

VBS ECC NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER, 2015



A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTORS

Each new year brings anticipation and a great sense of possibility for all of us here at the VBS ECC. We are excited to welcome back many familiar, happy faces, and eagerly look forward to welcoming and getting to know so many new members of the ECC.

One of the unique qualities of our community is the long-standing traditions and roots holding us all together in preschool and throughout the VBS community. Many of our families came to this preschool as children, were Bar/Bat Mitzvah'd and married here, too. But what makes our preschool even more special and unique than the long-standing traditions is the warmth and love with which we embrace newcomers into our VBS family!

So if you are a returning family, we urge you to look around and seek out other ECC parents. Let them know what you love about this community and find out how you can help them become a part of it. If you are a newcomer, look around find someone who seems familiar with the community, and ask them for some guidance or recommendations.

Beyond our outstanding teachers and wonderful, enriching curriculum, this is what will make your preschool experience not just special, but truly transformative - for you and your child!

We are grateful for the opportunities we have to expand and deepen the relationship within VBS ECC . We extend our warmest wishes to all of our families for a happy, healthy, and new year.



ECC OCTOBER DATES TO REMEMBER

- 10/2 ECC Community Shabbat 5:30PM
- 10/3 Shmini Atzeret ECC CLOSED
- 10/6 Simchat Torah 1PM DISMISSAL
- 10/10 Tot Shabbat 10AM
- 10/12 Enrichment Classes Begin
- 10/18 PA Family Fun Event 4-6PM
- 10/19 Sifriyat Pijama Event for Hebrew Speaking Families 3:30PM
- 10/20 Parent Association Meeting 9:15AM
- 10/21 Picture Day for Preschool classes 102-108, 111-115
- 10/24 Tot Shabbat 10AM
- 10/27 Harvest Festival -Parents Invited

ALL NEW ENRICHMENT CLASSES START OCTOBER 12TH

The ECC is offering all new enrichment classes for the 2015-16 ECC school year. Stop by the main office to sign up. Class sizes are limited so don't delay! There is something for everyone!

Here are the Fall 2015-16 classes:

YOGA (Mondays @ 1:15 & 2:15pm) is a fantastic way to enjoy body movement through simple poses and relaxing stretches. Your children will gain flexibility and self-confidence with our preschool gymnastics teacher Sylvia.

ANIMALY (Mondays @ 1:15 & 2:15pm) introduces your children to the exciting world of animals through stories, art and weekly visits with a variety of beautiful live animals.

MY GYM (Tuesdays @ 1:15 & 2:15) is an action-packed class filled with body movement including beginning gymnastics and calisthenics. This is an ideal class for your energetic preschooler.

ART (Tuesdays @ 2:15 & 3:15) gives everyone a chance to express themselves through mixed media including paint, collage, clay and much more. Bring out your child's inner Picasso with this creative class taught by ECC teacher and acclaimed artist Tali Sofer.

LIL' MOVERS MUSIC (Wednesdays @ 1:15 & 2:15pm) inspires your preschooler to communicate through music. Dancing, singing and musical instruments are a joyful part of every class.

KARATE (Wednesdays @ 1:15 & 2:15pm) is taught by the trained, professional instructors from Karate4Kids USA in a fun, safe, and non-competitive environment. A unique blend of goal-setting, self-esteem, respect, and physical discipline will be taught in every class.

COOKING (Thursdays @ 2:15pm) introduces your future Food Network star to basic, age-appropriate recipes, cooking preparation and techniques. Healthy food lessons are creatively taught through art, storytelling, special guests and tasting yummy new foods. ECC Director Claire Berger returns as Head Chef.

LEGOS (Thursdays @ 2:15pm) 'Build' great memories with everyone's favorite toy-Legos!

GARDENING (Thursdays @ 3:15pm) will encourage your preschooler to connect with nature through creative outdoor gardening projects taught by ECC teacher and avid gardener Jen Pugsley.

SPORTS (Fridays @ 1:15, 2:15 & 3:15pm) are taught by our very own Day School Coaches who will bring a wide assortment of sports equipment and age-appropriate P.E. activities to your young athletes. All Sports classes will be taught indoors here at VBS.



**SPECIAL DISCOUNT PRICES FOR CHILDREN ENROLLED IN KID'S CLUB!
PICK UP A REGISTRATION FORM FOR MORE INFORMATION.**

If we magnified blessings as much as we magnify disappointments, we would all be much happier.
—John R. Wooden

ECC COMMUNITY SHABBAT

Our first ECC Community Shabbat dinner is this Friday, October 2, at 5:30PM

ECC Community Shabbat services and dinners are a great way to make new friends and come together to welcome Shabbat. All Infant-Toddler and Preschool families are invited.

Sign up today to bring a dish to share with your ECC community this Friday. Pizza will be provided for all.

Here's the sign up link:

<https://www.slotted.co/oct2shabbatdinner>



PRESCHOOL BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

Thank you for attending Back to School Night. We hope you enjoyed visiting the classrooms, felt the love from your children's new teachers and made social connections with others in your class. We were thrilled to see so many parents in attendance!



Tot Shabbat Family services are filled with joyful singing, story telling and family friendly prayers. Join fellow ECC families October 10th & 24th @ 10:00am in Burdoff Hall.

The power of imagination makes us infinite.
—John Muir

PARENT ASSOCIATION NEWS

We warmly invite all ECC parents to volunteer with the Parent Association. Sign up on this page for opportunities that work best with your schedule: <https://www.slotted.co/pacommittees>
Please attend our first Parent Association meeting, Tuesday, October 20 at 9:15 in Lopaty.

Here are a few upcoming PA events to calendar:

The first monthly ECC Community Shabbat is this Friday night at 5:30pm. Everyone is invited for a kid's service and delicious dinner with your ECC friends. Sign up on slotted today for your dairy potluck dish (to accompany the pizza that will be served) <https://www.slotted.co/oct2shabbatdinner>

ECC Family Fun Day is Sunday, October 18 at 4pm. It's a family movie night! Join your ECC friends for a movie, pizza dinner and an ice cream treat. RSVP on Parent Square.

Harvest Festival is Tuesday, October 27

Each class will be asked to donate 3 large pumpkins. We also need leaves for the kids to jump and play, so please gather leaves in your neighborhood if you have them! Volunteer sign up opportunities will be posted soon.



We've got a great page on Pinterest! Check out fun-filled activities, crafts, recipes and inspirational ideas specially selected for preschool parents. Search **VBS ECC Preschool** and join the fun.

Catch every fun-filled minute we can capture at the ECC on Instagram. Follow us at <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.

Mitzvah Day is on Sunday, November 1

The ECC will be preparing care packages for the homeless and each class will be asked to contribute NEW ITEMS to the packages. Donation bags will be set up in each classroom for collection.

Below is the classroom donation list so you can start buying NEW ITEMS:

Transition & Toddler Classes

Toothbrush and toothpaste

Room 102 & 103 - Socks

Room 104 & 105 - T-Shirts

Room 106 & 107 - First Aid Supplies (band-aids and alcohol wipes)

Room 108 & 111 - Chapstick

Room 112 & 113 - Granola Bars

Room 114 & 115 - Tissues (small travel packages)

Generosity is giving more than you can, and pride is taking less than you need.
- Kahlil Gibran

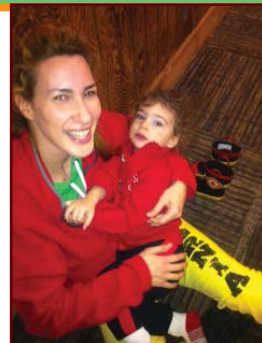
LINKS WE LOVE: TEACHING MUSIC TO BLIND CHILDREN

Music has a transformative power to change lives and this video is proof. It features the beautiful work of a foundation called FIND YOUR LIGHT. www.findyourlightfoundation.org. It was created by singer Josh Groban who has dedicated his time and resources to teaching music to blind children.

Grab a tissue and enjoy this deeply moving video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7E4RWPdj0A8&feature=youtu.be>



SAVE THE DATE - VBS ECC FAMILY RETREAT MARCH 11-13 CAMP RAMAH IN BEAUTIFUL OJAI



SENSATIONAL SUKKAHS IN OUR CLASSROOMS



We are like islands in the sea, separate on the surface but
connected in the deep.
~ William James

VBS DAY SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT - OPEN HOUSE ON 11/4

We see Valley Beth Shalom Harold M. Schulweis Day School as an extension of our ECC and we invite you to take a tour and visit our open house and fair on Wednesday, November 4 at 9:15 AM. You can walk right over after drop-off and hear from our administration, students, parents and teachers about our best-in-class academics, one to one iPad program, cutting-edge STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, math) lab and see how our Day School children take Jewish culture and values and turn that into an amazing foundation for their individual journeys. We also encourage you to take a private tour by contacting Cindy Goodman, Director of Admissions, at cgoodman@vbsds.org. **RSVP for the November 4th Open House Fair & Tour at www.vbsds.org/admissions.**

ECLC NEWS

The ECLC Family
WELCOME BRUNCH

October 4, 2015
following school at 11:45am

Come join us for a welcome brunch.
Meet new ECLC families, schmooze and learn about the ECLC.
Our spirit shirts are here! Purchase yours at the brunch.

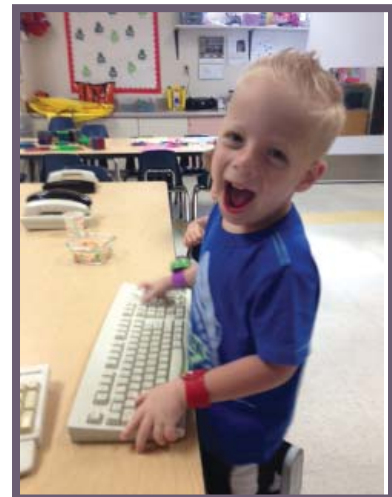
Valley Beth Shalom
ETZ CHAIM
LEARNING CENTER

15759 Ventura Boulevard, Encino, CA 91436 | (818) 788-3584 | www.vbs.org

ONE LITTLE PERSON MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

Get your family involved in social action.

Contact VBS Social Action Chair Brooke Wirtschafter (bwirtschafter@vbs.org) for family-friendly opportunities to make a positive difference in the world.



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 your contributions.

Parent Square Questions?
Email:
support@parentsquare.zendesk.com

The soul is healed by being with children.

- Fyodor Dostoyevsky