

VBS ECC NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY, 2015



A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTORS-

The holidays are behind us. The gifts are put away. Life has returned to normal. Or has it?

Many parents resolve to live a simpler life with their family. Less technology and more human connection is a good start! We are always searching for more suggestions to share with families and thought we'd share some inspiring wisdom from a wonderful article we found online called **Ten Ways to Live Simply in 2015**.

Identify what's most important to you and your family and make those values your highest priorities. Don't worry if it's not the same as your neighbor, friend, or classmates.

Consider the needs of others. Cooperation and fairness make life better for everyone.

Respect and connection with nature is a sure-fire way to bring us back to what is most important. Children have a strong, natural sense of this. Follow their lead. When life is very busy and full, stop and notice the natural world around you and revel in the awe of it.

Strive to find a balance in your families life that best reflects your values. This may be the greatest teaching and legacy you can give your children.

When our words, actions, schedules, and life-choices are aligned with our values, simplicity shows up effortlessly in our lives.

For more inspiration, Google [Ten Ways to Live Simply in 2015](#)

FEBRUARY DATES TO REMEMBER

2/5	"Permission to Parent" with guest speaker Dr. Robin Berman 7pm
2/6	ECC Community Shabbat service and Pot Luck Dinner 5:30pm- SPROUTS will be featured
2/12	SNOW DAY (rescheduled)
2/13	Staff In-Service- ECC CLOSED
2/14	Tot Shabbat 10:30am
2/16	President's Day- ECC CLOSED
2/19	Community Helpers Day (children only)
2/22	Family Fun Day @ Kidz Korner
2/17	Parent Assn. Meeting 7:30pm
2/28	Tot Shabbat 10:30am



ECC SCHOOL TOURS

TAKE AN ECC PRESCHOOL TOUR!
Call Marilyn @ 788-0567
to book your tour.
Applications are now being
accepted for the 2015-16
school year.

SNOW DAY IS NOW FEBRUARY 12TH



Because January was rainy, Snow Day was rescheduled to FEBRUARY 12TH. We'll bring a mini mountain of snow to the ECC for winter fun and you are invited! Join your children for this fun-filled day, full of snowy crafts, frozen snacks and a snowy sledding.

Volunteers are needed. Please sign up for a time when your child is not scheduled to play in the snow. Here's the sign-up link: www.slotted.co/snowday

SNOW DAY SCHEDULE:

9-9:30 ROOMS 109,110
9:35-10:15 ROOMS 111,112,113
10:20-11:00 ROOMS 102, 103
11:05-11:45 ROOMS 106,107,108
11:45-12:25 ROOMS 104,105
12:25-1:00 ROOMS 114,115

ECC 2015-16 REGISTRATION

2015-16 ECC registration packets are on the way. If you did not get your packet by the end of February, 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.***

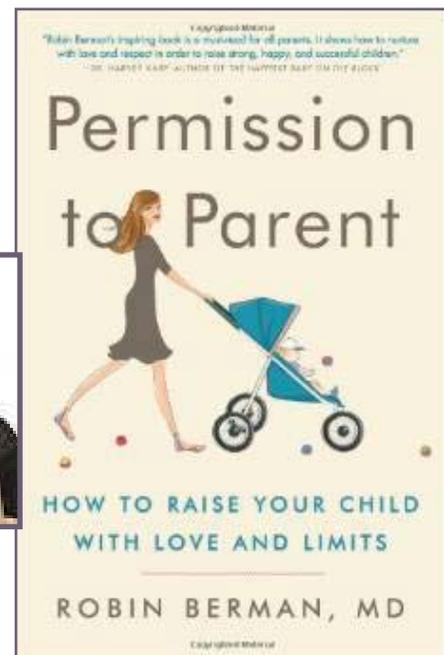
2/5 ALL SCHOOL EVENT EVENT "PERMISSION TO PARENT"

The ECC is excited to welcome noted parenting expert, television personality and best-selling author Dr. Robin Berman for an inspiring discussion about her book "Permission to Parent." Join us Thursday, February 5th at 7pm. for this informative and entertaining evening. Tickets are \$18 in advance and \$25 at the door. BUY YOUR TICKETS ONLINE AT www.vbs.org/robinberman Dr. Berman will be available to sell and sign books at the end of the evening.

Book your sitter now!

"I have remarked many times that there is no parenting manual that comes with your child when they are born, but I believe Robin Berman, MD, has written the first one that should be present in every delivery room. A how-to with real heart, Permission to Parent is a must-read guide that encourages conscious, loving parenting with boundaries. Hallelujah!"

— Reese Witherspoon, Academy Award-Winning Actress



Intelligence is the ability to adapt to change.
- Stephen Hawking

PARENT ASSOCIATION NEWS

February is an exciting and busy month for the parent association at the ECC. With Snow Day on February 12, Community Helper Day on February 19 and Family Fun Day on February 22, there will be plenty of activities and fundraisers to go around! Snow Day always brings lots of fun with sledding, sipping hot chocolate and creating snowman art on the big yard. Parents can still volunteer at <https://www.slotted.co/snowday>.

Community Helper Day promises trucks, trucks and more trucks for our kids to climb and explore while learning about the important ways our community helpers complete their jobs each week. While this is a kid only activity, look forward to lots of cute pics from your teachers and online!

Don't forget to join us for our next community Shabbat on February 6th featuring Sprouts this month! Sign up online for your potluck contribution <https://www.slotted.co/eccshabbatfeb6>. Finishing up the month will be a fun (and free!) family fun day at Kidz Korner in Encino. Look for emails on timing specifics.

On the fundraising front, we aren't slowing down! We raised almost \$1000 for the parent association from the book fair! Thanks to everyone who volunteered and bought books!! Look for emails with important information about a fundraiser coming up at Color Me Mine on February 5th (1pm-5pm) and February 13th (10am-4pm). And.... stay tuned for a fun fundraiser for moms (and dads if they choose!) to see Fifty Shades of Grey!

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 for the children. Please sign-up: www.slotted.co/eccshabbatjan9 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 6TH@ 5:30PM. Sprouts classes will be featured and everyone is invited!**

Shabbat recipes to share? Please email them Manya Monson, ECC Community Shabbat Chairperson: manyamonson@gmail.com. She's putting an ECC cookbook together!



Tot Shabbat family services are filled with joyful singing, story telling and family friendly prayers. Join fellow ECC families February 14th and 28th @10:00am in Burdoff Hall.

Next Parent Association meeting is Tuesday, 2/17@ 7:30pm

ECC SCHOOL TOURS

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You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.

- Jane Goodall

KIDTALK



When Room 102 teacher Debbie was attempting to juggle too much she asked her children for help, proclaiming "I only have two hands." "That's right," said Jaden. "You are not an octopus!"



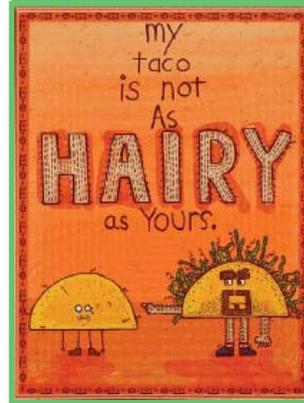
Room 107's Yasmin was very excited to show off her new manicure. "Your hands look beautiful," said her teachers. "Thank you. And look, they did my paws too" Yasmin said kicking her feet in the air.

WE LOVE THIS CREATIVE DAD!



What happens when you mix an adorable, articulate toddler with a graphic designer dad? Martin Bruckner's illustrations of her preschool pithiness are bound to make you smile.

Here's the link: <http://twistedifter.com/2015/01/dad-illustrates-funny-things-his-daughter-says/>



VBS PURIM CARNIVAL 3/6



Dress up in your favorite costumes and come to the VBS Purim celebration all day on March 6th. Carnival rides, games, face-painting, yummy food and more for everyone in your family. Watch for more details in upcoming E-Blasts.

ECC "FUN"RAISER



LINKS WE LOVE: TOP 10 ACTS OF KINDNESS



Looking for inspiring ways to teach your children about kindness? The stories featured in this link are small, random acts of kindness with far-reaching results. Perhaps they may inspire a family project:

<http://www.dailygood.org/story/948/top-10-kindness-stories-of-2014-kindspring/>

It is not how much we have, but how much we enjoy, that makes happiness.

- Charles Spurgeon

SAVE THE DATE - THE ECC WILD WEST EPIC - 4/18

Yee Haw! Saddle Up to the Wild Wild VBS 2015 ECC EPIC Fundraiser on Saturday, April 18th, at 7:30pm in Malkin Burdoff Hall. This year's theme is the Wild West - we will have a casino, dinner, dancing, live & silent auction, a whiskey tasting and more. Certain auction items available include a Twin Race Car Bed from Kids Cottage (Sherman Oaks), an Equinox Fitness Membership, and a Getaway for 2 to the Bacara Resort in Santa Barbara! All funds raised go to the ECC.

To purchase your "early bird" tickets today, visit: www.vbs.org/epic2015ecc. Ticket prices will go up on 4/1!

Volunteers will be needed for set up on 4/17 and 4/18. To find out how you can help and for more info, please contact EPIC Co-Chairs Emily Feit or Jamie Weissman at the addresses below. *Slotted. com sign ups will be available in the coming weeks.

Emily Feit: emilyb425@gmail.com

Jamie Weissman: luckystarre@hotmail.com



ECLC NEWS

Educating a child is similar to cultivating a tree. In both cases, the objective is to provide them with their needs in order to coax out the potential that they have. The torah teaches us that a child needs the very same things a tree does in order to grow. (Deuteronomy 20:19) Both need earth, water, sun, air. The holiday of Tu B'shevat allows us to enjoy the blessings in our children and in nature. Etz Chaim families celebrated Tu B'shevat as a community with a Seder and Teva learning activities. During the Seder families tasted fruits and learned how these fruits symbolize our own behavior. The Teva activities encouraged families to find ways to be more environmentally friendly and aware of how we impact and protect nature. Judaism teaches us that we must continue to nurture our children in learning so that they strive to reach their fullest potential.

For more information about the ECLC or to schedule a tour contact the Etz Chaim Learning Center's Administrative office (818) 788-3584 or email etzchaim@vbs.org



Come visit our new ECC Gardens!

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 Innovation S.T.E.A.M. Lab

The Day School Innovation S.T.E.A.M. Lab (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) is the next step in promoting 21st Century learning in a dynamic environment. Launched in fall 2014 this is a project based lab where students can invent, create and collaborate with the latest technology and resources. From architecture projects, a green screen newscast to be projected in each classroom delivering the morning message on the Smart-Boards to a robust robotics program, the innovation lab challenges students to think outside the box and put their unique ideas into action. The lab will soon host 3D printers and hands-on art materials and costumes to enhance the diverse projects supporting student innovation.

Visit the Day School STEAM lab by scheduling a private tour with the Day School Director of Admissions, Cindy Goodman. She can be reached at (818)530-4072 or cgoodman@vbsds.org



ONE LITTLE PERSON MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE!
Get your family involved in social action.
Contact VBS Social Action Chair Brooke Wirtschafter (bwirtschafter@vbs.org) for family-friendly opportunities to make a positive difference in the world.



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.



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 We value all contributions.

Kindness, I've discovered, is everything in life.

- Isaac Singer