

# VBS ECC NEWSLETTER

## MARCH 2017



### A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR ABBY MARS



This past week I came home to find my almost thirteen year-old son in a puddle on the floor. Between tears and sobs I was able to make out that he had left test notes in his locker at school; notes he needed for a history exam the following day. I gave him kisses and rubbed his back as I listened to all the reasons he might now "fail the test." Here's how I felt at that moment: Heartbroken.

You've heard the old adage, "you are only as happy as your most unhappy child." The invisible string that connects a child and a parent was tugging at my own heart so strongly that I thought it might break in two. My overwhelming love for this weeping boy sent me into an emotional (and irrational!) state. In my head

I was working out every conceivable way to locate the notes - scaling the wall of the now closed school, recopying notes by hand, performing a Jedi mind trick... But these were all ridiculous, not to mention impossible, and in the end not a constructive learning experience for my son.

I don't have to tell you. YOU know how difficult this parenting job is. It takes a constant balance of guiding,

### MARCH DATES TO REMEMBER

- 3/2 Camp Shelanu Online Registration Begins
- 3/3 ECC Community Shabbat Service and Pot Luck Dinner 5:30pm Sprouts Hosting
- 3/11 Tot Shabbat 10:30am
- 3/12 VBS Purim Carnival
- 3/16 Family Conferences 1pm dismissal
- 3/17 Family Conferences ECC Closed
- 3/21 Parent Assn. Meeting 9:15am
- 3/25 Tot Shabbat 10:30am
- 3/25 ECC EPIC
- 3/31 ECC Community Shabbat Service and Pot Luck Dinner

helping, fixing, loving, supporting, protecting and sometimes *letting go*. In preparing our children for the next step forward, it may mean letting them endure an enrichment class they don't love, inviting a classmate to a birthday party even if they don't want to, or staying up late to study for a history test without notes only to get a B-. These are the lessons we gift our children because this is what makes them stronger. And, perhaps it makes us stronger too.

For more inspiration (and a wonderful read!) check out Wendy Mogel's "Blessings of a Skinned Knee" at [www.wendymogel.com](http://www.wendymogel.com).

With love and blessings,  
Abby

**ECC 2017-18 PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION IS NOW DUE! PLEASE DON'T DELAY. WE HAVE A WAIT LIST THIS YEAR!**

When you really pay attention, everything is your teacher.

- Ezra Bayda

## ECC 2017-18 ECC PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION

2016-17 ECC registration packets are now due. If you did not get your packet in the mail, please stop by Claire's office for a duplicate. **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 as soon as possible. *You will not be guaranteed a spot next fall without these completed forms.*

## GOT CAMP? REGISTER ONLINE FOR 2017 CAMP SHELANU

Online registration begins March 2nd! Here's the link:

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



The poster features a large yellow sun with a face, wearing sunglasses. The sunglasses lenses contain the text "SAVE THE DATE" and "CAMP VBS ENGINO, CALIFORNIA 100% GENUINE GOOD TIMES". Logos for Valley Beth Shalom, Valley Beth Shalom Early Childhood Center, Harold M. Schillweg Day School, and The Children's Center are at the top. The text on the right lists: "CAMP SHELANU 2.5-5 YEARS JUNE 20-AUG. 4", "MINI CAMP SHELANU 2.5-5 YEARS AUG. 7-AUG. 25 limited space available", "CAMP KEF GRADES K-7 JUNE 19-AUG. 4", and "PRE-SEASON SPORTS CAMP GRADES K-6 AUG. 14-25". At the bottom, it says "SUMMER CAMP 2017" and "ONLINE REGISTRATION BEGINS MARCH 2ND!". Small photos of children are included in circular frames.



Nature does not hurry, yet everything is accomplished.

- Lao Tzu

## PARENT ASSOCIATION NEWS

ECC sports fans, have you started prepping for your NCAA brackets with the PA dads?

ECC parents, have you booked your babysitter and bought your tickets for EPIC on March 25, 2017?

Spend Shabbat with your friends at the ECC Community Shabbat Dinner - Everyone Welcome, Sprouts Highlighted - March 3 & Seedlings March 31

We encourage every family to be involved with the ECC PA. Bring your creative ideas and energy as we plan to have lots of fun together this year! All are always welcome and encouraged to attend PA meetings.

Our next PA Meeting is Tuesday 3/21, 2017 at 9:15 am in Glaser.

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](mailto:VBSECCPA@gmail.com).

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

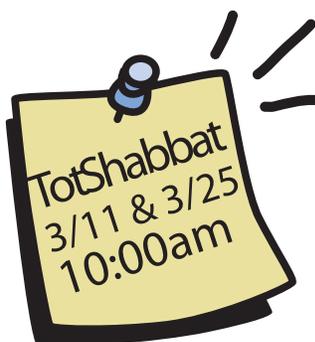
Dress the part! Get your ECC T-Shirts and Sweatshirts at <https://squareup.com/store/vbs-ecc-parent-org>.

## ECC COMMUNITY POT LUCK SHABBATS

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. ECC families gather together, sharing favorite family dishes (dairy please). We'll also have pizza 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, March 3rd @ 5:30PM. Sprouts classes (111-113) will be hosting and n FRIDAY, March 31st @ 5:30PM. FRIDAY, 3rd @ 5:30PM Seedlings classes (114-115) will be hosting and everyone is invited!**

Next Parent  
Association  
meeting is  
Tuesday,  
3/21 @  
9:15am

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



We make a living by what we get but we make a life by what we give.  
-- Winston Churchill



## DON'T MISS A MINUTE OF VBS PURIM FUN!

### SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 2017

5:00PM - Full Purim Service and Traditional Megillah Reading  
 5:30PM - Early Childhood Service for Toddler, ECC and Kindergarten-aged children  
 7:00PM - Purim Celebration and Megillah Reading in Niznick Sanctuary  
 The Megillah comes to life in a magical SUPERHERO way! All ages welcome

### SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 2017

8:30AM - Minyan Megillah Reading in Winer Chapel  
 10:00AM - 2:00PM - Purim Carnival rain or shine! Games, Prizes, Rides, Attractions, and Food Trucks  
 Carnival pre-sale tickets and wristbands now on sale @ vbs.org/purim.  
 11:00 ECC Costume Parade- Join the fun!



## LINKS WE LOVE: ELEVEN YEAR OLD'S EMOTIONAL ADVICE



"Out of the mouths of babes" takes on a whole new meaning in NYC. Everyone needs a little unbiased advice every now and then. In New York City, commuters happily pay \$2 for a five minute sit down with a wise enterprising 11 year old who thoughtfully listens and gives 'emotional' advice to commuters on a subway platform.

Learn more here:

<http://www.upworthy.com/subway-riders-in-new-york-are-paying-2-for-5-minutes-of-advice-from-an-11-year-old>

Being considerate of others will take your children further in life than any college degree.

--Marian Wright Edelman

## KIDTALK



We overheard some adorable chat this month at the ECC:

"Look! I wrote Aba's name!" said Judah to Robin in Early Morning Kid's Club.  
"What's his name?" asked Robin.  
"Aba," said Judah.  
"What does Mommy call him?" Robin asked  
"Babe!" said Judah



Sydney came into Claire's office to share big news.  
"My teacher Annette lost her voice!"  
Claire asked "Where did she lose it?"  
Sydney thought for a moment and replied "I don't know but she stayed home today to try and find it."  
The next day Sydney ran into Claire's office with more big news.  
"Annette is back and she said she found her voice under her pillow!"

## ECLC NEWS

The flyer features the Valley Beth Shalom Etz Chaim Learning Center logo at the top, flanked by two balloons. Below the logo, it says "PLEASE JOIN US FOR A 'Taste of the ECLC'". A central box contains the event details: "Sunday, March 26, 2017, 9:30AM - 11:45AM, Rooms 117-118". Below this, it says "We look forward to learning with you!" and provides contact information for Keri Loventhal. The flyer is decorated with colorful confetti and several photos of children and staff members.

Valley Beth Shalom  
**ETZ CHAIM**  
LEARNING CENTER

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A  
**"Taste of the ECLC"**

Sunday,  
March 26, 2017  
9:30AM - 11:45AM  
Rooms 117-118

We look forward to  
learning with you!

RSVP to Keri Loventhal at 818-550-4046  
or email [klventhal@vbs.org](mailto:klventhal@vbs.org)

Come get a taste of the Valley Beth Shalom Etz Chaim Learning Center. Watch your children experience a sample kindergarten lesson and come meet the, much loved, ECLC kindergarten teachers, Ilana Libesman and Sigi Gradwohl. All parents will also have the chance to meet with the Etz Chaim Learning Center director, Keri Loventhal.

## COMMUNITY HELPERS!

**Thank you** to our wonderful Community Helpers Committee for this memorable day.



The most difficult times for many of us are the ones we give ourselves.

- Pema Chödrön

# VBS DAY SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT



## VBS Day School's 21st Century Learning All School Family Night

21st Century Learning is about design thinking projects that takes innovation to a whole new level. Using 21st Century learning, each grade used their Tikkun Olam topic as a focus for their design thinking projects. Students identified a need or challenge associated with their mitzvah, empathized with those affected by their circumstances, and worked to design a project to better the lives of all people. For instance, our second grade students design thinking project was to design a board game for the visually impaired or blind children to learn their basic math facts in an exciting and engaging way. The second grade even had a guest visit from a visually impaired woman named Melissa, who had a lot of fun playing their inventive game. 21st Century Learning All School Family Night demonstrated all of the student's innovation, critical thinking, problem solving, creativity and collaboration. Families were also able to visit the new Boudai Family Innovation Lab where the design thinking magic takes place each day. Our students know, as was taught by our beloved Rabbi Schulweis that they can and do make a difference in the world.



**ONE LITTLE PERSON MAKES A 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.



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.



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 to: [cberger@vbs.org](mailto:cberger@vbs.org)  
We value all contributions.

Creativity is intelligence having fun.

- Albert Einstein