

# VBS ECC NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER, 2016



## MEET OUR NEW DIRECTOR: ABBY MARS

It is with great excitement that I join you this Fall as the Director of The Early Childhood Program. In my many visits to the VBS schools and synagogue this past year, I have felt firsthand your warmth, your passion, and above all your deep commitment to Jewish values and learning. In my new role, my primary responsibility will be to support these deep roots while creating continued opportunities for growth and innovation in the ECC. It is my privilege to be the newest member of this vibrant community.

I have worked in the field of early childhood education for over twelve years as a school administrator, classroom teacher, family educator, teacher-mentor, and conference speaker.

I am a native of Los Angeles, though I have also lived in St. Louis, Israel, New York and Washington DC. I am the mother of three remarkable children (Eva – 10, Nathan – 12, & Eli - 15,) and am married to Jonny Mars, the man I met over 25 years ago as camp counselors at Camp Ramah in California.

My goal is to spend meaningful time with many of you over the course of the year. Please stop by the ECC office or catch me anytime and say hello!

This will be an exciting year, and I am eager to begin partnering with you.



## ECC AUGUST/SEPTEMBER DATES TO REMEMBER

- 8/28 Parent Association Back to School Bash 9:30-11:30AM
- 9/3 Preschool & Transition Meet & Greet 4-5:30PM
- 9/5 Labor Day
- 9/6 First Day of School
- 9/10 Tot Shabbat 10AM
- 9/15 Susan Stone- Parent Discussion on Separation 9:30AM
- 9/16 ECC Community Shabbat 5:30PM
- 9/19 Fall Enrichment Classes Begin
- 9/20 Parent Association meeting 9:15AM
- 9/22 Preschool/Transition Back to School Night 6-8:30PM (1PM Dismissal)
- 9/24 Tot Shabbat 10AM
- 9/25 Parent Association Family Fun Event

## PARENT ASSOCIATION NEWS

Welcome back from the ECC Parent Association! We look forward to greeting everyone at our first meeting September 20th, 9:15 am, right after drop-off in Lopaty. You received a PA Volunteer form in your class placement packets. We hope you will sign up for at least one committee that showcases your strengths and works with your schedule.

**Our goal is 100% participation.**

Sign up here: <http://goo.gl/gEaCtvw3JnuzzN72>

Any questions about our committees? Please attend the PA meeting or ask any of our returning parents. You can always contact us via email at [vbseccpa@gmail.com](mailto:vbseccpa@gmail.com). We are looking forward to a fantastic year filled with activities, education and inspiration.. Thank you for joining us!



## ECC ENRICHMENT CLASSES ARE COMING!

The ECC will be offering fun-filled enrichment classes for the 2016-17 ECC school year. Science, sports, dance, art, cooking and much more will be offered after school. Classes begin September 19th. For more information, contact After School Kid's Club Coordinator Robin Masnicoff at 818-788-0567 or via email: [rmasnicoff@vbs.org](mailto:rmasnicoff@vbs.org).



## THE 3Ps - POLITE\*PARKING\*PROCEDURES

Parking at the beginning of the year can be confusing and challenging, but it does get easier! Please leave yourself plenty of time to calmly park, following all synagogue rules and regulations at all times. Your Parent Handbook includes all the essential information regarding parking rules at VBS. We want to stress how important your role is in creating a polite parking experience. *It is critical that parents are respectful to parking staff, security guards and other parents at all times.* Remember, your children are watching you and modeling your behavior.

Thank you very much for your cooperation!

**ONE LITTLE PERSON MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE!**

**Get your family involved in 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.

Sometimes your joy is the source of your smile, but sometimes your smile can be the source of your joy.

- Thich Nhat Hanh

## PRESCHOOL BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT - SEPTEMBER 22 6:00PM



Meet your preschool teachers and learn about daily schedules and goals for the year. Make new friends and hear from your directors and rabbi.

Please plan to attend without your children.

*This evening is just for you!*

## ECC HEALTH & EMERGENCY FORMS

ALL TRANSITION AND PRESCHOOL CHILDREN MUST HAVE COMPLETE HEALTH & EMERGENCY INFORMATION ON FILE.

**California State licensing prohibits your child from starting school unless all forms are submitted to the ECC Main Office before the first day of school on September 6th.**

## RETURNING FAMILIES- PORTFOLIO REQUEST

Returning ECC Parents:  
Please return the gorgeous portfolios that children took home at the end of the year last year so that your new teachers may continue to collect and archive their projects throughout this new school year.



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

Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body.

- Joseph Addison



## SEPARATION SUGGESTIONS FROM SUSAN STONE, MFT



Popular family therapist Susan Stone will lead a valuable discussion on Separation **Thursday, September 15th, 9:30AM** at the ECC. Here are a few of Susan's tips to help make your transition from summer to preschool as smooth as possible:

- \* Begin to talk about school. Give your kids as much info as you have—who their teachers will be, what room they will be in and what their day will include.
- \* Remind them of all the fun things they do at school and the friends they'll see in the fall.
- \* Before school starts, begin to institute a "school day" bedtime so there is no drastic change when school begins. Also, make sure you start waking them up when they'll need to be up for school.



Want more info about Susan Stone?  
Susan's Blog: <http://practicalparenting.com>  
web site: [www.susancstonemft.com](http://www.susancstonemft.com) email: [scmft@aol.com](mailto:scmft@aol.com)  
office phone: 310-276-7329



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.

As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands, one for helping yourself, the other for helping others.  
- Audrey Hepburn



## PARENT SQUARE- ECC'S ONLINE COMMUNICATION TOOL

ParentSquare is a two-way private communication platform created just for schools. It provides a safe way for administrators, teachers, staff, groups and parents to connect . With ParentSquare you will be able to:

- \* Receive all school and classroom communication via email, text or mobile app
- \* Share and download photos
- \* Post calendar items and view the school calendar online
- \* Easily sign up to volunteer and/or bring items to class
- \* Access important resources and links online
- \* Easily email other ECC parents in your class

All school and individual classroom information is sent from one centralized place to your computer or mobile phone via email and/or text. Be sure to download the FREE App!

If you haven't already done so, please register for ParentSquare. You received an invitation email or text to join ParentSquare. Please click the link to activate your account and register. It takes only a minute. If you have any questions, please contact ECC Communications Director Claire Berger at [cberger@vbs.org](mailto:cberger@vbs.org) or call her at 818-530-4030.

## CAMP ROUND-UP



Both Camp Shelanu and ECC Mini Camp was a huge splash- literally! Campers had a ball sliding down water slides, playing in the pools and enjoying every minute of fun at Camp this past summer. Our teachers and CITs did a fantastic job of creating the ideal summer camp atmosphere for preschool campers that included cooking, outdoor play, arts and crafts and encounters with animals. HUGE Thanks to Camp Shelanu Director Aileen, Mini-Camp Director Karen and all our hard-working camp teachers and CITs.

I am thankful for laughter, except when milk comes out of my nose.  
 -- Woody Allen

## VBS DAY SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

### VBS Day School One-to-One iPad Program

The Day School is thrilled about how amazing the one-to-one iPad program for the 3rd-6th grade has been. The students are issued an iPad of their own in 3rd grade to keep until they graduate in 6th grade. This exciting program has opened up a new world of exploration and innovation for both our students and teachers. Through the use of the iPads, students are learning important 21st century skills that will help them succeed in the future. Students use special apps such as the "Green Screen" to create videos with backgrounds, posed pictures, and even add music to their final production. Kindergarten, First, and Second grade get the chance to experience these learnings as well with their classroom set iPads. With a focus on "Design Thinking", the sky is the limit for what our students will create next.

### Prospective Parent Open House Dates:


**Wednesday, November 9th**

**Wednesday, January 11th**

For more information, please contact Tal Barak, Director of Admissions, at (818) 530-4072 or [tbarak@vbsds.org](mailto:tbarak@vbsds.org). To RSVP for an Open House, please visit [www.vbsds.org/admissions](http://www.vbsds.org/admissions).

## ECLC NEWS

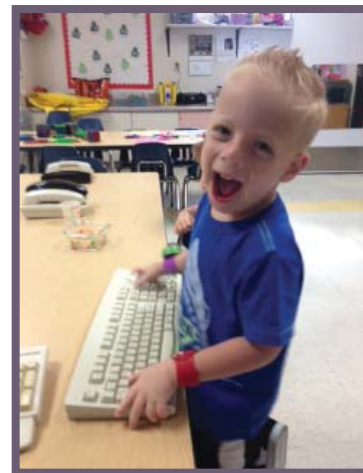



  
**SAVE THE DATE**  
Sunday  
September 25, 2016  
9:30 - 11:45 a.m.

**Change Your Channel**  
A Rosh Hashanah Family Program

Parents MUST attend the program with their child/ren. All siblings are welcome.

For more information, contact ECLC Director, Keri Loventhal, at [kloventhal@vbs.org](mailto:kloventhal@vbs.org) or (818) 530-4046.



## 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](mailto:cberger@vbs.org) We value all your contributions.

Parent Square Questions?  
Email:  
[support@parentsquare.zendesk.com](mailto:support@parentsquare.zendesk.com)

There are no strangers here; Only friends you haven't yet met.

- William Butler Yeats