

VBS ECC NEWSLETTER

APRIL, 2014



A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTORS

As is the tradition at this time of year, our teachers have been re-telling the story of Passover and bringing it to life in every imaginable way inside and outside the classroom. Themes of freedom, hard work, perseverance, courage, and standing up for what is right have been woven into conversations, playtime, dramatic play and art activities inside and outside the classroom. Some of the things we have talked about include: What does "freedom" mean? Why is it important to do the right thing? How did the Jews have courage to leave Egypt, the only place they knew, to make their way to an unknown land?

Though the story of Passover took place many years ago, these questions are relevant to all of our lives today. They underscore many of the Jewish values that we are striving to teach children. When children listen to stories, and consider how the stories relate to their own lives, new understanding and concepts develop. This Passover, consider asking your children questions that guide their thinking: Why did the Jews want to leave Egypt? What did Pharaoh do when the Jews wanted to leave? How did they escape?

Have a happy and healthy Passover Holiday ~ from all of us here at the ECC.



ECC UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

- 4/4 ECC Community Shabbat
Seedlings Classes 114 & 115
Featured-EVERYONE INVITED 5:30pm
- 4/6 Family Fun Day
@Kidz Korner 4-6pm
- 4/8 Parent Assn Meeting 9:15am
- 4/9-10 Model Seders
- 4/12 Tot Shabbat 10:00 am
- 4/14 Erev Passover- First Seder
- 4/14-25 ECC Spring Break-ECC CLOSED
- 4/26 Tot Shabbat 10:00am
- 4/28 ECC Resumes

TAKE AN ECC PRESCHOOL TOUR
Call Marilyn @ 788-0567 to
book your tour.

Applications are now being
accepted for the 2014-15 school
year.

ECC 2014-15 REGISTRATION

Please remember **registration is required for new and returning families!** Please complete your registration forms and return them to Claire. 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.

In every walk with Nature one receives far more than he seeks.
-John Muir

PARENT ASSOCIATION PRESENTS: FAMILY FUN DAY 4/6

Family Fun Day

Sunday, April 6th 4-6pm

@ **Kidz Korner** 17200 Ventura Blvd, Encino
Playing is FREE! There will be food for purchase including pizza, salad, drinks and a bake sale.

Come. Play. Bounce. Schmooze.

HEALTHY SCHOOL TREATS



Special classroom events like birthdays and Shabbat don't need to include sugary treats. Consider Eliana's recent choice the next time you are hosting a classroom celebration.

MODEL SEDERS



You are invited to attend your child's Model Passover Seder. Here's the schedule :
Wednesday, April 9th- Rooms 111-115
Thursday, April 10th-Rooms 102-108
As always, parties or events where parents (one parent per child please) are invited to participate take place one hour before the end of your child's day.



The best things in life aren't things.
-Anonymous

PARENT ASSOCIATION NEWS - IT'S EPIC!

Our third annual ECC EPIC Event is scheduled to take place on Saturday, May 3rd, 2014, right here at VBS. EPIC is the ECC's BIG fundraiser; an evening event when we leave the kids at home and have a great time raising money for our school. We have raised over \$20,000 at each of our last two events and we hope to raise at least that amount this year. The money raised is used for projects to enhance the ECC and to provide financial assistance for those in need.

This year our theme is EPIC DE MAYO. Embrace the theme with your best Mexican gown, Mariachi outfit and your favorite sombrero and join us for cocktails, dinner, dancing and our exciting live and silent auction.

Next Parent Association meeting is Tuesday, 4/8 @ 9:15am

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

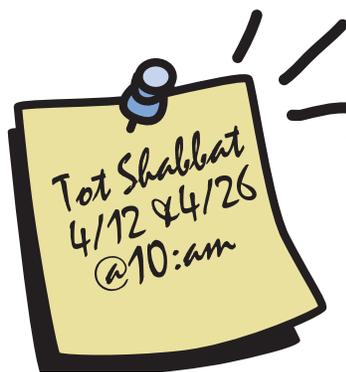
In order to make this fiesta successful we need your help in securing items for auction. Here are a few suggestions:

- Product, service or gift certificate from your business
- Gift certificate from businesses your frequent (don't be afraid to ask!)
- Sports or concert tickets/merchandise
- Vacation Home to share for a week/weekend
- Any unopened item you would like to re-gift!

Please pick up donor letters and donation forms in Claire's office. Use these to help solicit donations. We will also be raffling off gift baskets that each class will create. Details will be shared shortly. Thank you in advance for your help!

ECC COMMUNITY POT LUCK SHABBAT

The best way to welcome Shabbat is surrounding yourselves with friends and family. And the best place to do that is the ECC Community Shabbat services and Pot Luck Dinners held each month at VBS. Every month ECC families gather together, sharing favorite family dishes (dairy please). We'll also have pizza for the children. Please look for the sign-up link in Friday E-Blast and plan to join us for this special evening. Family-friendly services begin at 5:30 and pot luck dinner immediately follows. Our next ECC Community Shabbat Pot Luck is **FRIDAY, APRIL 4TH @ 5:30PM. Children from SEEDLINGS/Rooms#114 & 115 will be featured. Everyone is invited!**



Tot Shabbat family services are filled with joyful singing, stories and family friendly prayers. Join fellow ECC families April 12th and 26th @10:00am in Burdoff Hall.

The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention.
-Oscar Wilde

GOT CAMP?

Camp Shelanu is a 7 week summer camp designed exclusively for preschoolers. Every day campers will have fun, make friends, get messy and learn new skills with our extraordinary staff of camp counselors, specialists, and CITs. **Early Bird pricing ENDS 4/11.**

Please note; Camp Shelanu was **COMPLETELY SOLD OUT** last summer so be sure to sign up soon.



CULINARY KIDS ACADEMY



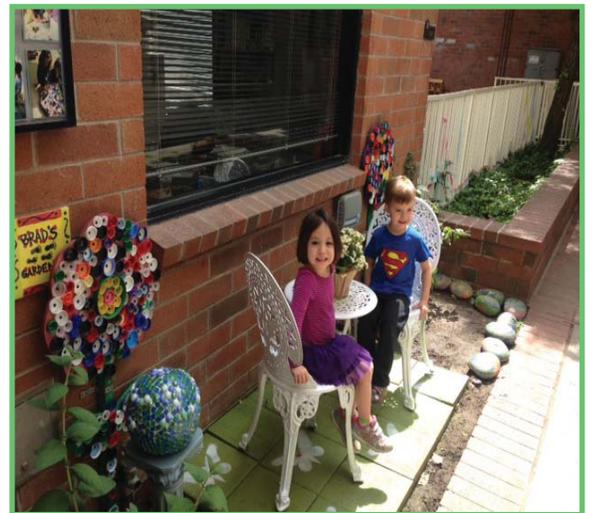
VBS ECC's Chef Danny is happy to announce that Culinary Kids Academy Summer Camp is back and ready to feed hungry minds and stomachs! K-6th graders will integrate math, science, history, safety, hygiene and nutrition into complex cooking instruction. To learn more about Culinary Kids Summer Academy, email Chef Danny at DCorsun.culinarykidz@gmail.com

BRAD'S PEACE GARDEN

Who is Brad and why does he have a garden at the ECC?

Brad Warner was the treasured son of ECC Director Michele Warner. He attended preschool at VBS from 1980-1983. He loved playing outside in the sandbox with his friends and all the cars and trucks!

Brad was a light to the world. He brought warmth, joy, and love to all who knew him. He had a big smile, a huge heart and was a good friend. He loved playing with children and dedicated himself to making the world a better place. This Peace Garden is dedicated in his memory. May everyone who visits remember the love and warmth that Brad brought to the ECC community and to the world.



When you understand that your worthiness is a birthright and not something you have to earn, anything is possible..
Brene Brown

IGUANA LOVE IN ROOM 107



Room 107 is learning about the desert thanks to a guest Iguana named Mr. Peabody. On loan from the Day School, Mr. Peabody inspired enthusiastic discussion about life in the desert. Each child brought in an interesting fact about iguanas.

Favorite Fun Facts include:

Iguanas can drop 40 feet and not get hurt.

Iguanas have a third eye hiding under his scales.

Iguanas can change colors to blend in with desert landscapes.

Favorite Iguana joke:

Knock Knock.

Who's There?

Iguana.

Iguana who?

Iguana wish you a Happy Passover!

FREE HEBREW BOOKS

Sifriyat Pijama B'America (SP-BA)



Free Hebrew Children's Books!

SP-BA offers high quality monthly Hebrew books for children ages 2-8. Registration for 2014-2015 is now open! Space is limited! Registration is on a first come, first served basis.



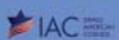
Register at
www.sp-ba.org

SP-BA introduces Storyly, an interactive online library where kids can read Hebrew books together with loved ones overseas or simply listen by themselves. Visit www.sp-ba.org for information about your free storyly subscription.



SP-BA's goals are to strengthen Hebrew language skills and to foster connections to our Jewish roots and values!

info@sp-ba.org 818.466.6435 www.sp-ba.org [facebook.com/SPBAmerica](https://www.facebook.com/SPBAmerica)



It's always a treat when ECC parents come to class and share a book. Ilana's mom Sarah read one of Ilana's favorites to Room 104.

The world is holy. We are holy. All life is holy. Daily prayers are delivered on the lips of breaking waves, the whisperings of grasses, the shimmering of leaves.

- Terry Tempest Williams

VBS DAY SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT



6th Grade Partnership Delegation Visits Israel

6th grade Day School students and two staff members embarked on a twelve day journey to Israel as part of the Los Angeles-Tel Aviv Partnership program of the Jewish Federation. The students are paired with host students and their families as part of the partnership with the David Bloch Elementary School in Tel Aviv. They experience life as an Israeli by attending school with their partners to celebrating Shabbat to touring some of Israel's most notable sites. The delegation's experience is enriched by unique opportunities including floating in the Dead Sea, visiting Masada, a Druz Village and Yad Vashem, touring a Bedouin Tent, and riding on a camel. This trip of a lifetime is highlighted by the lasting friendships made with the Israeli students which began last fall when the Israel delegation visited Los Angeles. Stay up to date on the Day School Israel Partnership by visiting the blog at www.vbsdsblochpartnership.blogspot.com.



PASSOVER PYRAMIDS



Thank you for all the cereal box donations! Your children built magnificent pyramids for Passover thanks to your generosity.

Follow ECC on INSTAGRAM
We'll post loads of pics of your adorable children every week on Instagram.



Please join our Facebook community!

"Like" the Valley Beth Shalom ECC Preschool page

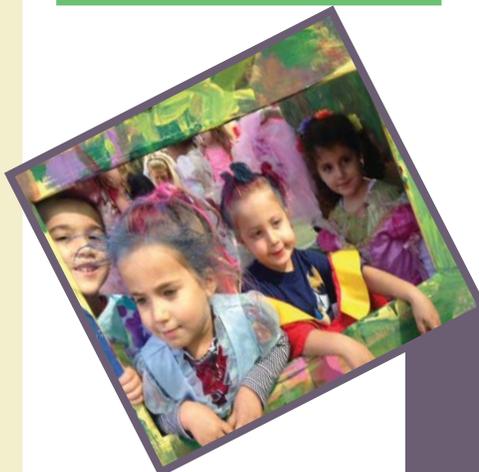
Get a joyful glimpse into your child's day. This is a great way for you to share your child's preschool experience with loved ones across the world. We often post great candid shots that you can share friends and family. Remember, for security reasons, please don't tag any children with their names.



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.



Things don't change. You change your way of looking, that's all.

- Carlos Castaneda