

Dear Shalom School ECE Families,

We hope you are enjoying a safe and happy summer. We have been thrilled to welcome back many of you this summer, and we are hard at work planning for the rest of our program to resume in August and wanted to update you on several important items.

August 7th will be the final day of programming for children in our Parparim, Chaverim, and Preschool summer programs. The first day of school for all of these students and all other returning students will be Wednesday, August 19th.

Our Keshet classroom will be open on August 10th and 11th, closed August 12th through 14th and then will reopen on Monday, August 17th.

Barring a change in guidance from public health officials, all ECE classes will be in-person 5 days a week. The school day will begin with staggered drop-off from 7:45 am to 8:15 am and will end with staggered pick-up from 3:00 pm to 3:30 pm. There will be a half-day option from 8:00 am - 11:45 am for Parparim, Chaverim, and Preschool students ONLY; there will be no half-day option for Keshet or Pre-K.

At this point, we are not able to offer care after 3:30 pm under the current health and safety guidelines regarding group sizes and cohort limitations. We will continue to monitor and follow all guidance and hope to lengthen the hours of our program as soon as we are able to do so safely.

Each classroom will have a reduced number of children, with a limited and stable group of teachers in each room. This smaller class size, along with increased staffing, cleaning, and other program costs means that our program will be significantly more expensive to run for the foreseeable future. While we will not be passing along any additional costs to families, we will be keeping all program fees and tuition at their already established and published rates; these are detailed in the <u>20 – 21 Shalom School ECE Contract Update</u>. Should you have any questions regarding billing, please call or email Beverly (916-485-4151 or bnielsen@ shalomschool.org).

We are anticipating several program modifications, including procedures for drop-off and pick-up, hand washing and hygiene, schedules, and classroom routines. Additionally, we will be conducting daily health screenings of all students and staff and requiring all students and staff to wear a face covering unless they are eating.

Please read the <u>20 - 21 Shalom School ECE Guidelines for Parents</u>. It includes details about our plans for the school year, and we encourage you to review it carefully. We are also requiring that each family sign a <u>20 -21 Shalom School ECE Contract Update</u> and submit it prior to returning to school. We are in the process of updating our Parent Handbook and will be sending it to you in early August.

Additionally, we have implemented new cleaning and disinfecting protocols and have expanded both daily and periodic deep cleaning. We will be staggering schedules, limiting the contact of all students and staff, following physical distancing guidelines, and staggering outdoor time for all students. We look forward to sharing more specifics about these plans and schedules in the coming weeks.

You should have received an invitation for a 20-21 ECE Update for Parents Meeting. Please join us via **Zoom** on Thursday, July 15^{th} at 5 pm. We will be going over the above and attached information in more detail and answering your questions. We also plan to record the meeting and will make that recording available afterwards.

All Chaverim, Parparim, Preschool, and Pre-K families will be invited to sign up for Meet the Teacher meetings by appointment via Zoom or telephone; these appointments will take place on Monday, August 17th. Class visit day will take place in person by appointment on Tuesday, August 18th. Look for more information about scheduling your appointments in the coming weeks.

We are excited to be planning for all our students to return to campus and look forward to adapting and growing as a community.

L'shalom,

Nancy and Laura

www.shalomschool.org



