

## EARLY CHILDHOOD

Welcome back to school on **Thursday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>**! I hope everyone had a fabulous vacation and is now ready for the excitement of winter.

The changing seasons are an important part of our curriculum. Winter is an inspiration for our children and teachers for several weeks. In class discussions, the way we dress now (heavy jackets, mittens and hats) is compared to the way we dressed when school began (shorts and short sleeve shirts) in the fall. Our artists will create winter scenes, snowmen and even snow storms using paper plates, doilies, cotton balls, tissues and lots of white paint. Our youngsters will become scientists as they experiment with snow, ice and water to observe the physical changes that occur at different temperatures.

School will be closed **Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup>** for parent/teacher conferences. Most parents do have continuous contact with their child's teacher; however, these conferences offer an opportunity for parents to meet with the teachers in a more formal manner to assess their child's growth and development. Check with your classroom teacher to confirm your appointment time.

School will be closed on **Monday, January 20<sup>th</sup>** in celebration of Martin Luther King Day. The children will be examining the differences between white and brown eggs. Discussions will include how things can look different on the outside but be the same on the inside.

**Early Childhood registration packets for the 2014/2015 school year** have been sent out. We have extra packets in the office if you need an extra one. Registration will be held on **Wednesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>** for members of our synagogue. **Thursday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>** non-members already enrolled in our school will register. **Friday, January 24<sup>th</sup>** is open enrollment.

Registration will begin at 9:30 am on all days.

The Three year old and the Four year old classes are preparing for their very special *Early Childhood Shabbat Services*. The Three year old service will be held on **Friday, February 7<sup>th</sup>** and the Four year old service will be held on **Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup>**. Services will begin promptly at 6:45 pm; invitations to follow. **Rabbi Jacknis** and **Hazzan Shamash** are most gracious in their willingness to give our children the opportunity to "take over" the *Sanctuary*, and they usually do! The children have prepared a program that will bring joy and pride to all that attend. You will *kvell* as you watch your children perform.

Please keep in mind that our school follows the Half Hollow Hills School District's snow closings. If they are closed, we will be closed. In the event there is a discrepancy, a phone chain will begin for each class with the necessary information in addition to an e-blast. You can also logon to Cablevision's web site [www.news12.com](http://www.news12.com) for updates.

Please continue to support our school by cutting off the Box Tops for Education on General Mills foods. Have your children take part by placing the box tops in the designated box on my desk. This is another way for us to teach our children the *mitzvah* of *Tzedukah*.

Thank you to Sisterhood for the Hanukkah presents given to our Early Childhood children. Thank you to the SHJC Board for the generous gift certificates our staff received. We all appreciate your thoughtfulness!

*Randi Alexander*