

BEGINNING DAYS AT SCHOOL

*Behold how good and how pleasant it is
for us to dwell together in unity.
Psalm 133:1*

Derech Eretz:

The Way of the Road/ Respectful Citizenship

The Torah instructs the Jewish people to treat all people and property with kindness and respect. Loosely translated, *derech erez* is about the way we get along with one another and how we live and work together.

It sets a good example when we foster *derech erez* and model respectful and responsible behavior. We are blessed that our community is so vital, and our programming expansive and inclusive. It is easy to forget that we share our space with others whose needs may be different than our own. When at Brotherhood, please keep the following in mind:

- Talking about others does not foster community. We are a small school community. Negativity is damaging to you and to those around you. The staff of the school and synagogue is available to discuss any school related questions or concerns that you may have.
- Strollers should remain outside school in the designated area.
- In inclement weather, if you bring your stroller into the building, it must be folded and placed in

the cloakroom on the first floor. Strollers must be picked up each day and not left overnight.

- Strollers may not be brought to the lower level.
- The use of cell phones, Blackberries, etc. is not permitted in the school or sanctuary during school hours.
- Refrain from holding side conversations during special programming.
- Children should run in the yard and not in school, or in the corridors or on the stairs.
- An adult should accompany children at all times when in the building or in the yard.

Social Action and Tzedakah

Tikkun olam" (literally, "world repair") has come to connote social action and the pursuit of social justice. *Tzedakah* literally means righteousness, but it is often interpreted as charity, because Judaism views giving as the ultimate act of righteousness.

Each month the Synagogue organizes opportunities to participate in *tikkun olam* and *tzedakah* projects. Throughout the year teachers may introduce chances for the children to participate in developmentally appropriate ways.

Separation

Facilitating a positive separation experience is an important goal of the program. There will be several opportunities for parents to hear more about the specifics of this process. For families entering the 2's-3's Yellow Room, Parent Night is an opportunity to discuss the issues related to separation as well as the logistical plans that support this process. After

the group discussion that evening, the teachers will review particular separation plans for each classroom. We will also be holding separation workshops for parents and/or caregivers during the first weeks of school. We look forward to working together with you to make this a positive experience for you and your child.

Home Visits

Home visits for children entering the 2's-3's class take place before school begins, early in September, and are designed for each child to begin to establish a connection to his or her teachers.

Phase-In Schedule

Although there are many differences in how and when children adjust to school, we believe that a slow phase-in schedule will ultimately benefit the children. This gradual schedule for the beginning of school enables children to come together in small groups and familiarize themselves with their teachers, their classmates and the rhythm of the day. While this is sometimes inconvenient, we believe that it supports our long-term goal of a positive separation, and helps to set a solid foundation on which to build an ongoing relationship between teachers, parents, and teachers.

Arrival and Dismissal

The teachers use the time before school begins to meet and prepare for the day. Therefore, please note the specific arrival time for your child's class. The teachers will open the door to the classroom at the scheduled time. We have designated a waiting area for your convenience. It is important to arrive at school on time. Please be mindful that

it is disruptive both to your child and to the group when a child consistently arrives late to school.

Each class has its own procedure for dismissal. The teachers will discuss their specific plan with you. Teachers will not dismiss a child to anyone other than those people designated by you on the dismissal form, unless we have received a written note from you regarding the change. In the case of play-dates, we must receive notes from both families in order to avoid confusion at dismissal time. It is important that you or your caregiver always be on time. If you know that you will be late, please call the school so that we may prepare the child. Even a very short delay can worry a child needlessly.

School Hours and Staff

2's - 3's (Yellow Room)

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 9:00 am - 11:45 am

Jonathan Berk

Talya Cohen Davidowitz

Rivki Gray Diamont

3's - 4's (Red Room)

Monday-Friday: 8:50 am -12:30 pm

Hillary Cole

Lisa Higani

Margaret Patterson

4's - 5's (Blue Room)

Monday-Thursday: 8:50 am - 2:00 pm

Friday: 8:50 am - 12:30 pm

Mira Shaar

Ruthie Zuckerman

Calendar

Please see the appendix for the school calendar.

SPECIALISTS

Music: Jody Doomchin

Our music specialist, who visits the children's classrooms each week, enhances our music program through rhythm, movement and song.

Early Childhood Consultant: Isabel Schein

Isabel is a helpful resource for all members of the school community. She visits the classrooms, observes all the children, and works with staff. She is also available to parents to discuss any individual concerns. In addition, the Early Childhood Consultant will facilitate parent workshops. If you wish to make an appointment to speak to the Isabel, you may do so through the Director.

Movement: Naoko Robbins

Our movement specialist encourages children to express themselves creatively through movement. Movement classes introduce children to being active and physical in interesting, playful ways. The activities help children with developmental skills such as coordination, balance, flexibility, overall strength, increasing stamina, and even enhancing memory. Being active in this way also boosts a

child's self-esteem, helping them to feel good about their abilities while increasing confidence. The concepts explored are developed in conjunction with classroom activities.

Yoga: Bari Koral

Yoga classes will be taught weekly by Bari for the 3's-4' and 4's-5's. Yoga enhances self-awareness and challenges children uniquely. Self-esteem and confidence are bolstered as children gain control over their bodies and minds.

What to Bring to School

It is helpful for children to bring light backpacks to school to take home art projects, notices, etc. Children in the 4's-5's class should have full-size backpacks. Though most communication will be conducted via email, **parents should check their children's backpacks daily for notes home or other school communication.**

From time-to-time parents have requested to have information disseminated to other parents through the children's cubbies and backpacks. This is an effective means for communicating about Parents' Association and other school related activities. **Please do not use the children's cubbies for communication about other non-school related activities. Do not leave birthday presents or gifts in the cubbies.**

In general, it is preferable for children to avoid bringing toys from home unless they are part of a study unit or in-class activity. It is understood that at times, especially during separation, children benefit from bringing a cherished transitional object. In those cases teachers will be sensitive to the needs of the children while encouraging them to keep

the object in their cubbies to best avoid loss and distraction.

The school does not allow toy guns or weapons of any sort, including water guns, light-sabers, etc.

Please do not send bottles, sippy-cups or pacifiers to school.

Clothing and Shoes

Children should come to school in clothing that is comfortable and well suited for play. Please send your child to school wearing shoes that allow him or her to run, jump and climb comfortably and **safely. Backless shoes, shoes with slippery soles, sandals, cowboy boots and Uggs, Crocs, etc. are not conducive to school activities.** If necessary, send in sturdy shoes for outdoor play and the teachers will help your child change into them for recess and movement.

Because we play outside unless the weather is extremely inclement, please be certain to send appropriate outdoor clothes (i.e. hat, gloves, scarves, boots in winter.) All children should have a complete change of clothing in a box that will be kept in their cubbies. We encourage children to use smocks when they are doing messy activities and help them learn to take care of their things. At the same time, the children are active explorers and it is important that they are free and able to enjoy the many varied activities of the school day. As a result, clothing will sometimes get soiled. Please keep this in mind when dressing your child for school. It is also helpful to help promote emerging independence by dressing your child in clothing that is easy

for him or her to manage (i.e. no difficult buttons). Of course teachers will be available to assist when necessary. **Please label all clothing with your child's name.**

COMMUNICATION WITH TEACHERS

Contacting Teachers

Teachers are available to discuss any questions or concerns. If you wish to communicate with a teacher by telephone, you are welcome to leave a message with the school office, and your call will be returned within twenty-four hours. Teachers will periodically initiate phone contact with parents. These are wonderful opportunities for teachers to share tidbits about your child's life at school. **At arrival and dismissal times teachers must give their full attention to the children and we therefore urge you not to use this time to have detailed discussions about individual children.** Each class will have a designated email address to further facilitate communication.

Conferences

Conferences are an opportunity for parents and teachers to share observations and insights about your child's growth and development. Although communication between teachers and parents is ongoing, we have designated three parent conferences for children in the Red and Blue Rooms, and two conferences for children in the Yellow Room. Please consult the school calendar for specific dates. In addition, as needs arise, conferences may be scheduled with the teacher or director.

Classroom Visits

There will be scheduled opportunities for parents to visit school throughout the year. All parents will have the opportunity to be a visiting *Shabbat* parent on a designated Friday. The annual in-class *Chanukah* party is another opportunity for parents to interact with their children in the classroom. Other opportunities may include a special project or event. From time-to-time parents who would like an additional opportunity to visit the class may schedule a time to join the class to read a story, help with a cooking project, etc. Our school-wide *Shabbat* dinner provides a wonderful opportunity for families to include siblings or special visitors in a school event.

If you have an older sibling who would like to visit your child's class, please speak to your child's teacher in advance. Every effort will be made to accommodate older siblings for a brief visit.

HEALTH GUIDELINES AND EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Medical Forms

The New York City Department of Health requires that each child have a complete up-to-date medical form on file. Current health forms must be received prior to the opening of school. Please note that at any given point in the school year, the medical form must be up-to-date within one year from the last well-child visit. Therefore, please update your child's medical form if it becomes out of date during the course of the school year.

Flu

We know that the most effective way to protect people from the flu and other illnesses is to keep sick people away from healthy people. So if your child is sick, you must keep your child home. Staying home when sick stops the spread of the flu and other illnesses and helps the sick person get well.

Check your child every morning before sending him or her to school:

If your child has both:	Then you must:
Fever* (100° F or 37. 7°C) AND sore throat <u>or</u> cough. These symptoms suggest influenza-like illness. Your child may have the flu. Other symptoms can include runny nose, body aches, vomiting and diarrhea.	<u>CDC recommends that people with influenza-like illness remain at home until at least 24 hours after they are fever free (100°F [37.8°C]), or signs of a fever without the use of fever-reducing medications.</u>
But if your child only has:	Then you must:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fever* alone, OR• vomiting or diarrhea, OR• sore throat or new cough with no fever	Keep your child home from school and child care until symptoms are gone for 24 hours.

If your child comes to school with the symptoms of flu, as described in the top box above, or if your child develops these symptoms when they get to school, your child will be sent home for at least 24 hours after they are fever free (100°F [37.8°C]), or signs of a fever without the use of fever-reducing medications.

If your child is sick or does not appear well, please do not send your child to school. **You *must* keep your child home if he or she has had a fever, diarrhea, or has vomited within the previous 24 hours.** For colds and other illnesses we ask you to consider the comfort of your own child as well as the well being of others at school. Often remaining at home an extra day helps insure the health of all of our children and staff. Some symptoms to watch out for include

a heavy nasal discharge or a persistent cough, diarrhea, or vomiting, fussy, cranky or atypical behavior, reddened eyes with discharge and or crusty lashes. For routine colds, a good rule of thumb is to keep your child home if the nasal discharge is heavy, or not clear, or if your child is exhibiting more than one cold symptom (i.e. sneezing and coughing).

At times, if a child arrives at school and appears ill, the teachers will ask you for more information and may at times, with your permission, ask for input from your pediatrician. We sincerely feel that it is in the best interest of all the children to use caution in this area.

If your child has a communicable disease i.e. chickenpox, strep, impetigo, conjunctivitis, fifth's disease etc. please let the office know promptly, so that we may communicate the information to other parents as is required by the Department of Health. Even if your child is no longer contagious it is important that you report the illness to us.

Children returning to school after an illness should be well enough to participate in all activities including outdoor play. Please notify the school office if your child will be absent from school.

If a sibling is sick, and you are dropping off your well child at Arrange for friend or a member of the staff to sit with the ill child upstairs or outside while you do drop-off.

Medication

The school does not dispense any medication except under

emergency conditions. If your child needs emergency allergy medication kept in school, written instructions from the pediatrician and a parent release must be kept on file in the office. Please make sure we have all necessary information regarding allergies. Children who require an Epipen need to have emergency forms completed by both parent and pediatrician prior to the start of school and must meet with staff prior to the start of school to review the emergency protocol.

Emergency Procedures

Emergency forms are kept on file in the office. We must have these prior to the start of school. Please be sure to notify us of any changes that may occur during the school year. In an emergency we will attempt to contact you immediately. **Please make sure that you provide us with phone numbers where we are able to contact you during the school day.**

If we cannot reach you, we will try the other people you have specified. Please let them know you have designated them to make decisions in case of an emergency. If an emergency involves an illness or injury that requires immediate attention, we will contact your pediatrician if we cannot reach you.

In the event that we would be required to evacuate the building, but could remain safely outside, we would use Gramercy Park as a temporary location until we could contact each parent or other authorized person to pick up your child. If that location would not be safe, we would use the Calvary St. George's at 21st Street and Park Avenue South (212-475-0830 or 212-475-1216) as an emergency

shelter. Your children's safety is our number one priority. We will take care of your children for as long as needed until you or another adult authorized by you pick up your child arrives.

We are also able to text the parent body via Parent Reach. The numbers we will use will be taken from those you provide at the beginning of the school year.

Allergies

The Brotherhood Synagogue Nursery School is a nut sensitive environment. No peanuts or tree nuts may be brought into the school.

Parents of children with severe allergies are asked to meet with the Director and teachers before school begins to discuss a detailed plan in case of allergic reaction. Parents of children with serious allergies must also fill out an allergy protocol form to be kept at school along with the child's emergency information. It is essential that you keep the teachers up to date on any suspected or known changes regarding your child's allergies.

Fire Drills

The Nursery School conducts monthly fire drills as required by the New York City Fire Dept.

SPECIAL DAYS

Birthdays

Birthdays are a special time for children and their families. We look forward to acknowledging children's birthdays in school. Each class has its own plan for establishing birthday traditions. The teachers will coordinate in-class birthday plans with parents. *Please note the food section in regard to any food served to the class.* We like to keep birthdays special but simple. Cake or cupcakes are suggested (kosher only - see appendix). Please be sure to consult your teachers about allergies in the classroom before making your selection. **Please do not send in party favors or special paper goods.** If you choose to celebrate your child's birthday with an out-of-school celebration that involves other children from school, we would greatly appreciate your adhering to the following suggested guidelines. Our goal is to make extensions of the in-school experience reflect our community with thoughtful inclusive planning.

When scheduling a party that involves members of your child's class, we ask that you **please check the calendar so as not to conflict with the Sabbath, which includes Saturday, or any Jewish holiday.**

For children's parties, we request that parents adhere to the same guidelines that the school uses when serving food in school to children (regarding *Kashruth* and allergies of children in the class.) We want to ensure that all the children feel comfortable eating the food at a birthday party of a classmate. For any assistance in this matter please feel free to contact the school office.

We appreciate your sensitivity in composing a guest list for children's birthday parties. We suggest that children invite

either the whole class, a small number of children (less than 1/3 of the class, or a logical segment of the class that does not personalize a child's omission (such as all the boys or all the girls). **Please do not distribute invitations to out-of-school birthday parties at school. Do not leave presents or gifts in children's' cubbies.**

Holidays

On Fridays, each class creates its own special atmosphere to welcome Shabbat. Children learn about the Jewish holidays through stories, art projects, song and cooking. We do not celebrate Halloween, Valentines Day, Christmas or Easter at school.

FOOD

As part of the Synagogue, the Nursery School observes Jewish dietary laws. In an attempt to be respectful of the many issues surrounding the sharing of food (i.e. allergies, dietary law observance, and varying nutritional expectations within families), we have adopted the following guidelines that we hope will help preserve those values.

Lunch

For those children who will have lunch in school, please send a non-meat lunch along with a beverage in a lunch bag with your child's name on it. We ask that you send a nutritious lunch that your child will enjoy that **does not include candy, gum, or soda.** School policy does not allow for sharing of food brought from home.

Snack

A healthy kosher snack is provided daily by the school. Parents may be asked to contribute fresh fruit and vegetables to supplement our healthy snack options.

Other Food Policies

The school adheres to a **no nuts and no peanuts policy** for both food served at school and food brought from home. Please do not send tree nuts or peanuts to school. **Please do not send any food baked at home or prepared at home to be shared with the group.** For food that will be shared with classmates, such as in-school birthday parties, see the kosher food list in the appendix. Please note that the above guidelines include food consumed in the hallways before or after school.

PARENT COMMUNITY

Parent Association

There are many opportunities to become involved as parents of children at the Nursery School. In addition to class parents who help facilitate communication on school issues for parents within classes, opportunities exist to help the school as a whole with volunteer projects and to help plan events and activities throughout the school year. Involvement in the Parent Association offers an opportunity to meet other parents and to help the school community. Please see the list attached for information on particular events and committees.

The Nursery School Director appoints the PA president. This year Danielle Vidai (mother of Abigail in the 4's-5's and Talia in the 3's/4's) and Kris Berger (mother of Leo in the 3's-

4's) have agreed to be responsible. The PA presidents provide leadership and coordination for the various PA committees and events.

PA Presidents

Kris Berger: krisb@mindspring.com

Danielle Vidai : Dvidai@gmail.com

Class Parents 2011-2012

2's-3's Yellow Room

Liz Heyer (mother of Austin): Liz.Heyer@gmail.com

Melanie Millman (mother of Maya): melaniepw@gmail.com

3's-4's Red Room

David Fine (father of Isabel) david.fine@gmail.com

Marcy Weisberg (mother of Jonah) Mweisberg411@gmail.com

4's-5's Blue Room

Karina Plotko (mother of Violet): karinaplotko@yahoo.com

Jenny Selvers (mother of Grace) : Jennyselvers@gmail.com

Parent Workshops and Classes

During the year several workshops will be held for parents to come together to discuss issues of common interest such as toilet training, sibling rivalry, preparing to celebrate Jewish holidays in the home, etc. Some of the workshops will be held during the day and others in the evening.

Synagogue programs, including adult education classes, are open to Nursery School parents. A weekly adult education class has been designed primarily for Nursery School parents who would like to learn more about Judaism in a relaxed setting. Our executive director, Phil Rothman,

teaches this class Mondays at 9:00 am.

APPENDIX A

Kosher Food

In hopes of providing a resource for birthday celebrations, below you will find a list of Kosher food offerings easily found in most grocery stores and Kosher bakeries. Please note, any prepared food from home (including cut vegetables or home baked dairy products) do not comply with Brotherhood's kashrut policy. If you should have any questions or concerns about what foods to bring in for a birthday celebration, please reach out to the teachers or class parents. The list below is meant as a tool to help find Kosher offerings, bringing in treats to celebrate is not mandatory. Please also remember that Brotherhood Synagogue Nursery is a nut-sensitive zone school.

In planning your child's birthday celebration, we would also like to try something new this year. Consider donating a new children's book to the downstairs library in honor of your child's birthday. It is a lovely way to share the occasion with the Brotherhood community.

Kosher Products

Stella Doro cookies
Entenmann's baked goods
Hershey's products
Drakes Cakes
Edy's fruit bars

Bakeries and Ice Cream Stores

Buttercup Bake Shop: 973 Second Avenue (btwn 51st and 52nd streets)
(212) 350- 4144

Crumbs

2 Park Avenue (btwn 32nd and 33rd) (212) 696-9300
420 Lexington Ave (At Grand Central: 43rd and 44th)(212) 297-0500

124 University Place at West 13th street (212) 206-8011

Gertel's Bake Shop

53 Hester Street (Essex and Ludlow Streets) (212)-982-3250

Carvel

625 Eighth Avenue (212) 239-1165

My Most Favorite Dessert Company

247 West 72nd street (212)-580-5130

Dunkin' Donuts

243 Third Avenue (212) 228-0442

Pizza

Rosa Pizzeria

350 Fifth Avenue (at 34th St) Empire State Building (212) 244-7672

Cafe Roma Pizzeria

459 Park Ave. South (31st Street) (212) 683-3046

Jerusalem II

1375 Broadway (between 37th and 38th Streets) (212) 398-1475

Shalom Pizza

357 Grand Street (Essex Street) (212)598-4178

Bagel Restaurants

La Bagel

(also serves pizza)263 1st Avenue (between 15th and 16th Streets)
(212) 388-9292

Bagels and Co:

243 West 38th St (7th and 8th Ave) (212) 997-7558

Calendar

BROTHERHOOD SYNAGOGUE NURSERY SCHOOL:

2011-2012 School Calendar

September

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|----------------|--|
| 8-9 Thurs, Fri | 3'-s'4's Red Room and 4's-5's Blue Room <i>Yachad</i> ** Meetings |
| 12 Monday | 2's-3's Yellow Room Parent Night: 7:15 pm |
| 13 Tuesday | 3's-4's Red Room and 4's-5's Blue Room Open House*
(10:00 am – 2:00 pm) |
| 14 Wednesday | School begins |

28 Wednesday *Erev Rosh Hashanah* – School Closed
29 Thursday *Rosh Hashanah* – School Closed
30 Friday *Rosh Hashanah* – School Closed

October

5 Wednesday Red and Blue Room Curriculum Night and Parent Reception: 7:15pm
7 Friday *Erev Yom Kippur* – School Closed
10 Monday Columbus Day – School Closed
12 Wednesday *Erev Sukkot* – 12:30 Dismissal: Red and Blue Rooms
13 Thursday *Sukkot* – School Closed
14 Friday *Sukkot* – School Closed
19 Wednesday *Erev Shemini Atzeret* – 12:30 Dismissal: Red and Blue Rooms
20 Thursday *Shemini Atzeret* – School Closed
21 Friday *Simchat Torah* - School Closed

November

2 Wednesday Staff Development – No School for Children
11 Friday Veterans’ Day – School Closed
16 Wednesday Parent/Teacher Conferences – No School for Children
18 Friday Nursery School Shabbat Dinner: Tentative
23 Wednesday Thanksgiving Break: 12:30 Dismissal
24-25 Thur, Fri Thanksgiving Break

December

16 Friday Chanukah Shabbat – All Families 11:00 AM
19 Monday Winter Recess - School Closed

January

3 Tuesday School Resumes
16 Monday Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – School Closed

February

20-24 Mon - Fri Presidents’ Week – School closed

March

14 Wednesday Parent/Teacher Conferences – No school for children

April

5 -13 Pesach – School Closed

May

3 Thursday	Spring Benefit
16 Wednesday	Staff Development – No school for children
18 Friday	Orange Tea
28 Monday	Memorial Day – School closed

June

8 Friday	4's-5's Blue Room Graduation – 9:00 am Last Day of School
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*To bridge home and school and to help facilitate smooth transitions, children and parents are invited to stop by and visit the classroom and teachers during the Open House for a brief (15-20 minute) visit.

** Pre school parent/ teacher conferences. *Yachad* means *together*.

As of August 21, 2011