



Dear ECC Families:

We miss you! And we hope this communication finds you well. For many, the frenzy of the past two weeks seems to be settling into more regular and familiar routines. Nevertheless, we find ourselves living in unsettling times.

As we look forward to Passover, we want to provide you with some helpful information.

- In alignment with current health guidelines and recommendations, **the VBS Schools and Temple will extend our campus closure through May 1, 2020.** We will continue to alert you to relevant closure information as it becomes available.
- **Our scheduled Passover Break, April 6-17, will offer an opportunity for teachers and families to celebrate and recharge.** Teachers will be off-line just as they would be off-campus during a typical school year. We thank you for respecting their time away by refraining from texts, calls and emails. We want our staff to return from break refreshed and ready to begin the next phase of learning.
- In the meantime, teachers are currently working on virtual "**Passover Packets**" for continued learning and connection during these two weeks. Be on the lookout for a second communication (via ParentSquare) with details coming soon. Additionally, the ECC Administrative and Temple Staff is excited to provide on-going programming and opportunities for connection over the Holiday. Please check the [VBS@Home page](#) for schedules and updates, and the [VBS ECC YouTube Channel](#) for new original content.

We know these times have brought on unforeseen challenges, inconveniences and hardships. We have heard your feedback and shared it with our leadership. It is with this understanding that the **VBS ECC CARES Campaign** was born. As one of the program's first initiatives, the Board of Directors has authorized a one-time credit per enrolled ECC student, as an acknowledgement of these difficult times, and in support of our families. These credits can be applied to any of our schools, synagogue programs and services.

To activate this credit, you must opt in by emailing Allison Truscheit, Business Office Associate at atruscheit@vbs.org by April 30, 2020. This credit expires June 30, 2021. For additional details and guidelines, please refer to the VBS ECC CARES Q&A Sheet [here](#).

Credits have been approved by age group as follows:

<u>VBS ECC CARES Credit</u>
ACORN (Three Day) \$750
ACORN (Five Day) \$950
SEEDLINGS \$950
SPROUTS \$1,000
SPRIGS \$1,000
PRE-K \$1,100
TK \$1,200

We recognize that families are facing challenges and uncertainty around finances. It's important to note that this initiative comes at a significant cost to the ECC and Temple. In

combination with refunds made for Kids Club, Enrichment, Hot Lunch and other ECC programs, we are facing a loss of nearly \$350,000. This credit, however, aligns with our values even though it comes at a significant cost.

Some of you have already reached out to ask how you can help. *We are asking anyone who is currently in a position to forgo some or all of their credit, to please consider directing the credit to be used as a tax deductible charitable donation to help offset the losses due to COVID-19.* We are taking care of many families and staff in our community who have been hit hard. You can help them by donating back. Please contact Allison Truscheit, Business Office Associate at atruscheit@vbs.org to initiate that donation.

During the Passover Seder we eat a Hillel sandwich - a matzvah sandwich with both charoset and bitter herbs. It is Rabbi Hillel who famously shared these words: "If I am not for myself, who will be for me? If I am only for myself, what am I?" Now is the time for self care and self-advocacy, but it is also the time for community-care and support. We thank you for your partnership as you continue to care for both.

As always, we remain dedicated to our community. Please reach out if we can continue to be of support.

Chag sameach and be well,

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