

VBS ECC NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER, 2016



A MESSAGE FROM OUR ECC DIRECTOR-Abby Mars

Creativity as a Path to Reflection

This past summer I read *The Importance of Being Little*. This is an extraordinary book by Erika Christakis, which examines the inner lives of young children, and our responsibility as adults to provide them with rich learning environments. Christakis explains that what children really need, is the opportunity to learn through creative play, by trial and error, by taking risks, and by embracing their natural curiosity.

Young children are generally good at this. They care less about making mistakes, wasting time or getting things wrong, and more about how and why the world works. How does the bee get nectar from the flower, why does a crying friend react so warmly to a hug? In their daily search to understand the how and the why, young children develop creative ways of gathering information in which to understand both their personal and communal world. They do this with honesty and authenticity. This is the work of early childhood.

And then. They get bigger. The world becomes infinitely more complicated and more demanding and... they turn into us. As adults we find less opportunity to play with ideas, tinker with "what ifs", and imagine possibilities. Instead we hone in on what is tried and true, settle for the status quo and avoid what seems risky. We spend less time wondering about the how and the why, and jump head first into because and therefore.

Each year we are given an opportunity to prepare for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Reflections about what we have done, who we are, how we might improve or repair in the upcoming year are opportunities to see ourselves and the world differently.

ECC OCTOBER DATES TO REMEMBER

- 10/3 Rosh Hashanah ECC CLOSED
- 10/4 Rosh Hashanah ECC CLOSED
- 10/8 Tot Shabbat 10AM
- 10/11 Erev Yom Kippur ECC CLOSED
- 10/12 Yom Kippur ECC CLOSED
- 10/17 Sukkot ECC CLOSED
- 10/18 SUKKOT 1PM Dismissal
- 10/20 Harvest Festival -Parents Invited
- 10/24 Shmini Atzeret ECC CLOSED
- 10/25 Simchat Torah ECC CLOSED
- 10/27 ECC Picture Day
- 10/27 Parent Association Meeting 9:15AM



And so, Ayekah. Where are You? I wonder what might happen if each one of us commits to seeing an idea, a relationship, or ourselves our child, parent, partner, friend) in a new, creative, or playful way. Can we unlearn an old habit? Can we imagine a new possibility? Can we recreate that which we thought was lost? Can we envision a better version of ourselves and a better version of our world? We should do this for ourselves. But we must do this for our children.

L'Shanah Tovah to you and to your entire family.

TRASH FOR TEACHERS - www.t4t.org



Trash 4 Teachers is a creative think tank for EVERYONE to enjoy. This innovative foundation has diverted over 460,439 pounds of materials from landfill since 2004, when parents Steve and Kathy Stanton began collecting manufacturer cast-offs from a variety of donors. Since its launch, T4T has become a hub of information and activities, ranging from professional development, science and engineering community outreach.



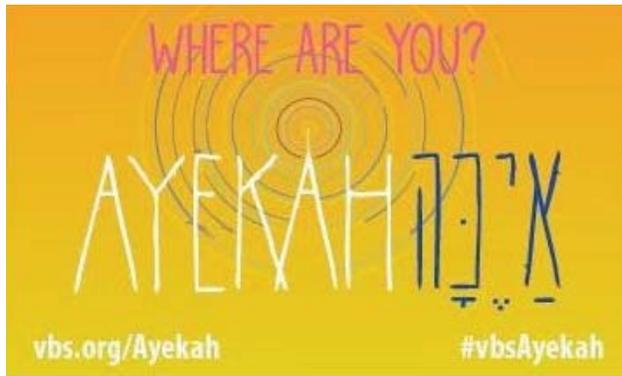
They even host birthday parties! ECCteachers visited T4T and had a ball, rummaging through bins and barrels of treasures. They've filled our classrooms with loads of inspiring objects designed to stimulate your childrens' imagination.



T4T reimagined what we previously thought of as trash, with cast-offs including fabric remnants, cardboard tubes, plastic chips, colorful wires and twine, glass tubes and so much more.

Located near LAX (12815 S. Western Ave. Gardena, CA), this vibrant, neon green building welcomes everyone for spontaneous creative projects and warehouse shopping every Sunday in October. Visit the T4T calendar on their web site , www.T4T.org for more details.

AYEKAH- VBS HIGH HOLIDAY INSPIRATION



In the Torah, the first question God asks humans is "Where are you?" VBS has spent the past month sharing inspirational messages, videos and meditations surrounding this important question. We've asked your preschoolers to ponder this important questions as well, and many classes visited the beautiful, interactive art exhibit in the temple. We hope this will inspire discussion between you and your children as you prepare for the High Holidays and the new year ahead. To learn more and view videos, please visit: vbs.org/ayekah.



We do not inherit the Earth from our Ancestors, we borrow it from our Children.

- Native American Proverb

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, family friendly prayers and a nosh. Join fellow ECC families Saturday, October 10th @10:00am in Burdoff Hall.

Wisdom begins in wonder.

- Socrates

PARENT ASSOCIATION NEWS

The ECC PA welcomes you to a very special school year! We love the spirit all of our families have brought to the school and events so far! We are looking forward to an amazing year of building community, friendships, programs for our children, and much, much more.

Sending a big thank you to everyone who came out for the first ever Welcome Back Bash, Pump it Up, our first annual Fantasy Football Draft, Family Fun Day and to celebrate Shabbat with new ECC friends. Thank you to all of you who have helped make these events so successful We look forward to meeting new families at future events and activities! We encourage every family to be involved with the ECC PA. Bring your ideas and energy as we plan to have lots of fun together this year! Stay tuned for Upcoming Events:

Harvest Festival - 10/20

October PA Meeting - 10/27 @ 9:15AM

If you would like to get involved, or know someone who would, or would just like to get more information, please reach out to the ECC PA at VBSECCPA@gmail.com. We look forward to getting to know you this year!



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>

The next
PA Meeting is
Tuesday, 10/27
9:15AM

Shanah Tovah!

A happy, healthy new year
to you and your family
from everyone at
VBS ECC



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 with friends and family. Remember, for security reasons, please don't tag any children with their names.

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



feed
the
hungry



1

Pick up your VBS/Sisterhood reusable grocery bag on Rosh Hashanah. Fill your bag using the shopping list printed on the back. Deposit the food in the SOVA barrels on Yom Kippur. Keep the bag as a reminder to donate again throughout the year.

bring
dignity
to the
needy



2

Bring gently used clothing for MEND (Meet Each Need with Dignity): Jeans of all kinds and men's clothing in good condition. Bring new socks, underwear and hygiene items for homeless veterans at Sepulveda Veterans Administration.

donate
life to
the sick



3

Take sign up information for the Mitzvah Day Cedars-Sinai Blood Drive to be held at Valley Beth Shalom, Sunday, November 6.

Contact Brooke Wirtschafter at 818-530-4035, bwirtschafter@vbs.org, www.vbs.org, [facebook/valleybethshalom](https://www.facebook.com/valleybethshalom)

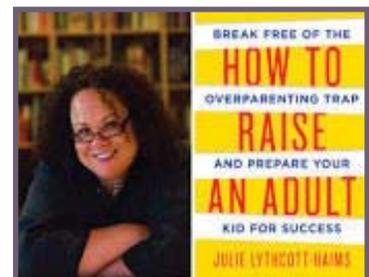
ENRICHMENT CLASS SNAPSHOTS

Building a fort, mastering hip hop footwork, creating an artistic masterpiece, unleashing the power of UV rays and cooking up a batch of pasta spiders; These are just a few examples of all the Enrichment Class FUN.



LINKS WE LOVE: How to Raise Successful Kids

By loading kids with high expectations and micromanaging their lives ... parents aren't actually helping. At least, that's how Julie Lythcott-Haims sees it. With passion and wry humor, the former Dean of Freshmen at Stanford makes the case for parents to stop defining their children's success via grades and test scores -- and suggests two vital things to focus on instead. Find out what they are here:



http://www.ted.com/talks/julie_lythcott_haims_how_to_raise_successful_kids

When the whole world is silent, even one voice becomes powerful.
-Malala Yousafzai

