

**Beth Emet Early Childhood Program  
Parent Newsletter - December 2007**

Happy Chanukah to you! We hope that you and your families have a wonderful holiday!

**Camp Registration Opens Soon!**

Watch your email for information about our NEW summer programs.

- A parent (or caregiver) and child program, for children entering Bonim, K'tonton or Kadima, on Friday mornings. (New!)
- 3 Day Camp Kayitz for children entering Madregot (Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday).
- 4 Day Camp Kayitz for children entering G'dolim or Kindergarten (Tuesday-Friday). (New!)

**Registration for the 2008-09 School Year** will be coming in January. As always, there will be a priority registration period for currently enrolled families, alumni families and Beth Emet members from January 22-February 4. Please be sure to reserve your spot!

**Phases of the Year**

We wrote a few months ago about the phases of the school year, from the perspective of child development. Phase one is characterized by attention to separation and attachment, no matter the age of the child. Now, after three months of school, many children are entering phase two.

Phase two is characterized by autonomy. Children are now feeling comfortable and safe in their classes, and so they can focus on developing their own independence. Typical behaviors might include limit testing, experimentation, asserting individual preferences and the "I can do it myself" attitude. There are two general responses to this, both of which are beneficial to children. On one hand, we, as teachers and parents, offer children more choices, more complex projects, more opportunities to get messy and more space to explore their world. At the same time, we have the responsibility to maintain a reasonable structure, make sure our expectations are clearly stated, help children stay engaged when they have to wait their turn, and generally contain this exuberant energy. It's a tricky balance between inviting the "Now I'm big"

behaviors, and containing them. Not easy to do! A sense of humor goes a long way.

### **Birthday Party Etiquette**

Our school includes children from families with a range of Jewish practice. Out of respect for those who observe Shabbat, please do not schedule your child's birthday party on Shabbat (Friday sundown through Saturday sundown). Our goal is to teach respect and inclusiveness for everyone. We ask your help in supporting this.

### **Wanted: Cars for Children to Drive**

Have your children outgrown their riding toys? We're looking for cars (or other vehicles) for our children to ride in the Crown Room. Thank you.

### **Events**

#### **Shabbat Chanukah at Beth Emet**

Celebrate the fourth night of Chanukah at Beth Emet with a Chanukah dinner and children's programming. On **Friday, Dec. 7** there will be a dinner at 5:30 p.m. followed by services at 6:30 p.m. BESSY (Beth Emet's Senior Youth Group) will entertain the kids with Chanukah activities. To reserve a place at the dinner, call Beth Emet's office at 847 869-4230, ext. 304. The dinner is potluck and will cost \$7.00 per person for those five and older. For more info, go to Emet Mail at Beth Emet's website, [www.bethemet.org](http://www.bethemet.org).

### **GAME NIGHT FOR ALL!**

Celebrate the fact that from this day forth, the days are getting longer! How: Play games, make merriment and eat comfort foods. Where: Beth Emet - Herman Crown Room. When: December 22 from 5:30-9:00 p.m. Who: Anyone- all ages are welcome. What: Play games at various stations, Eat pot-luck comfort foods such as mac and cheese, kugels, matzo balls, milkshakes, and whatever else warms your heart and stomach, and wear your PJ's or sweats—this event is Extremely casual. How Much: Free- just bring your favorite comfort food. WHY: Because it will be fun!! RSVP and questions: send Bekki an email or call her at 847-869-4230 (ext. 304) or Beth Gomberg-Hirsch at 847-251-8809.

### **NEW ADDITION TO GAN SHABBAT AT KAHAL ON SHABBAT MORNINGS**

Introducing Ivanna - Beth Emet has engaged a regular adult babysitter who will be assisted by our teens in our Kahal Gan Shabbat. Moms and dads can now comfortably join us at Kahal knowing that we have consistent adult care for your little ones.

**Something Else! A Community Festival at Spertus Museum**

Dec. 25, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

On a day when most everything is closed, Spertus is open with a family program. There will be entertainment, crafts, and a number of activities for children.

For more information, go to [www.spertus.edu/families\\_kids/somethingelse](http://www.spertus.edu/families_kids/somethingelse).

**Upcoming Events**

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| December 4              | First Chanukah Candle                                       |
| December 8              | Tot Shabbat and Brunch 9 a.m                                |
| December 10             | Madregot Family Chanukah Party 6:30-7:30 p.m.               |
| December 11             | K'tonton and Kadima Chanukah Parties In Class               |
| December 11             | G'dolim Family Chanukah Party 6:30-7:30 p.m.                |
| December 12             | Wednesdays with Mollie (parent discussion) 11:30-12:30 p.m. |
| December 17             | No School - Teacher In-Service                              |
| December 24 - January 4 | Winter Break  |
| January 7               | School Resumes  |
| January 9               | Wednesdays with Mollie (parent discussion) 11:30-12:30 p.m. |
| January 10              | G'dolim Extended Lunch on Thursdays begins (1:15 dismissal) |
| January 12              | Tot Shabbat and Brunch 9 a.m                                |
| January 14              | Madregot Extended lunch on Mondays begins (12:45 dismissal) |

***Save the date! Rabbi Joe Black in concert at Beth Emet on Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, at noon.***