

# VBS ECC NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER, 2014



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTORS

Welcome Back! We hope you have had a wonderful summer. We are so happy to welcome you to another incredible year at Valley Beth Shalom ECC. We cannot wait to greet you and your children on Sunday, Sept. 7. Our teachers are ready, our classrooms are waiting, and our play yards are lonely for the voices and energy of your enthusiastic children!

We have had a very full and busy summer here at VBS. We enjoyed 7 weeks of an outstanding summer camp program, and since then have been planning and preparing for a great year ahead! A number of our staff attended a national Jewish educator's conference, where we learned and presented about the current and upcoming trends in Early Childhood Education. Our very own teachers and directors were highly acclaimed, as they presented and shared information about the programs that make VBS ECC so special, such as our Outdoor Classroom. Participants attending the VBS presentations were in awe of our school's accomplishments and offerings, and wanted to learn much more from us.

This year we plan to continue growing and expanding our programs in all the ways that matter most to children. But what will never change, and what is most important about our school, is the love and warmth that each of our teachers and staff members have for the children that walk through our doors every morning! We are lucky to be a part of your family, and glad to have you as part of ours.



*Merav Samara  
& Brenda Harari  
presenting at Na-  
tional Conference*

## ECC SEPTEMBER DATES TO REMEMBER

- 9/7 Meet & Greet 9:30am
- 9/8 First Day of School
- 9/13 Tot Shabbat 10AM
- 9/17 PA Meeting 9:15am
- 9/24 Erev Rosh Hashanah  
1PM dismissal
- 9/25 Rosh Hashanah- ECC CLOSED
- 9/26 Rosh Hashanah- ECC CLOSED
- 9/27 Tot Shabbat 10:00am
- 9/29 5 Star Enrichment Begins

## NEW ECC LOGO!

We are re-branding! Here's our beautiful new logo incorporating our new slogan : **Every Child Counts**. (Thanks again to ECC dads Lorin Green and Gregg Harris).



## PARENT ASSOCIATION NEWS

Welcome back from the ECC Parent Association!

We look forward to greeting everyone at our first meeting WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH, 9:15 am, right after drop-off in Lopaty.

You received a PA Volunteer form in your class placement packets. We hope you will sign up for at least one committee that showcases your strengths and works with your schedule. We will have several evening meetings throughout the year to accommodate everyone's needs.

**Our goal is 100% participation.** You can sign up for committees online at : <http://slotted.co/lrmvdh1p>

Any questions about our committees? Please attend the PA meeting or ask any of our returning parents. You can always contact either of us. Our emails are listed below. We are looking forward to a fantastic year filled with activities, education and inspiration.. Thank you for joining us!

Melissa Darwish: [melissadarwish@gmail.com](mailto:melissadarwish@gmail.com)

Melanie Cohen: [melaniesuzanne@hotmail.com](mailto:melaniesuzanne@hotmail.com)



## ALL NEW ENRICHMENT CLASSES ARE COMING!

5 Star Enrichment will create all new enrichment classes for the 2014-15 ECC school year ,Science, sports, dance, art and much more will be available as after school activities. Classes begin September 29th . Online registration will be available soon. For more information, visit [www.5starenrichment.net](http://www.5starenrichment.net)



## THE 3Ps - POLITE\*PARKING\*PROCEDURES

Parking at the beginning of the year can be confusing and strenuous, but it does get easier! Please leave yourself plenty of time to calmly park, following all synagogue rules and regulations at all times. Your Parent Handbook includes all the essential info regarding parking rules at VBS. We want to stress how important your role is in creating a polite parking experience. ***It is critical that parents are respectful to parking staff and security guards at all times.*** They are here to help us all and to keep us and our children safe. Remember, your children are watching you and modelling your behavior. Thank you very much for your cooperation!

**ONE LITTLE PERSON MAKES A BIG 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.

Isn't it nice to think that tomorrow is a new day with no mistakes in it yet?

- L.M. Montgomery

## BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT - TUESDAY OCTOBER 1st - 6:30pm



Meet your ECC teachers and learn about daily schedules and goals for the year. Make friends other parents and hear from your directors and rabbis.

Please plan to attend without your children.

*This evening is just for you!*

## MAGNUS ONLINE HEALTH PORTAL UPDATE

GREAT NEWS! In response to your request for online access to your child's health and medical information we have contracted with a reputable online student health management service that will securely collect, manage, and store health information online. This process will insure the greatest care and safety for your child. You will have secure, easy access and be able to make changes to your child's health records at any time. Moreover, this health information system will follow your child throughout their educational journey at VBS - there will be no need to redo health and emergency forms every year! The Magnus Health Student Medical Record (SMR) offers an easy-to-use website where you will submit all the necessary health information regarding your child.

### ***How Does It Work?***

You should have already received an email from Magnus providing your username and password to access your child's Magnus Health account. With this information, you will be able to complete the necessary online health forms. All health and medical information will be submitted online, directly to Magnus. You do not submit any health information to the school office. If you have not heard from Magnus, please contact them immediately by phone : 877-461-6831 or via email: [service@magnushealthportal.com](mailto:service@magnushealthportal.com)

### ***How do I get help?***

Magnus is available to answer any questions about your child's health forms on the Magnus web site. Email: [service@magnushealthportal.com](mailto:service@magnushealthportal.com). Parents will receive email reminders from Magnus if children's records are incomplete. Once you submit the information requested, the reminders will stop.

***California State licensing prohibits your child from starting school unless all forms are submitted to Magnus before the first day of school on September 8th.***



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

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

## SEPARATION SUGGESTIONS FROM SUSAN STONE, MFT



As summer winds down, and back to school signs are everywhere, it's time to prepare your child (and yourself) for the different routine that school brings. Here are some tips to help make that transition as smooth as possible:

- \* Begin to talk about school. Give your kids as much info as you have- who their teachers will be, what room they will be in and what their day will include.
- \* Remind them of all the fun things they do at school and the friends they'll see in the fall.
- \* A few weeks before school starts, begin to institute a "school day" bedtime so there is no drastic change when school begins. Also, make sure you start waking them up when they'll need to be up for school.



**Be sure to attend the ECC Director's Chat Tuesday, Sept 16th featuring Susan Stone's "Solving the Separation Dilemma" at 9:30am.**

Want more info about Susan Stone?

Susan's Blog: <http://practicalparenting.com>

web site: [www.susancstonemft.com](http://www.susancstonemft.com) email: [scmft@aol.com](mailto:scmft@aol.com)

office phone: 310-276-7329



Catch every fun-filled minute we can capture at the ECC on Instagram. Follow us at <http://instagram.com/vbsecc>

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.



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,

I long, as does every human being, to be at home wherever I find myself.

- Maya Angelou

## CAMP SHELANU ROUND-UP

Camp Shelanu was a huge splash- literally! Campers had a ball sliding down water slides, playing in the pools and enjoying every minute of fun at Camp Shelanu this past summer. Our teachers and CITs did a fantastic job of creating the ideal summer camp atmosphere for preschool campers that included cooking, outdoor play, arts and crafts, encounters with animals and even a trip 'around the world.' HUGE Thanks to Jenny and Aileen, our hard-working camp directors.



## LINKS WE LOVE: Millennial Parents

We found a hilarious series on YouTube called Millennial Parents that lampoons the day to day questions and challenges parents of young children intimately understand. Each episode is packed with irreverent laughs and there's a new episode posted every Tuesday. Enjoy!

<http://www.millennialparents.com/>

No matter what people tell you, words and ideas can change the world.  
-Robin Williams

## ECC DIRECTOR'S CHATS

Here's your chance to get up-close personal time with with ECC preschool directors Michele, Rita and Brenda. Throughout the school year, join them for the Director's Chat where they will be hosting an hour focussing on a topic close to your heart as preschool parents. They'll be available to answer any question or concern you may have. Join with other ECC parents for these casual conversations designed to bolster confidence and create stronger community consciousness. We are here to help! Our first Director's Chat will be September 16th @ 9:15 am and will feature special guest marriage and family therapist Susan Stone discussing separation. All Director's chat dates are listed on your ECC calendar.



## VBS AUTO DECALS

Beginning this fall, VBS will be issuing auto decals to all VBS members, family caregivers and staff. Please complete the VBS Auto Decal Request form included in your Fall Parent Packet and return to VBS as soon as possible. This is yet another way VBS is taking temple security seriously.



## Shanah Tovah

A happy, healthy new year to you and your family from everyone at VBS ECC



## 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](mailto:cberger@vbs.org) We value all your contributions.

**EDULOOPS QUESTIONS?**  
Contact Claire Berger,  
[cberger@vbs.org](mailto:cberger@vbs.org) for assistance.

There are no strangers here; Only friends you haven't yet met.

- William Butler Yeats