

# VBS ECC NEWSLETTER

MAY 2017



## SPRING THOUGHTS FROM ECC DIRECTOR ABBY MARS

Spring has sprung. You may have noticed this by the flowers blooming in your garden, pollen in the air that makes your nose twitch, or the milestone - big or small - that your child has reached. In our tradition we are encouraged to sanctify our lives by recognizing these milestones even when they are mundane: a lost tooth, big kid underwear, sleeping through the night, extraordinary care for a friend... When these moments occur for the first time we are commanded to stop and "hold the moment," by reciting the shehecheyanu prayer:

***Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech haolam, shehecheyanu, v'kiy'manu, v'higianu laz'man hazeh. Our praise to You, Eternal our God, Sovereign of all: for giving us life, sustaining us, and enabling us to reach this season.***

Rituals, like reciting the shehecheyanu, are critical in an early childhood setting, both at home and at school. What seems repetitive or routine is actually the internalizing of an action, so that over time it becomes a meaningful ritual. This is the way we create meaning in our own lives and the lives of our children. This is what it means to build a home and a community rooted in Jewish values and why (I hope!) you have selected a Jewish pre-school.

So here is a homework assignment... find a shehecheyanu moment with your family over the next week. Acknowledge it, hold it, and celebrate the many blessings that we are certain to find this spring if we look for them.

With love,  
Abby

## A HANDS-ON DEAD SEA EXPERIENCE

### MAY DATES TO REMEMBER

- 5/5 VBS All School Rock Shabbat 5:30PM
- 5/13 Tot Shabbat 10AM
- 5/14 HUG your Moms!
- 5/16 New Family Breakfast 9:30AM
- 5/23 PA Meeting 9:15AM
- 5/26 All School Challah Making 9AM
- 5/27 Tot Shabbat 10AM
- 5/29 Memorial Day - ECC Closed
- 5/31 Shavout - ECC CLOSED



Room 111 had fun with Dead Sea mud!

Whatever inspiration is, it's born from a continuous 'I don't know.'

- W Szyborska

## CAMP SHELANU- CHECK OUT OUR SUMMER CALENDAR!

Summers are filled with laughter, sunny days and Camp Shelanu memories. Camp registration is now available in ONLINE at [vbs.org/ecc](http://vbs.org/ecc). Enrollment is limited so don't delay. Enjoy the peace of mind knowing that your children will be campers in the best preschool summer program with ECC preschool teachers you already know and love. Your children will feel safe and comfortable in our familiar environment. Everyone is welcome! Register TODAY!



## A WEEK OF APPRECIATION

ECC kicked off the week of staff appreciation with this lovely display honoring our VBS Security team created by the Beiderman family.



Don't just teach kids how to count. Teach them what counts most.

--Karen Salmansohn

# VBS ALL SCHOOL FAMILY ROCK SHABBAT-5/5

**VBS ALL SCHOOL**  
**FAMILY ROCK SHABBAT**  
Friday, May 5, 2017

**VBS Kids Celebrate a Year of Learning & Community**  
5:30pm: Shabbat Barbecue Dinner and Activities  
6:30pm: Family Rock Shabbat Service



RSVP and Pay online at: [www.vbs.org/allschoolshabbat](http://www.vbs.org/allschoolshabbat)  
For More Information contact: VBS office at 818-788-6000  
VBS ECC office at 818-788-0567 • Day School office at 818-788-2199  
VBS Etz Chaim Learning Center at 818-788-3584



**All School Family Rock Shabbat**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Reservations: # Adults \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$13.50 per person = \_\_\_\_\_  
#children ages 3-12 \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$8.00 per person = \_\_\_\_\_  
Total Cost = \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to Valley Beth Shalom and turn in by Tuesday, May 2, 2017  
to the VBS ECC, Day School or ECLC office

The Annual All-School Family Shabbat is a great opportunity for families of ALL VBS SCHOOLS to come together for a joyous, rockin', family-friendly Shabbat. Sample delicious food catered by Starlite, run and play on the Day School yard, and enjoy a special musical Shabbat service that features something for every generation in your family. Adult tickets are \$13.50 per person and children (3-12) are just \$8.00 per child. Order your tickets online:

[www.vbs.org/allschoolshabbat](http://www.vbs.org/allschoolshabbat)

- **Tot Shabbat** family services are filled with joyful singing, story
- telling and family friendly prayers. Join fellow ECC families
- **MAY 13th & 27th @ 10:00am in Burdoff Hall.**

The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows.

-Sydney J. Harris



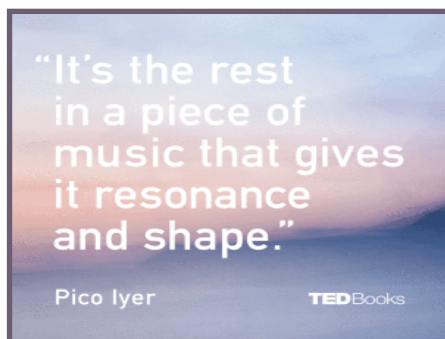
## PRE-K AND TK FAMILIES: SAVE THE DATE FOR STEP-UP



We celebrate the passage of preschool to kindergarten with Step-Up, a joyful, touching ceremony that honors our preschoolers through songs and reflection on **June 15th at 10am**. Every Pre-K and TK family is encouraged to attend, along with friends and extended family. Each Pre-K and TK family gets two reserved seats and any other guests are welcome to open seating. All guests are invited to a beautiful reception hosted by your PA Step-Up committee immediately following the ceremony. Check your mailbox for an invitation coming your way.

## LINKS WE LOVE: 15 WAYS TO SAY THANK YOU & INSPIRING REASONS TO DO NOTHING

**THANK YOU** are two of the most powerful words in the English language. When your children see you expressing gratitude you are setting a lifelong impression of gratitude in your children. This link gives you some simple, thoughtful suggestions of ways to express thanks: <https://www.happier.com/blog/15-ways-to-say-thank-you-and-make-someones-day>



Author and Ted Talker Pico Iyer gives some compelling reasons why everyone, regardless of religious beliefs, should create a 'Shabbat.' He illustrates how the most successful companies inspire the best in their employees by promoting the idea that doing 'nothing' is actually quite productive and restorative. This link gives you more information on his study: <http://www.dailygood.org/story/1580/why-we-need-to-slow-down-our-lives-pico-iyer/>

If the only prayer you said was thank you, that would be enough.

- Meister Eckhart

## PASSOVER AT THE ECC

Passover lessons, songs and celebrations popped up everywhere throughout the ECC. Preschoolers made matzoh from scratch in their very own Matzoh Factory, learned all about the pyramids and the horrible treatment of the Jews as slaves in Egypt ("No, No No I will not let them go!"). They imagined a life in the desert through the animals who live there with an up close and personal visit from a camel!

Thanks to all the parents who participated in the classroom seders! Please let us know if your children joyfully participated in your own family's seder. We are guessing they played a very important role in your Passover festivities.



## PARENT ASSOCIATION NEWS

Congratulations and thank you to all our fantastic families who supported our EPIC 80s event in March. Our community raised \$31,000!! Much of this money goes toward experiential learning for our children with an emphasis on our new Discovery Yard. Thank you to Emily Feit, Jamie Weissman, Nikki Eigler, and the entire EPIC committee for planning this totally awesome event!

After Passover Break, we hit the ground running with a successful Parent Education night with Pattie Fitzgerald from Safely Ever After. Upcoming events include Dodger Night with the ECC dads and painting fun at Pinot's Palette.

We encourage every family to be involved with the ECC PA. Bring your ideas and energy as we plan for next year! There is something fun for everyone. If you would like to be a part of or find out more about our leadership team, our event chairs, our room parents, or committees, please contact us at [VBSECCPA@gmail.com](mailto:VBSECCPA@gmail.com). All are always welcome and encouraged to attend PA meetings. Our next PA Meeting is May 23, 2017 at 9:15 am in Glaser. **And our final meeting and thank you breakfast is on June 6, 2017 at 9:15am.**

The next PA  
meeting is  
Tuesday, May  
23rd at 9:15AM

The strongest people are not those who show strength in front of us but those who win battles we know nothing about.

-Unknown

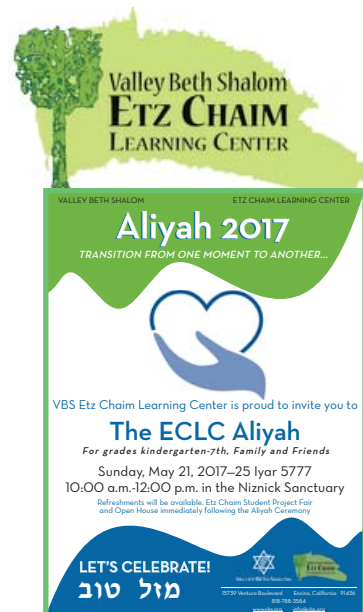


# HAPPY BIRTHDAY ISRAEL

Yom Ha'atzmaut was a magical day of flight, food, flags and Israeli fun!



## DAY SCHOOL NEWS



### 6th Grade Partnership Delegation Visits Israel

6th grade Day School students and two staff members recently embarked on a twelve day journey to Israel as part of the Los Angeles-Tel Aviv Partnership program of the Jewish Federation. The students are paired with host students and their families as part of the partnership with the HaMishtalah Elementary School in north Tel Aviv. They experience life as an Israeli by attending school with their partners to celebrating Shabbat to touring some of Israel's most notable sites. The delegation's experience is enriched by unique opportunities including floating in the Dead Sea, visiting Masada, Independence Hall and a kibbutz, touring a Bedouin Tent, and riding on a camel. This trip of a lifetime is highlighted by the lasting friendships made with the Israeli students which began last fall when the Israel delegation visited Los Angeles. Stay up to date on the Day School Israel Partnership by visiting the blog at <http://vbsdstwinning.blogspot.com/>.

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/>

Someone is sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago.

- Warren Buffett