

VBS ECC NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2017



A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTORS

Over winter break I had time to spend real time with my husband and three children - hikes up Runyan Canyon, card playing in pajamas by the fire, a magical visit to the Descanso Garden's light show and lively family meals that revealed both the profound privilege and grave responsibility of being a parent. It is sometimes hard to remember that parenting is more than just a job. Naomi Shihab Nye reminds of us this in her poem Shoulders.

Shoulders

by Naomi Shihab Nye

A man crosses the street in rain,
stepping gently, looking two times north and south,
because his son is asleep on his shoulder.

No car must splash him.

No car drive too near to his shadow.

This man carries the world's most sensitive cargo
but he's not marked.

Nowhere does his jacket say FRAGILE, HANDLE WITH CARE.
His ear fills up with breathing.

He hears the hum of a boy's dream
deep inside him.

We're not going to be able
to live in this world
if we're not willing to do what he's doing
with one another.

The road will only be wide.

The rain will never stop falling



JANUARY DATES TO REMEMBER

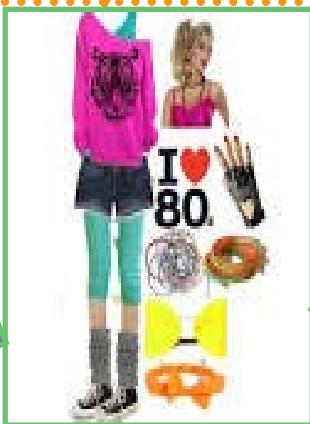
JANUARY ECC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 1/3 Classes Resume
- 1/10 Snow Day- Parents Invited
- 1/14 Tot Shabbat 10AM
- 1/16 Martin Luther King Jr Day
- ECC CLOSED
- 1/24 Parent Association Meeting
9:15AM
- 1/26 ECC/Transition Open House
6PM - 1PM Dismissal

SNOW DAY CLASS SCHEDULE

- Parents, join your child during Snow Day on Jan. 10 at the following times:
109, 110: 9:00-9:30
111,112,113: 9:35-10:15
102,103: 10:20-11:00
107,108: 11:05 -11:45
104,105,106: 11:45-12:25
114,115: 12:25-1:00

SAVE THE DATE - ECC *Totally EPIC 80s!"* 80's on 3/25



Book your babysitters now and support the ECC! Please save the date for this year's EPIC Spring Fundraiser- Saturday, March 25, 2017 at 7:30pm at VBS. This is the Preschool's big fundraising event with entertainment, dinner, open bar and auctions. 100% of the proceeds go towards enhancing the special programs at the ECC.

Help us obtain donations for our live and silent auctions, as well as personal and corporate event sponsors.

- *Do you have an item, service, or gift certificate from your business that you can donate?
- *Do you know another business that might donate?
- *Do you have a sports or music contact who might donate tickets or paraphernalia?
- *Do you have season tickets to a Los Angeles sports team and would be interested in donating a set of tickets to a game...or maybe you belong to a local Country Club and want to donate a round of golf?

Want to donate? Want to volunteer? Please email Epic Co-Chairs Emily Feit (emilyb425@gmail.com) or Jamie Weissman (LuckyStarre@hotmail.com)

ECC 2017-18 REGISTRATION

2017-18 ECC registration packets will be available later this month. **Registration is required for new and returning families.** Please take a moment to review everything in your packet, complete the registration forms and return them to Claire as soon as possible. *You will not be guaranteed a spot next fall without these completed forms and classes will be filled on a first come, first registered basis.*

On the fence about registering for TK?

Meet our teachers and learn more about our TK classes at "TASTE OF TK" January 26 at 6:00pm, right before ECC Open House.

We need to bring learning to people instead of people to learning.

- Elliot Masie

PARENT ASSOCIATION NEWS

2016 was such a wonderful year filled with activities, events, community building, tikkun olam and so much more. We look forward to continued parent participation, family bonding, and opportunities to help enrich our preschoolers' education in 2017.

December was full with the Pre-K Community Shabbat, Basketball Tournament Family Day, sweet menorah sales, toy collections for the Jewish Federation's Toy Drive, the Hanukkah Boutique, and the Book Fair. Thank you to every single person who donated your time and/or toys, purchased goods, or attended one of our many events. You helped make sure our kids have a library experience and can continue to enjoy amazing events such as Harvest Festival and Snow Day. And we hope you've made some good friends along the way!

Join the fun at these upcoming events all at VBS:

Community Shabbat Dinner - Everyone Welcome, Sprigs- Rooms 102 & 103 highlighted - February 3rd at 5:30pm

Snow Day - January 10, 2017. To volunteer please go to <https://parentsquare.com/feeds/313834>

We encourage every family to get involved with the ECC PA. Bring your ideas and energy as we plan to have more fun together in 2017! Please reach out to the ECC PA at VBSECCPA@gmail.com with any questions. All are always welcome and encouraged to attend PA meetings. Please note a change in the PA meetings schedule. Our meetings will now be held on Tuesdays:

Tues - 1/24 - PA meeting

Tues - 2/28 - PA meeting

Tues - 3/21 - PA meeting

Tues - 4/25 - PA meeting

Tues - 5/23 - PA meeting

Tues - 6/6 - Last PA meeting/Thank you brunch



Tot Shabbat family services are filled with joyful singing, story telling and family friendly prayers. Join fellow ECC families January 14th @10:00am in Burdoff Hall.

There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it.
-Edith Wharton

Next
PA meeting
is Thursday,
1/24@
9:15 am

ECC SCHOOL TOURS

TAKE AN ECC
PRESCHOOL TOUR!
Call Nora
@ 818-788-0567
to book NOW.

Surprise Music Jam in Room 107!

Special Thanks to Liam Wigdor for inspiring us with his beautiful music.

ECC OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, January 26

6:00PM

TASTE OF TK

6:30PM

LIGHT BUFFET

7:00PM

CLASSROOM VISITS



Get a glimpse into your child's day at the ECC.
Visit their classrooms, schmooze with other families
and touch base with their teachers. This is an evening
specially designed for PARENTS (no children please)

PLEASE REMEMBER: 1PM DISMISSAL ON 1/26



You're invited to join us at

Happy Birthday, Trees! PJ Library® Family Camp

Friday, Feb. 10 - Sunday, Feb. 12, 2017
at the beautiful Shalom Institute
Home of Camp JCA Shalom in Malibu

Experience the magic of
Jewish camp with your family

Shabbat • PJ Library Story Time • Music
Arts and Crafts • Music • Tu B'Shvat Seder Hike
Campsites • Nature Walks • Havdalah • Delicious Kosher Food
Toddler Programs • Ropes Course • Meet New Friends
Gardening Programs • Adult Discussion

Tu B'Shvat!

The following rates include action-packed (or leisurely) days and nights
of lodging, meals, and a lifetime of priceless memories:

Adults: \$180 per person
(in cabins, or in your own RV or tent)
Adults in private room: \$215 per person
(Motel-style rooms are available - reserve today as number is limited)
Children 7 and older: \$140 per child
Children 6 and younger: FREE!
Children 6 and younger will be housed in cabins or rooms with parents/guardians.
Children 7 and older are housed in cabin groups with children their own age,
supervised by experienced counselors.

Register at www.shaloninstitute.com • For more info call 818-881-5500
Shalom Institute is located at 34342 Mulholland Hwy, Malibu, CA 90265

VBS HAVURAH FAIR 1/29 11:45am-2:00pm

Joining a Havurah is a great way to find a close-knit group of friends within the VBS community to socialize, celebrate, and learn together. Stop by the VBS Havurah Fair and find out more about how the groups work and meet other members looking to join a Havurah. For more information and to RSVP, please contact Natasha Benzaken at 818-530-4008. You can also RSVP online at vbs.org/havurah-fair.

I've learned that making a living is not the same thing as making a life.

- Maya Angelou

GOODBYE 2016 - HELLO 2017

2016 was an extraordinary year of discovery, friendship, learning and FUN! Your children made amazing strides socially, emotionally and academically and we thought we'd celebrate their accomplishments with this photo montage. Thank you for trusting us with your precious children. They delight and surprise us every single day.



MINI CAMP - MAXI FUN!

Our winter mini-campers enjoyed days filled with special activities. A visit from Goofy Gus and hours jumping around in our special Mini-Camp Bounce House here highlights for many. Special thanks to Mini-Camp Director Robin and our fabulous Mini-Camp Staffers Jen, Suzana, Karen and Andrea for two weeks of joyful play.



What art can do is start conversations.
- Gina Reichert

VBS DAY SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT



VBS Day School Family Programs

VBS Day School offers family programs in every grade that enrich each student's learning experience and help build strong family connections. In kindergarten, students and their parents participate in an evening of "Making Bedtime Jewish" where they learn about the many Jewish rituals surrounding bedtime and how to make that time special, including decorating a pillow with the shema prayer. In third grade, students and their families attend the Jeanie Blanc family camp weekend at Brandeis Bardin where they experience Shabbat and have an opportunity to develop deeper bonds within the grade amongst both parents and students. In fifth grade, students compile a Family History Video Project where their family histories come alive, and they spend two evenings celebrating their heritage and sharing their unique projects with each other. For the first time this year, VBS Day School collaborated with the VBS Early Childhood Center and the Etz Chaim Learning Center to create the Parent Organizations' Adult Basketball Tournament & Family Fun Day event. It was an amazing bonding experience for all of the families, from competing against each other in basketball to taking fun pictures in front of a green screen with their ECC buddies and friends.



Please join our Facebook community!
"Like" the Valley Beth Shalom ECC Preschool page.

Get a joyful glimpse into your child's day. This is a great way for you to share your child's preschool experience with loved ones across the world. We often post great candid shots that you can share friends and family. Remember, for security reasons, please don't tag any children with their names.

The Facebook logo, which is a blue rounded rectangle with the word "facebook" in white lowercase letters.



LET US HEAR FROM YOU!

Please contribute to the ECC Newsletter! Email your thoughts, suggestions, interesting links and adorable pictures to me, Claire Berger, your ECC News Gatherer. My email is: cberger@vbs.org We value all contributions.

True compassion means not only feeling another's pain but also being moved to help relieve it.

- Daniel Goleman