

TEMPLE EMANUEL ECDC

EXPERIENCE THE JOY OF LEARNING!

Even in this challenging year, we have so much to be thankful for. From our gifted and devoted educators to our supportive community of families, we have many reasons to give thanks. We are deeply grateful for all you do to make ECDC a joyful place to learn and grow.



CELEBRATING IRIS HARLAN'S RETIREMENT

After more than 7 years of dedicated service, Iris Harlan is retiring this December. Help us celebrate Iris and the meaningful legacy she leaves behind at Temple Emanuel ECDC.

THE ABCS AND 123S OF ECDC

Learn more about how ECDC educators embed standards-based learning into our Reggio Emilia-inspired program.

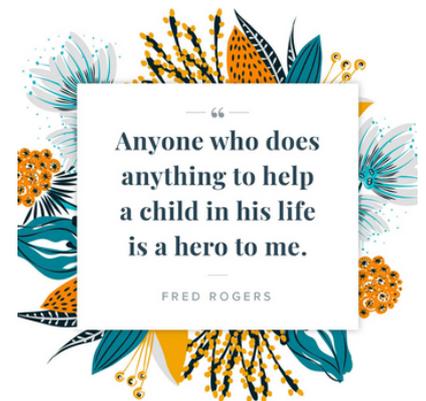
THANKFUL FOR OUR EDUCATORS

Every day in countless ways, our educators enrich the lives and learning of ECDC children.



Thankful for our ECDC Educators

In this season of gratitude, we celebrate our educators. At Temple Emanuel ECDC, our teachers serve as guides, researchers, nurturers and partners in learning. It takes a very special person to teach the way we do at ECDC--putting the voices and visions of the children first, responding and adapting to the interests and wonderings of the class and building a community of learners.



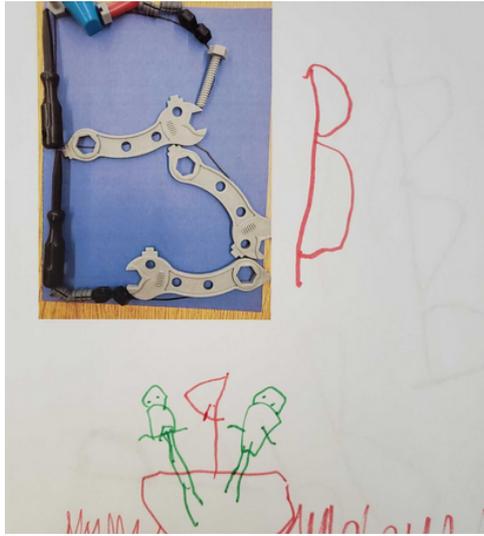
We hope you and your family will join us for assembly each week on Friday at 1pm. You can access our virtual assembly on Temple's Facebook page.

[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/
TEMPLEEMANUELPITTSBURGH/](https://www.facebook.com/templeemanuelpittsburgh/)

THE ABCS AND 123S OF ECDC



In the class of Mrs. Asawa, Mrs. Taylor and Mrs. Yurasko, the children found a new way to use natural materials: they made letters and numbers using pinecones! Using a variety of loose parts to practice letter and number formation is an easy and engaging way to build literacy and numeracy skills.



In Mrs. Reinke's and Mrs. Emery's class, the children began work on their own alphabet book. First, they used loose parts to form the letter. Next, they wrote the letter themselves. Finally, they drew a picture of something that starts with the letter sound.



Even our youngest students are getting ready to write! In Mrs. Criswell's and Mrs. Levin's twos class, the children are offered a variety of materials to develop their fine motor skills. Squishing playdough, squeezing water through pipettes and using tweezers are others ways we help to develop those writing muscles!



Finding New Ways to Celebrate

While we missed our traditional Thanksgiving celebrations this year, we found new ways to gather (virtually) and share our gratitude. We loved being able to welcome families into our school for singing, dancing and giving thanks. We hope your family found a way to incorporate the children's gratitude boxes into your family traditions. Special thanks to Mrs. Closson for leading us in joyful song and to Mrs. Drook for technological know-how!

Calendar Reminders

December 10-18
Happy Hanukkah!

December 24-
January 1
No School
Winter Break



Celebrating Iris

At the end of December our beloved Iris Harlan will retire as Director of Temple Emanuel ECDC. Iris has served in this role since 2013. During her tenure, she guided the school to adopt the Reggio Emilia approach as the best means of achieving our dual goals of high-quality education and family involvement. ECDC is the first Reggio-inspired early childhood program in the South Hills. Temple Emanuel owes Iris an enormous debt of gratitude. Iris has been a source of support and guidance to families and teachers alike. She has nurtured a community that values and respects the ideas of children, recognizes the integral role of the educator, and cultivates a joy of learning. We hope you will join us in celebrating Iris by contributing to ongoing ECDC endeavors near and dear to Iris's heart.

The Martha Klein Lottman Family Fund was created to support our participation in the Jewish Early Childhood Education Initiative. Our work with JECEI facilitated ECDC's transition to a Reggio-inspired approach. The Lottman Fund continues to support Professional Development and educator compensation.

The Iris Harlan Library at Temple Emanuel ECDC enriches our classrooms with high-quality children's literature. Over the past 6 months, we have reviewed our library selections with a focus on ensuring that our library reflects the diversity in our community. We envision a library that supports a community of belonging--where children see themselves and their families represented and celebrated.

Learn more here:

<http://www.templeemanuelpgh.org/honor-iris-harlans-retirement/>



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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