

# VBS ECC NEWSLETTER

## JANUARY, 2014



### A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTORS

"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."

Martin Luther King Jr.

This month we honor Martin Luther King, Jr and his brave fight for civil rights. His work lives on through our staff and in every single child who understands that we are all unique and that these individual qualities are what makes our community's collective character so strong.

One of many reasons the ECC is such an extraordinary place for learning is our multi-cultural staff. Every day your children hear many languages, dialects and sentimental homeland tales from all over the world, including Tunisia, Israel, Mexico, Russia, Iran, South Africa and Egypt. We celebrate our cultural diversity and we continue to learn from each other's life experiences here and abroad.

We encourage you to reach out to other ECC families whose family lineage may differ from yours. Share your stories, your food and your family traditions over a Shabbat dinner very soon.

### ECC UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

- 1/6 Classes Resume
- 1/11 Tot Shabbat 10:00am
- 1/14 Dr. Susan Stone 9:30am
- 1/16 Tu B'shvat 1pm dismissal  
Taste of Gesher 6:00pm  
Open House 6:30pm
- 1/20 Martin Luther King Day-ECC  
Closed
- 1/21 Parent Assn Meeting 9:15am
- 1/25 Tot Shabbat 10:00 am
- 1/28 Snow Day-parents invited
- 1/29 Director's Chat
- 1/30 Dr. Wendy Mogel 7:30pm



### ECC SCHOOL TOURS

TAKE AN ECC PRESCHOOL TOUR!  
Call Marilyn @ 788-0567 to book your tour.  
Applications are now being accepted for the 2014-15 school year.

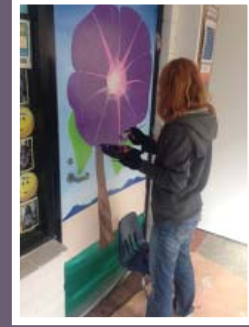
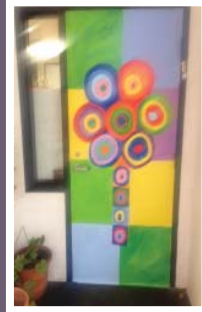
### SNOW DAY CLASS SCHEDULE

Parents, join your child during Snow Day on Jan. 28 at the following times:

- |               |             |
|---------------|-------------|
| 102/103:      | 9:35-10:15  |
| 104,105, 106: | 10:20-11:00 |
| 114 & 115:    | 11:10-11:45 |
| 111,112,113:  | 12:00-12:45 |
| Gesher        | 12:45-1:30  |

## INVEST IN ART @ THE ECC

You may have noticed that our doors are turning into magnificent works of art. Each door has become an artistic installation, hand-painted in the style of famous artists. These spectacular works of art will introduce your children to many artistic styles and inspire them to create classroom art projects based on these doors. Each door is available for a \$500 donation to the ECC. Individuals, families or entire classrooms can 'adopt' any portion of a door. Please see Claire for more information.



Walk through this Warhol-inspired door in Room 107 and see how teachers Carol and Sara created an Andy Warhol interactive art project for their children.



## DIRECTOR'S CHAT- WEDNESDAY JANUARY 29TH @ 9:15AM

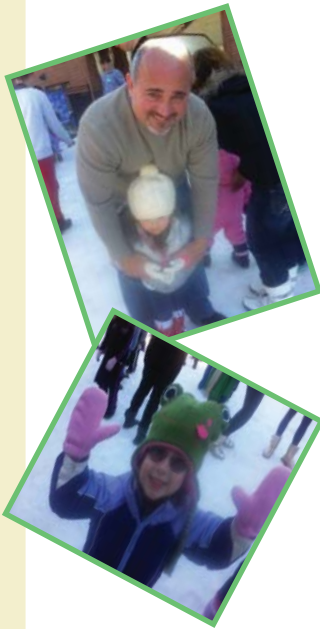


Every month, our ECC Directors host an hour of information and inspiration open to all ECC parents and grandparents.

Please stop in after drop off on **1/29** to get to know your ECC Directors and connect with other parents, who will most likely ask questions and share challenges that you have too!

The surest way to be happy is to seek happiness for others.  
-Martin Luther King, Jr.

## PARENT ASSOCIATION NEWS



One of the highlights each year at the ECC is Snow Day. On January 28th, the VBS parking lot will be magically transformed into a winter wonderland. Tons of snow creates a great opportunity for your children to sled, toss a snowball and make a snow angel. We invite you to attend Snow Day with your children and we also encourage you to please volunteer to help on this special day. Please contact Snow Day chair Michelle Douek ([michelledouek@gmail.com](mailto:michelledouek@gmail.com)) to lend a hand. And...save **MAY 3RD** for the biggest Fun-raiser of the year: EPIC! We encourage you to begin collecting items for our silent auction. Please contact either of us for additional ways to get involved in this awesome event for the ECC. HUGE Thanks in advance from everyone at the ECC,

Your ECC PA Co-Chairs: Marcy Tajkef ([MarcyT48@hotmail.com](mailto:MarcyT48@hotmail.com))  
Hilary Zalon ([hilaryzalon@gmail.com](mailto:hilaryzalon@gmail.com))

Next Parent Association meeting is Tuesday, 1/21 @ 9:15 am

## 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 sign-up sheets in your classrooms 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, FEBRUARY 7TH @ 5:30PM**. **Children from Sprig/Rooms#102 &103 classes will be featured and everyone is invited!**



**Tot Shabbat** family services are filled with joyful singing, story telling and family friendly prayers. Join fellow ECC families January 11th and 25th @10:00am in Burdoff Hall.



I have decided to stick to love...Hate is too great a burden to bear.

-Martin Luther King, Jr.



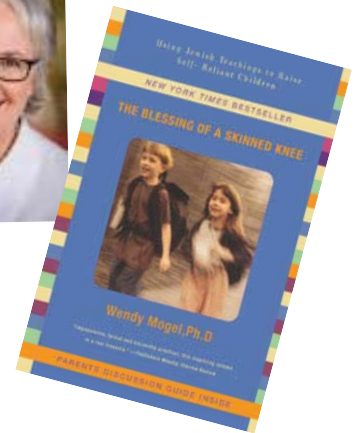
## BEST SELLING AUTHOR DR. WENDY MOGEL IS COMING TO VBS

Dr. Wendy Mogel, the award-winning author of “The Blessing of a Skinned Knee” and “The Blessing of a B Minus” will be speaking at VBS on Thursday, January 30th @ 7:30pm. Tickets are \$18 in advance and \$25 at the door. Books will be available and Dr. Mogel will be happy to sign each copy after the event. Rabbi Feinstein will be moderating the evening and Wendy will also be on hand to answer your parenting questions. Her practical, compassionate wisdom addresses many of the issues we discuss here at the ECC with our families.

Buy tickets online at [www.vbs.org/wendymogel](http://www.vbs.org/wendymogel).

For more information, please call the ECC office: 818-788-0567.

**Seating is limited and Wendy's events always sell out!**



## ECC SLOGAN CONTEST

We are looking for a new slogan for the ECC and we need your imaginative suggestions. The winning entry will receive

**4 TICKETS TO DISNEYLAND!!!!**

Everyone is welcome to enter. Please find an ECC Slogan Contest entry form on EduLoops Forms & Flyers. Hard copies are also available on Claire's desk. Entry deadline is January 31.



## LINKS WE LOVE

A kindergarten student at a holiday concert enthusiastically sang the songs with her classmates, but also used sign language and animated facial expressions to help her deaf parents in the audience enjoy the show.

Never underestimate the communication ability of a 5 year old (and the love for her parents)!

Watch this:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zQeygYqOn8g>



## PSYCHOLOGIST DR. SUSAN STONE IS COMING TO THE ECC

Plan to attend “Losing Battles: Sleeping, Eating and Toileting” with family psychologist Dr. Susan Stone Tuesday, January 14th at 9:30am. Bring your friends, spouses and caregivers. Everyone's invited.

The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.

-Martin Luther King, Jr.

## GOODBYE 2013- HELLO 2014

2013 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.



## ECC 2014-15 REGISTRATION

2014-15 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.

Meet our teachers and learn more about our TK Gesher classes at "TASTE OF GESHER" January 16th at 6:00pm, right before ECC Open House.

Intelligence plus character-that is the goal of true education.  
-Martin Luther King, Jr.



## VBS DAY SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

At VBS Day School, the academic curriculum is enhanced with an expansive arts program. The fine arts curriculum includes learning art skills and becoming inspired by the works of famous artists. Students develop skills that focus on art techniques, style and personal meaning. Students also participate in both school-wide and grade level performances, including the last month's all school performance, Generations' Day, this year revolving around the theme, "You and I Can Change the World." These experiences make learning come alive. Students are introduced to instruments through the Orff percussion program where they explore a wide range of instruments in the music room, and in 3rd grade they learn piano through a keyboarding program. Last year, the Day School launched its first-ever orchestra program. By participating in an orchestra program, students develop skills such as self-discipline, concentration, teamwork, and responsibility. Students in grades 4-6 rotate through a series of four instruments: flute, trumpet, clarinet and violin, in the first semester, and then choose an instrument on which to concentrate for the second semester of the school year. The orchestra then performs at the spring Open House for parents, the culmination of an exciting year of instruction in the arts.



VBSDS Generations Day 2013

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

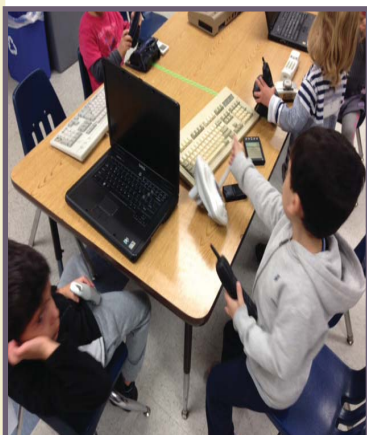
Get a joyful glimpse into your child's day. This is a great way for you to share your child's preschool experience with loved ones across the world. We often post great candid shots that you can share friends and family. Remember, for security reasons, please don't tag any children with their names.

facebook

## APPS WE LOVE: ARTKIVE

**Artkive** is the fastest and easiest way to take, tag, share, and chronologically store kids' art and school work. When you're ready, you hit print and Artkive will send you a hard cover book of your child's whole year of art. Everything is stored in the cloud and unlike other apps, they don't charge for storage or any other in-app features. All you pay for is the book or other merchandise customized with your child's artwork.

You can find the free Artkive app in the App Store.



## 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](mailto:cberger@vbs.org) We value all contributions.

Only in darkness can you see the stars.  
-Martin Luther King, Jr.