

# VBS ECC NEWSLETTER

JUNE, 2016



## DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

*Everything changes and everything stays the same.*

This was the motto of the ECC this year as Brenda moved on to new opportunities, Abby was hired and Michele moves closer to retirement. Together with Abby and Michele; Rita, Claire, Merav and Nora will continue to grow, re-imagine and spread the joy in the ECC you have grown to know and love.

We send our Pre-K and TK families off with all our best wishes and we warmly welcome our incoming Infant-Toddler families with open arms. We are excited to see all our adorable campers this summer at Camp Shelanu and look forward to the 2016-17 school year.

Have a glorious summer! Make memories and enjoy every minute with your children because as you have learned this year, they grow-up SO fast!



## JUNE DATES TO REMEMBER

- 6-7 Parent Association Meeting 9:15am
- 6-10 All Family Challah Making
- 6-10 Final Day for all Enrichment Classes
- 6-11 Tot Shabbat 10am
- 6-13 Shavout- 1PM Dismissal
- 6-14 Year-End Parties for Rooms 111-115
- 6-15 Year-End Parties for Rooms 102-108
- 6-15 Last Day of School - 1pm dismissal
- 6-16 ECC Step-Up Ceremony 10AM
- 6-19 Father's Day
- 6-25 Tot Shabbat 10am
- 6-27 Camp Shelanu Meet & Greet 5:30PM
- 6-28 Camp Shelanu- FIRST DAY!



PRE-K & TK FAMILIES- WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT THE STEP-UP CELEBRATION ON JUNE 16TH

## CAMP SHELANU- THE BEST PRESCHOOL SUMMER CAMP IN SFV!

Summers are filled with laughter, sunny days and Camp Shelanu memories. Camp registration is available in the ECC Main Office . Enjoy the peace of mind knowing that your children will be campers in the best preschool summer program in the San Fernando Valley with REAL preschool teachers you know and love. Your children will feel secure and at-home in our familiar environment. Everyone is welcome! You don't have to be a temple member to attend our camp so invite your friends and neighbors to join the fun.

Give your children an opportunity to make their very own memories this summer at Camp Shelanu.



## VBS ECC MINI-CAMP

2 WEEKS: AUGUST 15-19

AUGUST 22-26

The ECC is offering a two week mini-camp for families looking to fill the gap between Camp Shelanu and ECC Preschool. Mini Camp is 5 days a week for two weeks from 9am - 3pm or 9am-5pm. *You must register for 1 or 2 full weeks to attend Mini-Camp.* Visit the Main Office for more info.

**ONLY 4 SPOTS LEFT!**

COST: \$375 p/week 9am-3pm  
\$475 p/week 9am-5pm



It takes courage to grow up and become who you really are. – ee cummings

# ECC SCHOOL YEAR RECAP

The year was filled with new discoveries, new friends and new confidence. Your children blossomed in extraordinary ways in their classrooms, through outdoor learning and in synagogue. We cherished every "aha moment" along with you and your preschoolers.



**Tot Shabbat** family services are filled with joyful singing, story telling and family friendly prayers. Join fellow ECC families June 11th and 25th @**10:00am** in **Burdoff Hall**.

Leap, and the net will appear. - John Burroughs

## SUMMER STAYCATION SUGGESTIONS

A summer vacation in Los Angeles is the dream of many. Lucky for us, a short car or metro train ride takes us to many of the world's most coveted destinations. Sure, everyone knows about Disneyland and Universal Studios but you, dear resident have inside knowledge that can take you and your family on great summer adventures that will create great family memories without spending a lot of money. Did you know you can now take the Metro all the way to the Santa Monica Pier? How about treating your family to a multi-cultural mash-up by visiting Chinatown AND Olvera Street, located just a few blocks from each other.



Go on a dinosaur dig at the LaBrea Tar Pits and discover family-friendly art installations at LA County Art Museum less than a block away. Stroll through a Japanese Tea Garden and one of the world's most extraordinary cacti and succulent collections at the Huntington Garden in San Marino. On the First Fridays of each month, hit Abbott Kinney Blvd in Venice for a moveable feast from the best array of Food Trucks in the city. And there's no better place to enjoy a sunset as your children happily dig in the sand than at Paradise Cove in Malibu. The best summer family memories don't require fancy destinations, just time spent together. Have fun making your own memories this summer in our beautiful city.



## LINKS WE LOVE: CRAZY CRAYONS!



Looking for a fun summer project with your children? Mail in your broken, unloved violets, carnation pinks, and burnt siennas here (P.O. Box 683, Lake City, CO 81235) and they will be re-crafted into adorable coloring stars, sticks, worms and more. All proceeds benefit the Crayon Recycle Program, which has been spreading the gospel of the Three R's (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) since 1993. To date, the grassroots educational organization has kept over 105,000 pounds of wax sludge (yuck!) out of landfills with help from earth-minded kiddos, educators and community leaders all over the country.

Online: [crayoncollection.org](http://crayoncollection.org)

Online: [thecrayoninitiative.org](http://thecrayoninitiative.org)

Online: [crazycrayons.com](http://crazycrayons.com)

Be happy for this moment. This moment is your life.

- Omar Khayyam

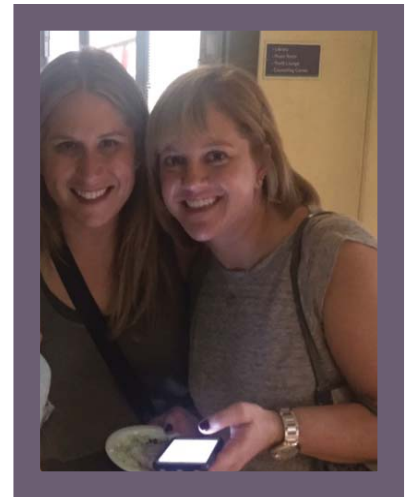
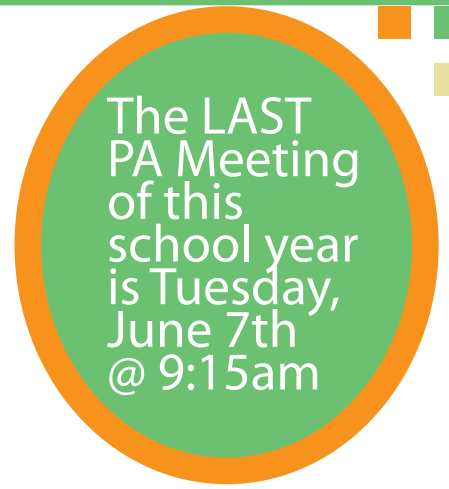
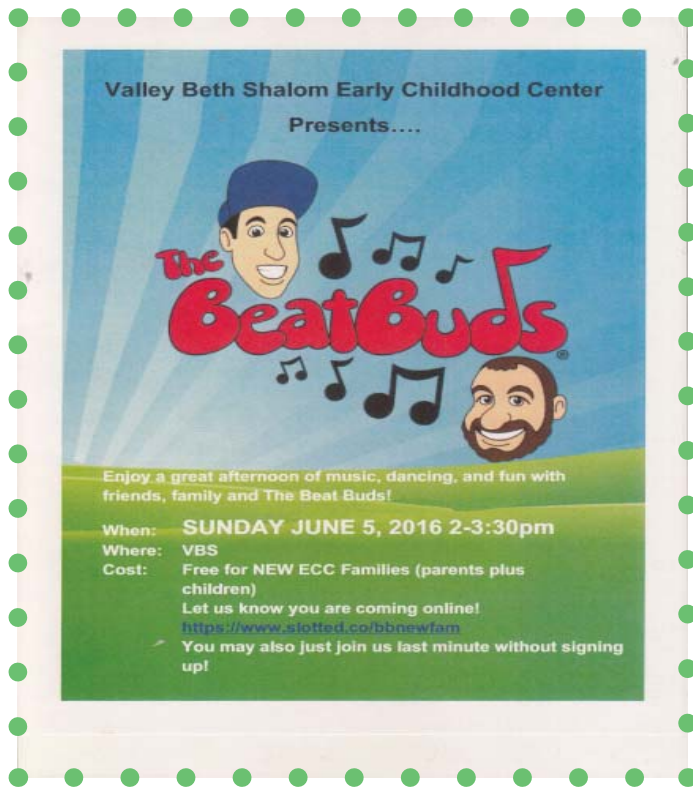
## PARENT ASSOCIATION NEWS

Thanks to the great involvement of our parents and hard-working Co-Chairs Melanie Cohen and Melissa Darwish, we had record breaking volunteering this year. Please help us make next year just as amazing by signing up to volunteer for a committee or to be a room parent. There are many opportunities to volunteer regardless of your work/life schedule. You will NOT regret your volunteer time as it truly enriches the lives of our beautiful children! Email our new ECC PA LEADERSHIP TEAM CO-CHAIRS Nikki Eigler ( [nikkieigler@gmail.com](mailto:nikkieigler@gmail.com) ) and Andrea Benbassat ( [akipnis@gmail.com](mailto:akipnis@gmail.com) ) or the PA Outreach Coordinator Amanda Waterman ( [amandag80@aol.com](mailto:amandag80@aol.com) ) for more information on ways to get involved.

**Huge thanks** to all of our families that attended the Gold Gala and offered support in so many ways. Be sure to join us for an end of year concert with the fabulous **Beat Buds Sunday June 5th**.

See below for all the info.

We hope everyone has a great summer!



GIANT HUGS  
AND A BIG  
THANK YOU TO  
OUR OUTGOING  
PA CO-CHAIRS  
**MELANIE &  
MELISSA!**

I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.

– Maya Angelou



HAROLD M. SCHULWEIS  
DAY SCHOOL

## VBS DAY SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

### The VBS Day School Learning Garden

The VBS Day School garden is a magical place where children explore nature and take an active role in planting, cultivating and harvesting vegetables. Each week, third graders and their parents work in the garden, guided by green thumb Nancy Herbst, Director of General Studies, the science teacher and a gardening specialist. Students are responsible for caring for all aspects of the garden. They take great pride knowing that the vegetables they harvest are donated to the SOVA food bank. While planting, the students integrate their year-long water curriculum with the task of measuring the growth of plants, discovering the ecosystem, and analyzing the importance of water, sun and fertile soil to make the plants grow. All of this is documented in a Garden Journal and shared with the entire school during school assemblies. One section of the garden is the Shevat Haminim Garden- 7 species of Israel - making a connection with the Land of Israel. ECC students often come to the garden to also learn and explore. It was a popular destination during the Tu B'Shevat Celebration where 3rd graders planted wheat and barley in anticipation of Shavuot. The garden is a highlight for children as they learn and celebrate nature. Stop by and see what's growing!



### Macabiah Games

Our Day School/ECC Buddy Program culminated with a wonderful morning Macabiah Games hosted on the Day School yard with the ECC students and their fourth and fifth grade buddies. Seeing the pre-school children interact, play, learn and have fun with their Day School mentors was so meaningful. It's a "win win" since the Day School buddies feel such great pride in being role models for their little "brothers and sister." It's a highlight of the year - we hope your children told you all about it!



## HAVE A RELAXING SUMMER!



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.

Be inspired by our pins!

[www.pinterest.com/vb-secc/vbs-ecc-preschool/](http://www.pinterest.com/vb-secc/vbs-ecc-preschool/)



Visit us on Instagram!

<https://instagram.com/vbsecc/>

Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened. – Dr. Seuss