Bernikow JCC
Staten Island



Marvin's 365

Issue #1, October 2026

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Dear Families,

We are excited to begin a new chapter for Marvin's!

For decades, Marvin's Camp has provided children and families with a summer filled with friendship, fun, new experiences, and a true sense of belonging.

However, Marvin's is no longer just about summer. Marvin's 365 is our growing network of year-round programs for children and teens with special needs and their families. Our vision for Marvin's 365 is to build upon that experience and create opportunities for children and families to remain connected to the Marvin's community throughout the entire year.

This year, I am excited to serve as Director of After School, Respite & Marvin's Camp at the Bernikow JCC. In this expanded role, I will oversee our ASD and Respite After School programs, Marvin's Camp, and the development of new year-round recreational and social opportunities for our Marvin's families.

I bring more than 15 years of experience supporting individuals with disabilities and creating programs and environments in which children and adults with different needs can feel successful, respected, and included. My time at the JCC has been especially meaningful to me. The JCC has truly become a second home, and I treasure the relationships I have developed with our participants, families, and staff. I am excited to bring my experience, along with my commitment to patience, compassion, communication, and individualized support, to this expanded role.

Our goal is simple: to provide children and teens with programs they look forward to attending while creating opportunities to develop friendships, independence, confidence, social skills, and life skills. Activities throughout the year will include sports and recreation, cooking, arts and crafts, STEM, martial arts, social-emotional activities, special events, and trips.

We want Marvin's to be more than a camp children attend for a few weeks each summer. We want Marvin's to be a community they can be part of **365 days a year**.

Each month, this newsletter will keep you updated about upcoming programs, registration opportunities, special events, highlights from our participants, and what's ahead for Marvin's 365.

I am incredibly excited about what we are building together and look forward to a wonderful year of friendship, growth, fun, and community.

For questions about Marvin's 365 or any of our programs, please contact me at LIrizarry@sijcc.com or (718) 475-5268.

Warmly,
Laura Irizarry
Director, After School, Respite & Marvin's Camp

Afterschool Programs

Dr. & Mrs. Megna Kids Club for Children with Special Needs

Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays, 3:00–6:00PM

A supportive, inclusive afterschool space for kids ages 6–12.

Activities include:
Homework Help • Sensory Art • Social Skills • Cooking & Life Skills
Sports & Rec • Local Trips

Ages 6–12
This program is designed to support children with a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)





Afterschool Explorers

Mondays – Fridays, 3:00–6:00PM

Afterschool Explorers provides short-term, supervised afterschool care for children and teens with developmental disabilities — giving families time to rest and recharge.

Activities include:
Social & Life Skills • Homework Help • Cooking • Fitness & Sports
Jiu Jitsu • Music • Arts & Crafts • Free Healthy Snacks

Two divisions with age appropriate activities
Explorers Juniors, ages 6-12
Explorers Teens, ages 13-21

For children with OPWDD respite hours
IEP and interview required

Please contact LIrizarry@SIJCC.com for enrollment.



Fall Into New Youth Programs



Camp Night

October 17, 7:00PM-9:30PM

One of our favorite year-round traditions returns!

Camp Night brings the spirit of summer camp back to the JCC one Saturday evening each month. Campers can reconnect with friends, enjoy familiar activities, and spend an evening having fun with the Marvin's community.

Each Camp Night features a variety of activities, games, recreation and plenty of opportunities to socialize with friends—while parents enjoy an evening of respite.

Summer may be over, but the friendships and fun of Marvin's Camp don't have to end!

Saturday Sports Night

October 24, 7:00PM-9:00PM

Featuring Autism Without a Voice

Get in the game at the JCC! Join us for a Saturday night filled with basketball, flag football, and Soccer Stars — where every player builds skills, confidence, and new friendships.

School's Out

November 11, 9:00AM-3:00PM

When school's out... we're in!

No school? Spend the day with Marvin's 365!

Our new School's Out program provides children with a fun, structured and engaging day at the JCC when school is closed. Participants will enjoy a variety of recreational and social activities designed to keep them active, engaged, and connected with friends.

Activities may include swimming, sports and recreation, cooking, arts and crafts, games, STEM activities, and more.

Our first School's Out program will take place on Veterans Day, Wednesday, November 11, with additional School's Out programming planned for the December school break.

School may be closed—but the fun at Marvin's 365 is just getting started!



Coming Soon: Marvin's Night

Stay tuned for Marvin's Night, starting next month! At Marvin's Night, we welcome our Marvin's Campers to the JCC for a night of exciting activities with friends in a fun and welcoming environment.

For children with an IEP or OPWDD respite hours, please contact LIrizarry@SIJCC.com to register for youth programs.