

# VBS ECC NEWSLETTER

## DECEMBER 2016



### HANUKKAH TRADITIONS FROM OUR DIRECTORS

Hanukkah will soon be upon us, and with it another opportunity to create meaningful traditions and deepen our families' values. What are your family traditions? Here are some of ours:

**Abby:** In my home we carry on a tradition that my parents began when I was a child. All year long we put tzedakah in a tzedakah box each Friday night. During Hanukkah, we celebrate one night by counting the dollars and coins (great math activity!) and then decide as a family to what organization(s) we should donate the funds. This is an opportunity for my husband and me to actively model our Jewish family values for our three children, Eli, Nate & Eva. The best Hanukkah gift of all is to know that my children might someday carry on this tradition in their homes when they have families of their own.

**Rita:** Our children each had their own menorah that they made in school. They loved lighting and saying the blessing over their own menorah. They each had a number of self-made menorahs that I still put out every Hanukkah. As adults they always smile and laugh when they see them displayed for Hanukkah and the thought that I have kept them for so many years.

**Michele:** Even as our children grow into adulthood they still remember the traditions around Hanukkah. It warms my heart to see my son lighting candles, making latkes and treating his children to Sufganiyot.

**Rabbi Avi:** We celebrate our Hanukkah tradition as inspired by Rabbi Feinstein with rotating nights of giving and receiving. This way we are reminded that Hanukkah is truly a holiday of gratitude.

**Claire:** Our annual "Yidfest" Hanukkah parties were a great way to invite friends from all cultures and religions into our home to celebrate Hanukkah with all the traditional foods, prayers and rituals. Latkes, dreidels and chocolate gelt for everyone!

*Traditions you share are the true and lasting gifts of the season.*

### ECC DECEMBER DATES TO REMEMBER

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| 12/1     | Kinder Readiness Discussion 7:00PM   |
| 12/2     | ECC Community Shabbat (Pre-K) 5:30PM   |
| 12/4     | 3on3 PA Basketball Tournament 12PM   |
| 12/6-9   | ECC Book Fair  |
| 12/7     | Hanukkah Boutique 8AM-4PM  |
| 12/7     | ECC School Picture Make-Up Day   |
| 12/8     | Parent Association Meeting 9:15AM  |
| 12/10    | Tot Shabbat 10AM   |
| 12/13    | Hanukkah Class Parties (Rooms 102-108)   |
| 12/14    | Hanukkah Class Parties (Rooms 111-115)<br>(all parties held 1 hour before dismissal) |
| 12/12    | Tot Shabbat 10AM   |
| 12/19-30 | Winter Break (until 1/3)   |
| 12/19-22 | Winter Mini-Camp Week #1   |
| 12/27-30 | Winter Mini-Camp Week #2   |
| 12/24    | Hanukkah - First Candle  |
| 12/24    | Tot Shabbat 10AM   |
| 1/4      | Classes Resume   |



# HANUKKAH BOUTIQUE-SHOP TIL YOU DROP 12/7



valley beth shalom  
hanukkah boutique  
WED, DECEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup> | 8AM - 4PM  
VBS GLASER HALL  
come lunch, come schmooze,  
YOU'RE GOING TO WANT TO SHOP!  
womens | kids | mens | home | beauty  
judaica | gifts | jewelry & more  
FOOD FOR PURCHASE  
all proceeds will go to support the  
VBS ECC Parent Association  
vbs.org/boutique

Great vendors and fantastic fundraising makes shopping at the VBS Hanukkah Boutique a win-win for everyone. Get all your holiday shopping done AND raise valuable funds for the ECC. Stop by the ECC main office on 12/7 to sign up for one free hour of Kid's Club extended care for an uninterrupted afternoon of shopping bliss!



**REGISTER  
YOUR TEAM  
ONLINE:**  
[vbsds.org/tournament](http://vbsds.org/tournament)



PARENT ORGANIZATIONS PRESENT  
VALLEY BETH SHALOM SCHOOLS  
**3ON3 TOURNAMENT 2016**  
SUNDAY 12.4.16 AT VBS  
BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT  
\$25 EARLY BIRD PER PERSON | \$35 AFTER NOV. 18TH  
3 or 4 adults per team (includes an alternate).  
One person from the team needs to be affiliated with a VBS School.  
Players will automatically be entered into a raffle for great prizes and get a tournament shirt.  
12:00 PM Registration for Basketball Tournament  
12:30 PM Game on!  
FAMILY FUN  
12:00-3:00 PM Food Trucks, Cheering Squad, Games & Activities for Families (Free)  
REGISTER ONLINE @ [VBSDS.ORG/TOURNAMENT](http://VBSDS.ORG/TOURNAMENT)

## ECC BOOK FAIR

December is the biggest month for gift-giving and what could be a better gift than a book? Stop by the ECC Parent Association Book Fair December 6-9 for all your holiday shopping. Give a gift to loved ones and to the ECC by purchasing your books at our Book Fair.




Will your child be 2 years old by September 1, 2017?  
**Acorn Classes begin Fall 2017**  
Now accepting applications for our new VBS-ECC 2 year old classes.  
VALLEY BETH SHALOM EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

**KEEP THAT MITZVAH DAY FEELING GOING ALL YEAR LONG! ONE LITTLE PERSON MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE!**  
Get your family involved with year round social action.  
Contact VBS Social Action Chair Brooke Wirtschafter ([bwirtschafter@vbs.org](mailto:bwirtschafter@vbs.org)) for family- friendly opportunities to make a positive difference in the world.

Rules for happiness: something to do, someone to love, something to hope for.

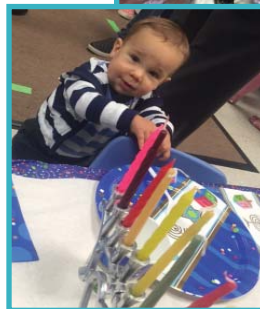
- Immanuel Kant



## HANUKKAH *oh* HANUKKAH

Hanukkah is a holiday filled with tradition, music celebrations and delicious foods. Make your own holiday memories by asking your preschooler to help you light the candles, spin the dreidel, recite the prayers and sing the songs.

Mark your calendar: Hanukkah begins after sunset on December 24th.



## ECC COMMUNITY SHABBAT- 12/2 @ 5:30pm

The next ECC Community Shabbat on Friday, December 2nd will feature Pre-K classes (Rooms 104-106). Every ECC family is invited to celebrate Shabbat together in this family service, followed by a delicious pot luck dinner.



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

## INFANT-TODDLER CLASSES- REGISTER TODAY!

The Infant-Toddler program is now accepting registration for the 2017 Winter-Spring sessions. These classes are a great source of information and FUN for both you and your babies. Please contact Infant-Toddler Director Rita Orenstein to register for Mommy & Me, Grandparent & Me and Infant/Toddler classes. Registration is due 12/19 and classes fill up fast so don't delay!



Bloom where you are planted.  
- Mary Engelbreit

## PARENT ASSOCIATION NEWS

Thank you to our ECC families for preparing for and participating in Mitzvah Day! Over 200 "I-Care Packages" were made for the homeless on Mitzvah Day.



Thank you so much for donating goods and for teaching our kids about Tikkun Olam and taking care of those in need.

The TK Highlighted Community Shabbat dinner was delightful. Over 100 people attended and, with the wonderful volunteering of USY, the kids enjoyed running around supervised and the adults enjoyed socializing. Don't forget to purchase your Sweet Menorah gingerbread. It is a fun activity to do with your child and 25% of the proceeds come back to the ECC PA. ECC T-Shirts and Sweatshirts are still on sale. You can get all of these items at <https://squareup.com/store/vbs-ecc-parent-org>.

Please reach out to the ECC PA at [VBSECCPA@gmail.com](mailto:VBSECCPA@gmail.com) with any questions. All are always welcome and encouraged to attend PA meetings.

**The next PA Meeting is December 8th at 9:15 am in Lopaty.**



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.



Follow us on Instagram!  
[instagram.com/vbsecc](https://www.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.

Progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything.

- George Bernard Shaw

## ARE YOU READY FOR KINDERGARTEN ?



*Are you wondering...*

How your child's five year old brain is changing?

What are the expectations for children entering Kindergarten?

How are our Pre-K and TK classes preparing your children?

## ECC Kindergarten Readiness Talk

*All parents invited!*

Thursday, December 1st @ 7:00 pm  
in Burdorf Hall



## JEWISH FEDERATION TOY DRIVE

Please donate a new, unwrapped toy or book to the Jewish Federation Toy Drive. Donation boxes are located outside the ECC Main Office and upstairs in the VBS corridor. Your generous donations will be holiday gifts distributed to underserved families throughout Los Angeles. Please consider making your donation purchase with your preschooler and let them deposit the toy or book in the donation box. They are not too young to understand how good it can feel to help others less fortunate.



## LINKS WE LOVE: HEALTHY HOLIDAY EATING

Here are tips for making family meals that are wholesome enough, easy enough, and satisfying enough so we can eat well through a busy holiday season. Visit <http://bit.ly/2fzRK9L> for lots of healthy holiday inspiration.

## ECC THANKSGIVING FEASTS

We hope your family Thanksgiving feasts were as joyful as ours!



## JUST A FEW SPOTS LEFT

VBS DAY SCHOOL & ECC PRESENTS

# Winter CAMP



### VBS DAY SCHOOL

We will be doing sports, tournaments, color war, special events, New Eve party. With our VBS coaching staff... Masengo, Tray, Sasha and of course me, Coach Sam. Also, important to mention we aligned this camp with the ECC...

**WEEK ONE**  
Monday, Dec. 19  
THROUGH  
Thursday, Dec. 22

**WEEK TWO**  
Tuesday, Dec. 27  
THROUGH  
Friday, Dec. 30

HOURS: 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

AFTER CARE 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM  
(EXCEPT FOR FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30TH, PICK UP BY 3 PM)

#### PRICING:

|                   |                   |            |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------|
| 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM | \$80/day          | \$320/week |
| 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM | \$95/day          | \$380/week |
| 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM | \$90/daily rate*  |            |
| 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM | \$105/daily rate* |            |

\* DAILY RATE MEANING DROPPING OFF FOR THE DAY

REGISTER @ [WWW.VBSDS.ORG/WINTERCAMP](http://WWW.VBSDS.ORG/WINTERCAMP)

### EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

**WEEK ONE**  
Monday, Dec. 19  
THROUGH  
Thursday, Dec. 22

**WEEK TWO**  
Tuesday, Dec. 27  
THROUGH  
Friday, Dec. 30

HOURS: 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM  
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

#### PRICING:

|                            |       |
|----------------------------|-------|
| <b>WEEK ONE</b>            |       |
| 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM          | \$320 |
| 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM          | \$380 |
| <b>WEEK TWO</b>            |       |
| 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM          | \$320 |
| 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM          | \$320 |
| 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM (Friday) | \$365 |

No daily rate. Families must sign up for an entire week/same schedule. No Refunds after Dec 2, 2016  
Registration closes at capacity of 32 children.  
Families will receive an email confirmation from Robin  
Registration open only to currently registered ECC preschoolers.

REGISTER @ [WWW.VBSDS.ORG/WINTERCAMP](http://WWW.VBSDS.ORG/WINTERCAMP)

## ENRICHMENT CLASS SPOTLIGHT



**Little Architects** is a new enrichment class this year. ECC teacher Suzana shares her vision for creative structures with enthusiastic class participants who use all sorts of unexpected building materials for their construction designs. Last month the class utilized the massive sunflower stalks that were cut down from our playground. For several months we watched those sunflower plants grow from seeds, growing taller and taller (like your children!) bursting with beautiful sunflower blossoms that created even more seeds for the children to collect. Who knew as these plants grew that their strong stalks would turn into this dynamic dwelling?

The greatest gift that you were ever given was the gift of your imagination.

- Wayne W. Dyer



**Israeli Student Delegation Visits VBS DS from Tel Aviv**  
 The 6th grade VBS Day School students recently hosted their 13th annual delegation of students from HaMishtalah School in North Tel Aviv. The students that came here from Israel learned to be global citizens and about diverse cultures, created bonds, shared curricular projects and forge relationships of the heart. The student delegation attended classes with their hosts, participated in the morning minyan, visited the SOVA Food Bank, did a photo scavenger hunt at the L.A. Jewish Federation and Hollywood Boulevard, spent the day at Camp Brandeis Bardin, had a Havdalah Bowling Party, went to an LA Laker game, and visited Universal Studios. A delegation of 6th grade Day School students will travel to Israel at the beginning of May and will be hosted by their partners from HaMishtalah School in North Tel Aviv. The highlight was knowing our students have made lifelong friends in Israel. It was an emotional welcome, but even a more emotional tearful goodbye when the delegation left.



Light the Menorah every night with your children and make some sparkling memories with precious family and friends.

**LET US HEAR FROM YOU!**

Please contribute to the ECC Newsletter!  
 Email your thoughts, suggestions, interesting links and adorable pictures to [cberger@vbs.org](mailto:cberger@vbs.org)  
 We value all contributions.



There are two paths in life: **should** and **must**. We arrive at this crossroads over and over again. And every day, we get to choose.

- Elle Luna