

Beth Emet Early Childhood Program Parent Newsletter
September 2007 - Elul 5767

B'ruchim Ha-ba-im! Welcome and welcome back!

After a long, hot August (and early September), school has begun! It's wonderful to see new faces and familiar ones coming into Beth Emet, greeting friends, and beginning the process of settling into a new routine. You can see the comfort level of the children growing day by day as they get to know their new teachers and their classmates. We take this beginning phase very seriously, knowing that children need to feel secure and comfortable in their school environment before the playing and learning can take place. Home visits and the class visits strengthen the bond between parents to teachers, and children to teachers. As the children show the teachers their rooms, a favorite possession, or their sister or brother, they begin to build a relationship with their teachers. We hope that you saw how those brief visits helped your child view the teachers as friendly and nurturing. Soon the unfamiliar becomes the familiar and children find that school is a great place to be!

That being said, don't feel worried or embarrassed if your child has some separation difficulty a week or a month down the road. Your classroom teacher will work with you on finding the right approach to helping your child feel comfortable in the classroom. Please do not hesitate to talk to your child's teachers or to us about any questions or concerns that come up during the year. We look forward to a wonderful year together!

Melton Class

It's not too late to register for The Florence Melton Adult Parent Education Program. This is the 2nd year we've offered the PEP class at Beth Emet. This is a wonderful way to strengthen your understanding of Judaism, no matter what level of knowledge you have already, and to bring the conversation home to your family. To hear more about the class, go to <http://youtube.com/watch?v=3CCYqCN3JPw>, or contact Paula Spitz paula@bjechicago.org, 847-291-7788 ext. 1321.

"Wednesdays with Mollie"

We are extremely fortunate to again have Mollie Reed as our Early Childhood consultant. She brings warmth, wisdom and experience to issues relating to young children.

"Wednesdays with Mollie" is a monthly opportunity for parents to shmooze with Mollie. Come and chat with her about your questions/concerns/experiences. Feel free to bring lunch...we'll provide drinks and dessert! Babies and toddlers are welcome too! Mark your calendar for the first one of the year - October 10th at 11:30.

Yom Kippur Food Collection

Once again, we are collecting non-perishable foods from September 17-21 to be donated to the Greater Chicago Food Depository. The truck will be here on Yom Kippur to collect all the food. Children learn so much about *tzedakah* when they are part of the process of selecting and bringing the donation. *Todah Rabah* (thank you).

Security at school

Please don't forget to use your keycard when you bring your child to school. It is a tremendous help to our reception staff if they don't have to buzz in every preschool parent. If you still need to get a keycard, see Jill Schlottman in the main office. To maintain the security of the building, please don't hold the door open for anyone you do not know.

Parking lot reminders

Our parking lot is jam-packed with cars on the mornings school is in session. Please use extreme caution at drop-off and pick-up. Always hold your child's hand in the parking lot (even if they protest!). Please do not park in clergy/staff or handicapped parking spots, even for a few minutes.

Thank you!

A huge *todah rabah* to Abbey Prujan, who spent many hours this summer cataloging the books in the Early Childhood collection.

In Our Family

B'ruchim Ha-ba-im (welcome) to Eliza Herz, baby sister of Charlie (Madregot), daughter of Jamie Hochman-Herz and Stephen Herz.

B'ruchim Ha-ba-im to Penelope Cohn, baby sister of Chloe Cohn (G'dolim), daughter of Lena Kim and Jason Cohn.

Condolences to Jill Schoeneman Parker on the death of her grandmother Marion Reiner.

Calendar

Thursday, September 13 Rosh Hashanah (Beth Emet Family Service at 3:30 p.m. Tickets are not needed for this service.)

Wednesday Sept. 19 First day of Drop In (9:30-11:00)

Wednesday Sept. 19 First day of Melton class (9:30-11:30)

Friday September 21 Kol Nidre - Yom Kippur begins

Saturday September 22 Yom Kippur (Beth Emet Family Service 2:15 p.m. Tickets are not needed for this service.)

Wednesday, September 26 Sukkot begins
Sukkot dinner at Beth Emet, 6 p.m.
Family service at Beth Emet, 7 p.m.

Thursday September 27 No School - Sukkot

Friday September 28 No School - Sukkot

Wednesday, October 3 Simchat Torah (Family service at Beth Emet, 7 p.m.)

Thursday October 4 No School - Simchat Torah

Friday October 5 No School - Simchat Torah

Tuesday October 9 G'dolim Extended lunch (dismissal at 1:15)

Wednesday Oct. 10 Madregot Extended lunch (dismissal at 12:45)

Wednesday Oct. 10 "Wednesdays With Mollie"(discussion) 11:30-12:30

Saturday Oct. 13 Tot Shabbat 9 a.m