

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 9, 2022

Dear Families,

The year is off to an extraordinary beginning. I want to welcome you, once again, to the Temple Beth-El family. The pandemic has taught us to appreciate so many moments that we might not have appreciated before in the same way. One of them, parents sharing the excitement of their children's classroom with them, was the highlight of our beginning of school experience this year. What a joy it was to welcome you into our beloved ECEC. It was the first time in 2 ½ years since parents have entered our school, and we were all ecstatic. It was truly a Shehecheyanu moment and we hope we will share many more memorable moments together.

The blending of our returning families with our new families is always an exciting process in the school. Thank you to our outstanding teachers, who worked tirelessly during the past few weeks to create classroom and outdoor environments that are educational, stimulating, and inviting. As I walk into each classroom, I'm overjoyed when I observe the children. They bring a wealth of knowledge to their educational setting and are already engaged in productive and meaningful experiences. We are honored and privileged to nurture each child's sense of wonder and their ever-increasing curiosity. Our commitment to our children and families remain as strong as ever. Everything is new and exciting, and the world is just beginning. We are all here for each other, and together, we will create a strong community for our children and families this year.

We feel blessed that we have the benefit of time before the High Holidays this year. We are looking forward to celebrating the holidays of Tishrei and to creating beautiful experiences with each one of you. One of our school's goals is to create authentic Jewish life experiences for our children and our families, and I am confident that our entire community of families, teachers, children, and clergy will join to make the celebrations meaningful and special. The teachers will document the learning using cameras, children's work, and conversations. In the days ahead, the faculty and I will create bulletin board displays that will reinforce the experiences, creating opportunities for further reflection to enhance the learning.

As we all grow together on our journey this year, may we find new challenges, growth, and accomplishment in all we do. May each of us experience fresh beginnings, meaningful reflections, and continue to enjoy the blessings in our lives with those we love.

Shabbat Shalom
Vicki

HAPPENINGS & DATES TO REMEMBER

Tuesday, Sept. 13	Pee Wee Pros Begins for 3s and Pre-K
Tuesday, Sept. 20	Pee Wee Pros for 3s and Pre-K
Thursday, Sept. 22	Fall Begins
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 – 9:30 am
Monday, October 17	Shmini Atzeret/Simchat Torah – School Closed

CONNECTIONS

Shabbat Sing – Today was the first day I celebrated Shabbat with the three-year-olds, Pre-K, and 9-3 toddler 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. 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.

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 on the side, and zucchini medley

Tuesday – Baked chicken fingers, French fries and cauliflower

Wednesday Pizza and Israeli salad

Thursday- Quesadillas, cucumbers, salsa and sour cream

Friday – Grilled chicken, 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 began yesterday.**

Health and Safety - 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@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.

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/>