

VBS ECC NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2017

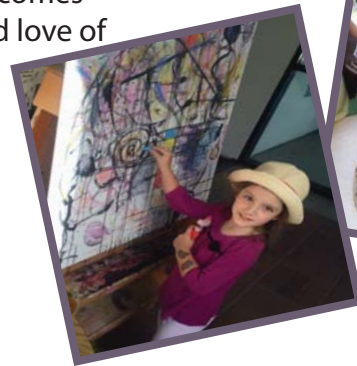


A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR ABBY MARS

I hope you have noticed the Community Experience Table just outside the ECC main office. This hands-on opportunity invites you to engage in creative work. See what it feels like touch cool clay, to create with natural objects, to paint freely with a brush. You may think this is simply the “work of children,” but in fact it is the work of the heart and the mind. Tapping into your own creativity, even just for a moment, may allow you to connect more deeply with ideas unformed, troubles unresolved, loves unexpressed. Creativity can re-energize us when the morning school drop-off has been rushed and the day ahead seems long. Jewish creativity comes from a number of things: curiosity, a love of learning, and love of argument. (Bob Mankoff).

So give it a try...

stop by and express yourself the way your children do everyday... uninhibited.



Register now
for the 2017-18
school year!



FEBRUARY DATES TO REMEMBER

- 2/3 Fall Enrichment Classes End
- 2/3 ECC Community Shabbat and Pot Luck Dinner 5:30pm SPRIGS will host
- 2/6 Spring Enrichment Begins
- 2/11 Tot Shabbat 10:30am
- 2/14 Community Helper Day
- 2/17 Staff Development ECC CLOSED
- 2/20 President's Day ECC CLOSED
- 2/25 Tot Shabbat 10:30am
- 2/28 PA Meeting 9:15am

If you want to touch the past, touch a rock. If you want to touch the present, touch a flower. If you want to touch the future, touch a life.

- Anonymous

ECC 2017-18 REGISTRATION

2017-18 ECC registration packets been mailed to all new and returning families. Please stop by the ECC Main Office if you did not receive one in the mail. **Registration is required for new AND returning families.** Please take a moment to review everything in your packet, complete the registration forms and return them to Claire by March 21st.. ***You will not be guaranteed a spot next fall without these completed forms.***

SNOW DAY FUN

It was wonderful to see so many parents, grandparents and friends at Snow Day last month. HUGE THANKS and big hugs to Snow Day committee members and to all the parents who volunteered to make Snow Day so special. Let it snow!



ECC'S ANNUAL FUNDRAISING GALA

Totally EPIC 80's Party!

Every Child Counts
VALLEY BETH SHALOM
EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

VALLEY BETH SHALOM

SATURDAY, MARCH 25TH • 7:30PM
www.vbs.org/epic

#totallyEPIC80s

**ENTERTAINMENT
DINNER, LIVE &
SILENT AUCTION**

We believe that if a volunteer has a transformative experience, it will naturally ripple out into the world.

- Nipun Mehta

VBS ECC EPIC AUCTION ITEMS - DONATE NOW!

This year's ECC EPIC on March 25th will feature a live and silent auction that raises valuable funds for the upgrade and enhancement of the Infant-Toddler yard. We need the help of the ECC community in soliciting donation items. Last year's EPIC event raised over \$20,000 and we are hoping to exceed that this year. Any and all items are welcome! Maybe you're a business owner, or know someone who can donate a service/tickets/dinner/sporting events, etc. Or maybe you have a connection to a hotel or some type of service or product? Emily Feit and Jamie Weissman are co-chairing the EPIC and are happy to answer any additional questions about potential auction items.

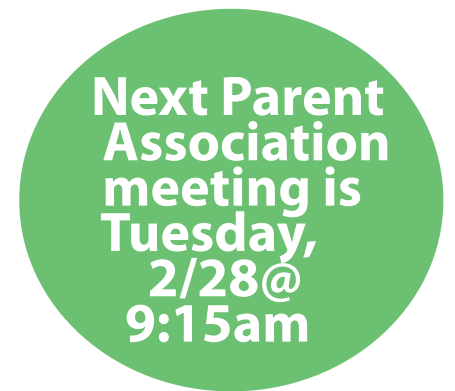
Please reach out via Parent Square to Emily or Jamie if you would like to help with the silent auction, either by donating directly or assisting with securing an auction item donation. Forms are available in the Main Office. Thank you in advance for your support!



ECC COMMUNITY POT LUCK SHABBAT

The best way to welcome Shabbat is surrounding yourselves with friends and family. And the best place to do that is the ECC Community Shabbat services and Pot Luck Dinners held each month at VBS. Every month ECC families gather together, sharing favorite family dishes (dairy please). We'll also have pizza and games for the children. Please sign-up and plan to join us for this special evening. Family-friendly services begin at 5:30 and pot luck dinner immediately follows. Our next ECC Community Shabbat Pot Luck is **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD@ 5:30PM. Sprigs classes (102-103) will host and everyone is invited!**

Future Dates : March 3rd - Sprouts Classes (111,112,113) featured
May 5th - ALL Schools (ECC, DS & ECLC) Shabbat



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



Patience is not simply the ability to wait -- it's how we behave while we're waiting.
- Joyce Meyer

PARENT ASSOCIATION UPDATE

Snow day was an wonderful experience for our families. Thank you so much to Snow Day Chair-mom Shirin Broukhim and all of our volunteers and committees for making this and all of our events so memorable. Everyone is invited to join in more fun this winter and spring with dynamic programing to build our community, grow our friendships, enhance our programs for our children, and much much more.

Have you reserved your Babysitter for EPIC?! If not, now is the time. EPIC is March 25, 2017 at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$90 per person until February 15, when prices go up to \$100 per person. Visit vbs.org/EPIC or see an EPIC committee member at a table at drop off to purchase your tickets. Get your ECC T-Shirts and Sweatshirts at <https://squareup.com/store/vbs-ecc-parent-org>.

Upcoming Events:

2/3 Community Shabbat Dinner - Everyone Welcome, Sprigs (rooms 102/103) Host

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. Follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/VBSECCPA/>

LINKS WE LOVE: HOW A BARBER INSPIRES LITERACY



At the Fuller Cut, kids get a \$2 discount if they read a book aloud to their barber Ryan Griffin. This program made its way to Ypsilanti, Michigan because Ryan, who has been cutting hair here for 20 years says he first read about a similar literacy program in Harlem, N.Y.. Within a few weeks, people in the area were donating books to the cause.

HERE'S THE LINK: <https://ww2.kqed.org/mindshift/2016/10/13/it-takes-a-village-when-the-barber-also-pushes-literacy/>

How can you inspire literacy in your community?

The secret of getting ahead is getting started.

- Mark Twain

SAVE THE DATES

Camp Shelanu Registration is coming soon!

Camp Shelanu: 6/20-8/4

Mini-Camp: 8/7-8/25

PARENT WORKSHOP 2/9 @ 7PM

Valley Beth Shalom Schools
in partnership with Campbell Hall
invite you to attend



Parent Education Workshop



Featuring Guest Presenter
Dr. Lisa Miller

Nationally acclaimed Author of *The Spiritual Child: "The New Science on Parenting for Health and Lifelong Thriving"*



In *The Spiritual Child*, psychologist Lisa Miller presents the next big idea in psychology: the science and the power of spirituality. She explains the clear, scientific link between spirituality and health and shows that children who have a positive, active relationship to spirituality have significantly more positive markers for thriving including an increased sense of meaning and purpose, and high levels of academic success.

Combining cutting-edge research with broad anecdotal evidence from her work as a clinical psychologist to illustrate just how invaluable spirituality is to a child's mental and physical health, Miller translates these findings into practical advice for parents, giving them concrete ways to develop and encourage their children's as well as their own well-being. In this provocative, conversation-starting book, Dr. Miller presents us with a pioneering new way to think about parenting our modern youth.

Thursday, February 9, 2017

7:00 PM

Location:

Valley Beth Shalom
15739 Ventura Blvd., Encino, CA

About the Presenter:

Dr. Lisa Miller Professor and Founder of the Spirituality Mind Body Institute at Teachers College, Columbia University • Leading national expert in spirituality, health, and thriving in development • Author of 100 peer review articles on spirituality and mental health in youth and family • Clinical scientist • Fellow of the American Psychological Association • Former president of the APA Society of Psychology & Spirituality • Editor of The Oxford University Press Handbook of Psychology & Spirituality • Editor-in-Chief of Spirituality in Clinical Practice

No charge, RSVP online at:

www.vbs.org/lisamiller
www.campbellhall.org/parenteducation

For more information:

VBS Main Office: Wendy Perlmutter (818) 788-6000
Campbell Hall Office: Itzzia Cohen (818) 505-5334

FROM OUR INFANT-TODDLER PROGRAM

Heard firsthand from our Infant- Toddler parents, commenting on how important our classes can be in easing your children into preschool:

“The Infant -Toddler Program is a thought-through, sensitive transition from toddlerhood to preschool and offers the sensitivity and patience required for both parent and child. My son was the “one” who surprised everyone in the beginning because he had a difficult time with separation. But his teachers told me he quickly turned into the poster-child for school readiness.”

ECLC NEWS



You're Invited ★

Valley Beth Shalom Etz Chaim Learning Center

4th Annual Wine and Cheese Havdallah

Saturday, February 11, 2017 at 7 pm

At the home of John and Jill Donaty
4539 Rubio Ave
Encino, CA 91436

Join us for an elegant and meaningful Havdallah ceremony with Rabbi Farkas. We will celebrate as a community with wine, gourmet appetizers and desserts.

Cost: \$54 per couple, \$27 per individual

Lavish raffle prize generously donated by **The Shane Foundation**
www.shanefoundation.org
Raffle tickets available at the event

All proceeds support ECLC programming.
If you are unable to attend and wish to make a tax-deductible donation, please visit
www.vbs.org/havdallah

Pay by February 3. www.vbs.org/havdallah

Free childcare (K-7th Grade) and dinner is available at VBS from 6:45-9:15pm.
Visit www.vbs.org/havdallah to reserve your child's spot

★ Contact Jill Donaty with questions at 818-231-2670
We hope you'll join us!



TK VISITS VINTAGE



Our TK classes spread the love to the senior residents at Vintage Retirement Home.

Join Abby & Claire for a cup of joe!

Questions about enrollment and scheduling changes for 2017-2018?

Join ECC Director, Abby Mars, and Admissions Director, Claire Berger, to get the answers you've been looking for!



Café VBS

Buy a cup of coffee
or a perfectly crafted
café vanilla and
schmooze with your
VBS friends.

In partnership with



Cash or
check only

Friday
Feb. 3rd

7:45-9:45am

outside in the
school entryway
where challah
is sold



VALLEY BETH SHALOM

Enjoy the little things in life, for one day you'll look back
and realize they were big things.
-Robert Brault

VBS DAY SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT



VBS Day School Rabbi Schulweis Hineni Action Day

In January, the entire school participated in hands-on activities in the community or at school to make our world a better place. The day starts off with a spirited school-wide tefillah where students learned all about Rabbi Schulweis with the charge to carry on his legacy. On this day, each grade learns in a different way how to help others because we are one humanity. Kindergarten reads books with their pre-school friends. First grade feeds rescued animals at The Gentle Barn. Second grade meet with a blind women and her support dog to learn more about respecting individual differences. Third grade walks the trails at Tree People with a guide to study the environment. Fourth grade helps out at a local food bank. Fifth grade cares for the elderly at the Jewish Home, and sixth grade learns all about the Jewish World Watch. Rabbi Schulweis' (z"l- may his memory be for a blessing) idea was that God is a verb and when we help others we are partners with God to make a just and caring world. All the students said together the word, "Hineni" meaning I am here, ready to make a difference. Rabbi Schulweis, was a man of action and we honor his memory by teaching our students that they too can act like him. This is our third year honoring the memory of Rabbi Schulweis through a special day of service, focused on giving back through taking action in our community.



Catch every fun-filled minute we can capture at the ECC on Instagram. Follow us at [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.



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.



LET US HEAR FROM YOU!

Please contribute to the ECC Newsletter!

Email your thoughts, suggestions, interesting links and adorable pictures cberger@vbs.org We value all contributions.

To live a creative life, we must lose our fear of being wrong.
- Joseph Chilton Pearce