Shabbat Shalom
L'Shanah Tovah u'Metukah
Tizku L'Shanim Rabot
Vicki

HAPPENINGS & DATES TO REMEMBER

Mon & Tues, Sept. 26&27	Rosh Hashanah – School Closed * Tot Service (9 am - Children under 6 with adult) at TBE on Monday
Tuesday, October 4	Erev Yom Kippur – School Closed
Wednesday, October 5	Yom Kippur – School Closed * Tot Service (9 am – Children under 6 with adult) at TBE
Monday, October 10	Sukkot/Columbus Day – School Closed
Tuesday, October 11	Pee Wee Pros for 3s and Pre-K
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

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 event 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.

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. 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/getmedia/c63e85f1-58d9-44fd-ae8a-696825e88d25/Jewish-values-ECE.pdf>

<https://reformjudaism.org/jewish-holidays/rosh-hashanah/rosh-hashanah-family-activities>

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/>