

VBS ECC NEWSLETTER

MARCH, 2014



A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTORS

How safe is safe enough?

Children are hard-wired to push their limits. This is how they learn to walk and this is how they learn to talk. In preschool, this is how they learn to run, skip, jump, and climb. When they feel confident, this is also how they later learn to read, write, raise their hand in class, and share original ideas. We refer to all of these milestones as educational risk-taking. It is crucial for learning. Parents and mindful educators, guiding children in their educational journeys, need to ask themselves how safe is safe enough?

When a child takes risks that are too far out of reach, accidents and scarring - both physical and emotional - can occur. On the other hand, if a child doesn't have the opportunity to challenge him or herself, or to explore their physical, emotional, and intellectual limits, that child will not be able to reach their potential.

This is why our motto is: *"Safe enough, but not safe as can be."* We encourage children, under watchful eyes, to explore their potential and challenge themselves. This results in tremendous learning, development of confidence and self-esteem, and awareness of where our limits lie. It also helps children learn how to assess risk, and ask for support when needed, which are critical life long learning skills. For more information, join us for open forum discussions at our monthly Directors Chats.

ECC UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

- 3/7 ECC Community Shabbat
Sprouts classes # 111,112 & 113
Featured-EVERYONE INVITED 5:30pm
- 3/8 Tot Shabbat 10:00am
- 3/16 VBS Purim Carnival
- 3/18 Parent Assn Meeting 9:15am
- 3/20 Parent Conferences
1pm Dismissal (no enrichment or
extended care available)
- 3/21 Parent Conferences
ECC Closed
- 3/22 Tot Shabbat 10:00am
- 3/26 Director's Chat 9:15am



ECC 2014-15 REGISTRATION

Please remember **registration is required for new and returning families!** Please complete your registration forms and return them to Claire by 3/15. 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.

"Sometimes", said Pooh, "The smallest things take up the most space in your heart."
-AA Milne

A MESSAGE FROM RABBI PAUL STEINBERG

It is that time of year when parents begin looking to transition their child from our ECC to our Day School or to another school. If a child does not enter our Day School, I encourage parents to enroll in our Etz Chaim Learning Center (a.k.a. "Hebrew School").

We have the best Hebrew School in the country. Nearly 100% of our students continue their participation once they've completed their Bar or Bat Mitzvah, and approximately 85% continue on to an 8th grade Jewish educational program (e.g., VBS Teen Tuesdays or Los Angeles Hebrew High School). Please come take a tour to learn more about our program.

You are a critical part of our community! Our Etz Chaim families are extremely committed and an integral force in our larger VBS community. Hebrew School families are adored, valued, and have a support system of rabbis, teachers, and lay leaders.

Ultimately, this period of time in our child's development is wonderfully critical and we are all blessed with the options available to us; our ancestors could have only dreamed of what is possible for us. Our VBS community has a wealth of resources to help you to construct the best Jewish reality for your child and family – a reality of love of community and friends, of tradition, of evolving values of which we all have a voice.



DIRECTOR'S CHAT- WEDNESDAY MARCH 26TH @ 9:15AM



Every month, our ECC Directors host an hour of information and inspiration open to all ECC parents and grandparents. Take advantage of this opportunity to discuss Early Childhood topics with our directors.

Please stop in after drop off on **3/26 @ 9:15AM.**

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

Empathy is a quality of character that can change the world.

- President Barack Obama

PARENT ASSOCIATION NEWS - IT'S EPIC!



Next Parent Association meeting is Tuesday, 3/18 @ 9:15am

MAY 3RD is the biggest Fun/Fund-raiser of the year: **ECC EPIC!**

We encourage you to get involved in the following ways:

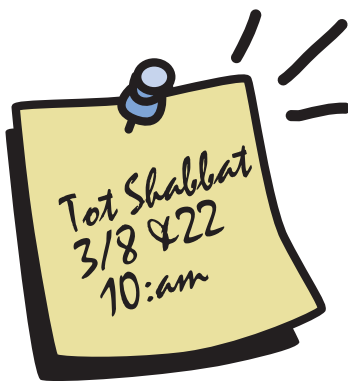
***Decorations *Auction Donations *Food *Event Set-Up *Music* Entertainment.**

There are many ways to help, regardless of your work/life schedule. Please contact either of us to sign up to be an EPIC volunteer. Please share your unique talents to make this event a big success. HUGE Thanks in advance from everyone at the ECC for your donation of time, goods and services. Please plan to attend our next PA meeting on 3/18 @ 9:15am.

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

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, MARCH 7TH @ 5:30PM.** **Children from Sprouts/Rooms#111,112 &113 classes will be featured and everyone is invited!**



Tot Shabbat family services are filled with joyful singing, stories and family friendly prayers. Join fellow ECC families March 8th & 22nd @10:00am in Burdoff Hall.

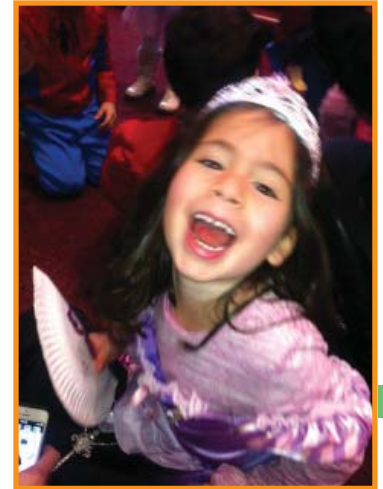
May we never break the strong spirits of our daughters. May we teach our sons to become loving and nurturing men. In doing so, we hold the key to universal peace.
-Anonymous

ECC SLOGAN CONTEST WINNER - ECC: EVERY CHILD COUNTS

ECC: EVERY CHILD COUNTS was the winning slogan selected from our contest. It was submitted by two very talented ECC Dads! Congrats to Room 102's **Gregg Harris** and Room 103's **Lorin Green** and THANK YOU to all the families who entered the contest. We appreciate everyone who came up with so many great suggestions.

VBS PURIM CARNIVAL ON 3/16 10AM - 3:00PM

Don't miss out on this opportunity to save money, have fun and support VBS. Toddler wristbands (for three years and under) are \$36 presale price, \$40 at the door and are good for unlimited age-appropriate games, rides and access to the children's area. Ticket bundles are \$20 for 25 tickets in presale, \$25 for 25 tickets at the door. The tickets are good for all games, rides and food all day at the Purim Carnival. Pre-sale order forms can be found in the VBS Main Office or here at the ECC. This year's carnival features fun for all ages including a rock climbing wall, pony rides, dunk tank, parachute drop, train rides and more!



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 counsellors, specialists, and CITs. Keep an eye out for the special Early Bird pricing. Please note; Camp Shelanu was **COMPLETELY SOLD OUT** last summer so be sure to sign up soon.



PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES - 3/20 & 3/21

Parent-Teacher conferences are an important opportunity to gain deeper insights into your child's growth and development. Your children's teachers are eager to share classroom projects, upcoming holiday events and much more. Please make sure you sign up for either an evening or day time slot for the last conferences of the 2013-14 school year.



Kindness in words creates confidence. Kindness in thinking creates profoundness.
Kindness in giving creates love.

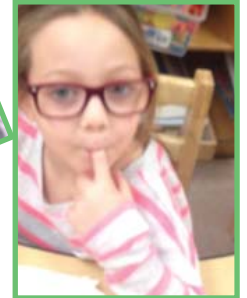
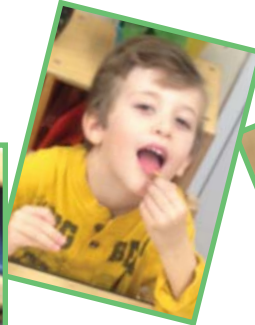
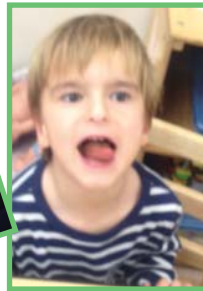
- Lao Tzu

KIDTALK

The TK Gesher children were asked to complete this sentence:
"If I was the President, ..."

Here are a few gems:

- Eliana: "I would make sure everyone would have help if they needed help"
Stella: "I would make sure no one gets stung by a bee."
Dean: "I would make my own rules."
Jonny: "I would make sure everyone has food."
Max: "I would make sure NASA could work better."
Fynn: "I would make sure nobody gets hurt."
Maddie: "I would make sure everyone has health."
Anya: "I would take away mean bugs- even mosquitos."



ROOM 108 GOES TO THE DOCTOR



As part of their long-term project learning about doctors, ECC Mom and pediatric gastroenterologist Brynie Collins invited class 108 to visit her office for an exciting, informative field trip. Brynie demystified the inner working of a doctor's office, even creating a scavenger hunt and handing out stethoscopes for each child. Everyone learned the **Three Rules to a Happy Tummy**: 1) Drink three glasses of water a day; 2) Eat one veggie every day and; 3) Eat two fruits with their skin still attached. A huge, healthy THANK YOU to Brynie for clearing her schedule and inviting class 108 to have fun learning at her office.



Play provides developing children with the means by which they can rehearse the experiences that matter in real life.

-Paul Trad

VBS DAY SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

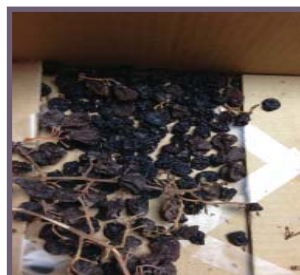
VBS Day School offers several family programs that enrich each student's learning experience and help build strong family connections. In Kindergarten, students and their parents participate in an evening of "Making Bedtime Jewish" where they decorate a pillow and learn about the many Jewish rituals surrounding bedtime and making that time special. In third grade, students and their families have the opportunity to attend a family camp weekend at Brandeis Bardin where they experience Shabbat and learn together as a community. 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 their unique projects. At the Day School's recent VIVA Royale Annual Gala, the Youdai Family, supporters of the important value of these family programs, established an ALL School Family Camp weekend which will launch in Spring 2015.



RAISING RAISINS IN OUR OUTDOOR CLASSROOM



The next time you sprinkle raisins on your oatmeal get ready for a lesson from your children about on how grapes turn into raisins. Children in our outdoor classroom watched and waited one entire month, checking every day, as the sun dried our grapes into raisins.



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



<http://instagram.com/vbsecc>



Please join our Facebook community!

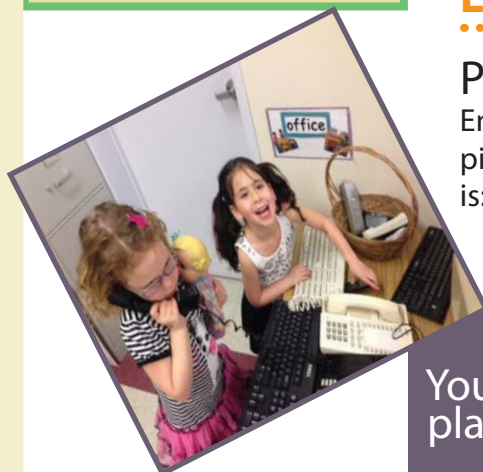
"Like" the Valley Beth Shalom ECC Preschool page.

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.



You can discover more about a person in an hour of play than in a year of conversation.

-Plato