

VBS ECC NEWSLETTER

APRIL, 2016



The Entire ECC Community will gather to honor our ECC Director Michele Warner for her 36 glorious years at the ECC at the VBS Gold Gala on May 15th. It's going to be a great party with delicious food, fantastic auction items and a party to remember. Don't miss the fun! RSVP here: www.vbs.org/goldgala



APRIL DATES TO REMEMBER

- 4/1 ECC Community Shabbat Service and Pot Luck Dinner 5:30pm SEEDLINGS featured
- 4/9 Tot Shabbat
- 4/12 PA Meeting 9:15am
- 4/13 Model Passover Seders (Rooms 111-115)
- 4/14 Model Passover Seders (Rooms 102-108) 1 hour before dismissal
- 4/15 Last Day - Camp Shelanu Early Bird Pricing
- 4/18-29 Spring Break- ECC Closed
- 4/23 Tot Shabbat 10:30am

CAMP SHELANU- Early Bird Pricing Ends 4/15

REGISTER TODAY IN THE ECC MAIN OFFICE!

Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see.
--Mark Twain

MEET YOUR NEW ECC DIRECTOR - ABBY MARS



The ECC Community warmly welcomes Abby Mars as our new Director of Early Childhood Education.

Abby has worked in the field of early childhood education for over twelve years as a school administrator, classroom teacher, family educator, teacher-mentor, and conference speaker presenter. She believes that young children make meaning of their world by making connections - cognitive, physical, social, emotional, and spiritual.

Abby is a mother of three children (Eva - 10, Nathan - 12, & Eli - 15,) and is married to Jonny Mars, the man she met over 25 years ago as camp counselors at Camp Ramah in California.

If you were not able to attend the Meet & Greet last month, please introduce yourself and your children to Abby when she begins working here this summer.

ECC 2016-17 REGISTRATION

2016-17 ECC registration packets are now due. If you did not get your packet, 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.***

PURIM WRAP-UP

The Megillah! The hamantaschen! The costumes! The NOISE!
Purim is one of our favorite holidays here at the ECC.



Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

- Margaret Mead

PRE-K & TK FAMILIES SAVE THE DATE FOR STEP-UP: 6/16



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. 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, APRIL 1st @ 5:30PM. Seedlings (114-15) will be featured and everyone is invited!**

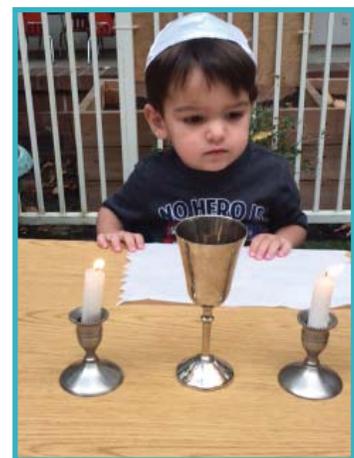
Save the Date:

May 20th - ALL Schools (ECC,DS & ECLC) Shabbat



Tot Shabbat family services are filled with joyful singing, story telling and family friendly prayers. Join fellow ECC families April 9th and 23rd@10:00am in Burdoff Hall.

Next Parent Association meeting is Tuesday, 4/12@ 9:15am



This is a wonderful day. I've never seen this one before.
-Maya Angelou

FROM FAMILY THERAPIST SUSAN STONE- HOW TO TALK ABOUT TERRORISM TO YOUR CHILDREN

As parents, we struggle with carrying on a normal life while seeing the possibility of random terrorism. While most adults develop coping strategies, what are our children to do with the information they inevitably receive? Even if you attempt to shield them, children as young as preschoolers are exposed - through television, radio, newspaper photos and playground chatter. What can you do to recognize if your child has been exposed and how can you help them? Being appropriate and aware of how you act and react is the key to your children feeling safe, secure and optimistic about life in an uncertain world. The following are some important ways you can help:

BE PARENTAL - Convey that you are in charge; make clear the distinction between adult and kid decisions; continue with the same rules and limits and their enforcement; let children know it's YOUR responsibility and that of other adults to keep them safe. They only believe this if they perceive you as "the big person in charge".

CONTROL THE FLOW OF INFORMATION - Control access to the news according to the age of your child and their need to know. Very young children should be protected, as well as you can,

PROVIDE REASSURANCE - Young children only need to know that you can and will protect them.

MAINTAIN ROUTINES - Keep to normal daily schedules and activities. Continue normal expectations for children's behavior and schoolwork. Help children restore a sense of control - give them age-appropriate decisions, plan proactive activities for them such as collecting money or toys for victims, sending letters to rescuers or military personnel. Keep family traditions and plan for future activities.

BE AWARE OF YOUR REACTIONS - Don't fall apart in front of children - present yourself as being calm and in control. Be aware if you are acting more impatient, yelling more or being preoccupied. Do not discuss events on an adult level when your children can hear you - this includes phone conversations.

COORDINATE EFFORTS BETWEEN HOME AND SCHOOL - Exchange information with teachers about children's displays of stress at school or at home.

For more information on this and other relevant parenting issues, please contact Susan Stone directly at 310-276-7329 or via email at scsmft@aol.com

LINKS WE LOVE: THE SWEET SOUND OF SILENCE

What's the most elusive, therapeutic acoustic for parents?

Silence. Between work and family life, we rarely have an opportunity to recharge in silence. Here's a link that shares some compelling evidence about silence's overwhelming health benefits: <http://www.dailygood.org/story/1237/why-silence-is-so-good-for-your-brain>



I've begun to realize that you can listen to silence and learn from it. It has a quality and a dimension all its own.

- Chaim Potok

KIDTALK



We had many beautiful queens at our Purim celebration but few as self-confident as Room 112's Arielle. While attending the ECC staff Purim play, she pointed up to the stage and declared "I'm the queen!" As she walked towards the stage she placed her hands on her hips and said "I'M HERE! THE QUEEN IS HERE!"



Congrats to Room 111 Teacher Abby on the birth of her beautiful daughter Andi Harper!

ECLC NEWS



PLEASE JOIN US FOR A
"Taste of the ECLC"



Sunday,
April 3, 2016
9:30-11:45am
We look forward to
learning with you!
RSVP to Keri Loventhal at 818-550-4046
or email kloventhal@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.



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

<http://instagram.com/vbsecc>

GOT CAMP?

Register for a carefree summer at Camp Shelanu!



Early Bird pricing ends 4/15! don't miss out on the savings!

When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world.
- John Muir

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. 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 SmartBoards to a robust robotics program, the innovation lab challenges students to think outside the box and put their unique ideas into action. Our most recent addition to the lab is our 3D printer, which further enhances the diverse projects supporting student innovation. (Morning Message green screen production pictured here.)

Visit the Day School S.T.E.A.M.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 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.



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 me, Claire Berger, your ECC News Gatherer. My email is: cberger@vbs.org We value all contributions.

Being considerate of others will take your children further in life than any college degree."
--Marian Wright Edelman