

# TEMPLE EMANUEL ECDC

## EXPERIENCE THE JOY OF LEARNING!

It has been wonderful to welcome families back to ECDC. We appreciate your cooperation with implementing our new protocols and your patience as we work to improve efficiency in our drop off and pick up procedures. We have many exciting things to share with you! Below is a sneak peek at what you'll find in our September newsletter.



### CELEBRATING ROSH HASHANAH

Our educators have found a variety of ways to celebrate Rosh Hashanah--the Jewish New Year--in their classrooms.

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### BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE LIBRARY

Help us build a library as diverse as our school and learn about our efforts to create a Community of Belonging at ECDC.

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### EXPLORING THE OUTDOORS

This year we're placing a special emphasis on outdoor time by utilizing spaces like the courtyard and even beginning work on a new outdoor classroom.

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## Rosh Hashanah Celebrations at ECDC

### **Words from Temple Emanuel's Senior Rabbi, Aaron Meyer:**

*Fall is a time for reflection and renewal and the Jewish calendar, realized during the course of significant holidays: Rosh HaShanah, the Jewish New Year, began on Friday night, September 18th and continued on Saturday, September 19th. We celebrate by waking up, literally and spiritually, to the sound of the shofar; by eating apples and honey; and by wishing one another a sweet new year. A traditional greeting is "Shanah Tovah" which means "A Good Year!" The holiday marks the beginning of the ten days of awe, an opportunity to think about our actions over the past year and to choose good habits for ourselves and the world for the coming year.*

*Yom Kippur, which began on Sunday night, September 27 and continued on Monday, September 28th, is the culmination of these ten days of repentance. The prayers of the day focus on apologies and forgiveness for our mistakes. Many Jews observe this Day of Atonement by fasting (not eating or drinking) for 24 hours. At Temple Emanuel, we will have opportunities for prayer and learning on both of these holy days*

Want to learn more? Check out this virtual classroom created by Rabbi and Director of Education Jessica Locketz in partnership with Kate Louik.  
<http://www.templeemanuelpgh.org/shana-tova/>



# THE ABCS AND 123S OF ECDC



In Mrs. Dreifuss's and Mrs. Levin's class, the children sign in each day by moving their "people" to their name pouch. They find their names in their cubbies and on their materials box. The children learn their own name as well as the names of their friends, developing pre-literacy skills in the process.



In Mrs. Reinke's and Mrs. Emery's class, the children combine number learning with fine motor work. They use tweezers to move counting bears to a number line. This not only builds their mathematical knowledge, it also prepares their muscles for writing.



In Transition's Math Center, the children rolled dice and matched them to number cards.

Leonie: "Let's write the numbers that are missing!"  
Emilia: "Let's roll three dice to get bigger numbers."  
Huck: "Can we make the number 100?"



One of our 4s classes maintains a special connection with their "Grandfriends" at Concordia. One day this month, they spent their morning singing with Mrs. Closson and then took a walk down the hill to deliver letters they'd written to their grandfriends. The children were even able to wave hello from a safe distance. It was a meaningful morning for all involved.

MRS. YURASKO, MRS. ASAWA AND MRS. TAYLOR'S 4S CLASS

## MESSAGES TO OUR GRANDFRIENDS





### Work on Our New Outdoor Classroom Begins!

This year we are maximizing our outdoor spaces--children have always enjoyed time on our playground and had access to the beautiful gardens in Temple's Courtyard. We are beginning work on an outdoor classroom on the lawn next to ECDC and we're seeking advice from the experts: the children. Two of our classrooms are playing an important role in planning for the green space. They've already surveyed the space and are in the process of making plans for what materials and experiences should be available in our new outdoor classroom. Construction officially began on September 27th when we installed the fence. We look forward to sharing the children's ideas and our progress with you. Have expertise or materials that might be helpful for this project? Contact Kate at [klouik@templemanuelphg.org](mailto:klouik@templemanuelphg.org).

### Building an Inclusive Library at ECDC

At ECDC we value our diverse community and we want our library to reflect and celebrate all families. We have begun adding new titles that will enrich our classrooms--books that are windows and mirrors. Want to get involved? Here are some ways you can help:

- Share book suggestions
- Donate books from your home libraries
- Purchase books from our Amazon Wishlist: <https://tinyurl.com/ecdclibrary>
- Help us spread the word by sharing our wishlist with your families and networks

Books donations to the library will include a bookplate acknowledging the donor. You may want to donate books in honor of a teacher or a life cycle event. Let us know how we can make your donation meaningful for your family.

Thank you for your help in building a community where everyone is valued and celebrated, and where everyone belongs.

### Windows & Mirrors

"Books are sometimes windows, offering views of worlds that may be real or imagined, familiar or strange. A window can also be a mirror...and in that reflection, we can see our own lives and experiences as part of the larger human experience."

"Windows, Mirrors, and Sliding Glass Doors" By Rudine Sims Bishop, <https://www.paidichools.org/webfm/6559>



A huge thank you to our amazing educators.



Iris Harlan  
Director

Kate Louik  
Incoming Director

Ellen Drook  
Assistant Director

Questions? Ideas? We'd love to talk with you!

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