

Friday, September 16th, 2022

Dear families,

Germs are a natural part of preschool life. When I was a classroom teacher, I had a streak of getting strep throat every September (usually just before Rosh Hashanah) for five years straight. As an unintended silver lining of the pandemic, I have not gotten strep since we required masks for students and teachers in preschools. I thought I had broken that new and improved streak earlier this week -- I was home sick for the majority of Monday-Wednesday this week. Luckily, it wasn't strep (and I also tested negative for COVID-19 and the flu), just a very bad cold. I very much appreciate the flexibility of my team here at BEECC and the warm words of understanding and well wishes from all of you!

While we are (hopefully) in the home stretch of the mask requirement here at BEECC, this week reminded me that masks are still extremely effective when worn correctly. Our phenomenal team of educators work with their students throughout the day to help them wear their masks snugly and over their noses. We talk with the children about how our masks help us keep ourselves healthy and they also keep our friends healthy. Wearing a mask is such a huge expression of kindness, consideration, and the Jewish value of *pikuach nefesh*, keeping our community safe and healthy.

Our entire BEECC community is grateful for your partnership in helping us keep our students, educators, and families safe -- especially as we are now entering cold and flu season! Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions about mask wearing tips, recommended masks, or anything else.

I hope you enjoy the pictures included below as much as I do -- they were a welcome sight for me after not being able to see our amazing students for a large part of this week!

Shabbat shalom,
Jocelyn