

# VBS ECC NEWSLETTER

## FEBRUARY, 2016



### 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! 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.

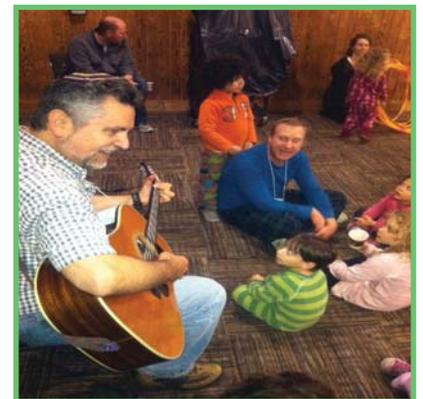


### FEBRUARY DATES TO REMEMBER

- 2/5 Fall Enrichment Classes End
- 2/5 ECC Community Shabbat service and Pot Luck Dinner 5:30pm- SPRIGS will be featured
- 2/8 Spring Enrichment Begins
- 2/9 PA Meeting 9:15am
- 2/12 Staff Development - ECC CLOSED
- 2/13 Tot Shabbat 10:30am
- 2/15 President's Day- ECC CLOSED
- 2/22 Sifriyat Pijama Event for Hebrew Speaking Families 3:30pm
- 2/27 Tot Shabbat 10:30am

### ECC FAMILY RETREAT

Your family is warmly invited to experience the essence of Shabbat during a relaxing weekend away at Camp Ramah in Ojai March 11-13th. Brochures and registration are now available in the ECC Office. Space is limited to just 20 families so gather your classroom friends and sign up today!



Write it on your heart, that every day is the best day in the year...  
This new day is too dear, with its hopes and invitations,  
to waste a moment on the yesterdays.

- Ralph Waldo Emerson -

## ECC 2016-17 REGISTRATION

2016-17 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.*

## SNOW DAY FUN

It was wonderful to see so many parents, grandparents and friends at Snow Day last month. HUGE THANKS and big hugs to Snow Day committee members Leah Grossman, Elina Donay, Sharon Rief and Chair Shirin Broukhim and to all the parents who volunteered to make Snow Day so special. Cooler temperatures made the snow linger on our lot and our preschoolers were delighted to see mounds of snow appearing on the playground the day after. Let it snow!



Everything has its beauty, but not everyone sees it.

- Confucius

## VBS ECC GALA SILENT AUCTION NEWS

This year's VBS annual gala, on May 15, will be honoring our amazing ECC Director, Michele Warner, as Woman of the Year. Although we will not be having our annual 'EPIC' gala this year, we are joining with this VBS gala and lucky for us, all funds raised at the event auction will go towards the ECC! This is where we need your help! We need the help of the ECC community in soliciting donation items...especially new ones that we didn't get last year! Last year's 'EPIC' event raised over \$20,000 and we are hoping to exceed that this year. Any and all items are welcome! Maybe you're a business owner, or know someone who can donate a service/tickets/dinner/sporting events, etc. Or maybe you have a connection to a hotel or some type of service or product? Nikki Eigler, Emily Feit, and Jamie Weissman are co-chairing this part of the VBS gala and are happy to do the leg work or assist in any which way!

Please reach out via Parent Square to Nikki, Emily or Jamie if you would like to help with the silent auction --either by donating directly, or assisting with securing an auction item donation. Thank you in advance for your support!



Next Parent  
Association  
meeting is  
Tuesday,  
2/9@  
9:15am

## 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 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 5TH@ 5:30PM. Sprigs classes (102-103) will be featured and everyone is invited!**

Future Dates : March 4th - Sprouts Classes (111,112,113) featured  
April 1st -Seedlings Classed (114 & 115) featured  
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 February 13th and 27th @10:00am in Burdoff Hall.



Patience is not simply the ability to wait -- it's how we behave while we're waiting.  
- Joyce Meyer



## FROM OUR INFANT-TODDLER PROGRAM

Heard firsthand from our IT Transition parents, commenting on how important our Transition classes can be in easing your children into preschool:

***“The Transition Toddler Program is a thought-through, sensitive transition from toddlerhood to preschooler and offers the sensitivity and patience required for both parent and child. My son was the “one” who surprised everyone in the beginning because he had a difficult time with separation. But his teachers told me he quickly turned into the poster-child for school readiness.”***



## 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 [etz-chaim@vbs.org](mailto:etz-chaim@vbs.org)

## ROOM 104 RECYCLES

Room 104 teachers Terri and Lani had a brilliant solution for all those bags of shredded documents we all accumulate. They made exploration tables and the kids had a ball digging for buried treasures.



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



Our VBS Day School students participate in a buddy program and they LOVE it! Our 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students are thoughtfully paired with buddies in the VBS ECC and our 6th graders are paired with kindergarten students at the Day School. They meet periodically throughout the year and engage in fun, creative activities that allow our Day School children to develop their leadership skills, and allow our young buddies to feel loved and supported by the older children on campus. It's a true win-win as both buddies are learning and growing. So many children remember being the young buddy and can't wait until they get to be the older buddy when they hit 3rd grade! As a culmination, the Day School provides a Maccabia game buddy celebration in the Spring.



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

**FREE ELECTRONICS RECYCLING EVENT**  
VBS SISTERHOOD  
Sunday • February 7, 2016 • 9am to 1pm  
Valley Beth Shalom  
15739 Ventura Boulevard Encino CA 91436  
(Drive-Thru and Drop-Off in Sinder Parking Lot)  
Event Code: E02F16T05  
Computers - Monitors - Televisions - Cell Phones  
MP3 Players - Ink & Tone Cartridges - Printers  
Microwaves - Cables & Wires - Laptops - All Electronics  
ALL GREEN  
More than recycling



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

I would rather walk with a friend in the dark, than alone in the light.

- Helen Keller