

2013 Parent Orientation Handbook

THE SUMMER ART CAMP STAFF

Sherry L. Ashton (Mrs. A.): Director

A love of the arts has always played an important role in Mrs. A's life. Mrs. A. started her professional career in the performing arts as a dancer and went on to become an actor, teacher and choreographer. She had principle parts in several movies, toured internationally with a dance revue and did a short national tour with a children's theater ensemble. She has belonged to several dance and theater companies, the most notable being the 127th Street Repertoire in New York City. Mrs. A. taught classes for and served as the director for several Summer Arts Enrichment Programs. This is Mrs. A's fourth year as Director of Allens Lanes' Summer Art Program.

Mrs. A. received her Bachelor of Arts Degree (B.A.) in Dance with a minor in Psychology from Point Park University and her Master's Degree (MSIS) in Information Science from Long Island University, C.W. Post Campus.

Susanna DiCastro: Assistant Director

Susanna studied Art History and Psychology in Italy. She worked as a manager in an Art Gallery in Rome for about 8 years with responsibilities of preparing, and organizing the monthly shows, receptions, invitations and catalogs of the shows. She instructed the employees on the setting up cleaning, and all the preparations for the shows. Correspondence and contact with the artists and the transportation companies, inventory, print and small work of art on paper inventory and sales. After marrying and moving to the United States, she taught Italian at Berlitz and Drexel University.

Susanna then went on to work at the Institutes for the Achievement of Human Potential for more than 10 years as a teacher. She taught toddlers through 14 year olds in a variety of subjects from Early Reading and Math, Studio Art and Art History, Math, Science, Natural History, Mythology and Poetry.

This is Susanna's fourth year as Assistant Director at ALAC.

KEY STAFF

Melissa Kapish: Arts and Crafts Specialist

Melissa has always loved creating. She attended Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts where she received a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree in Communications and Art. In Florence, Italy, Melissa studied High Renaissance Art, classic drawing and oil painting. At Arcadia University Melissa studied Art Education and is a certified Art Teacher in Pennsylvania. This is Melissa's fourth year at Allens Lane Summer Art Camp. She also teaches year-round at ALAC. Melissa loves working with children and states: "Art is inherently necessary for the developing minds of children. I am overwhelmed by the power that art has had in enriching my life and I strive to empower others. The visual arts allow students to respond to their life experiences through creative expression."

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Tiffany E. Williams: Dance Specialist

Tiffany, born in Pittsburgh, PA, began dancing at the age of 3 at Covenant Church of Pittsburgh Fine Arts Academy, underneath the instruction of her mother, Tracey Williams. She then went on to Pittsburgh's Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA) Middle School and High School. While in high school she performed with a professional company called The Pittsburgh's Black Theater Dance Ensemble in various cities on the east coast. Tiffany attended the Alvin Ailey Summer Intensive her junior year of high school. After graduating in 2008, Tiffany became a member of Philadanco's second company (D/2), where she danced for 4 years. Tiffany graduated from Temple University with honors and is the recipient of the 2013 Rose Vernick BFA Choreography Award. She is pursuing a career in Dance and Musical Theater. Tiffany plans to obtain a Masters in Art Therapy for Children. This is Tiffany's fourth year at ALAC.

Chris McGinnis: Drama Specialist

Chris is what one calls in the business a triple threat (actor, dancer, singer). When you combine this with his directorial and choreographic talents we know he will be able to teach our campers the best stagecraft possible.

Chris was Assistant Director for the Prescott Method at the Walnut Street Theater; Program Developer and Theater Director at the Good Shepherd Summer Art Camp; Musical Theater and Hip-Hop instructor at De Sales University Summer Theater Institute. Recently he served as the Interim Company Manager and Assistant to the Managing Director at the Walnut Street Theater, under the direction of Mark Sylvester.

Chris has a Bachelor of Arts in Theater (Music Theater/Directing) from De Sales University.

Jean Johnson: Music/Vocal Specialist

Jean Johnson has performed music for over thirty years. She is a classically trained Coloratura who studied privately under several esteemed instructors and has toured the U.S. and Canada as both a soloist and ensemble member.

Recently, she was vocal instructor for the play "The Gate Called Straight," directed by Emmy winner Stephanie Mills and scored by three time Emmy winner Bill Jolly.

This is Jean's third year at ALAC.

Joanne Bryant: Pottery Specialist

Joanne's art spans several mediums: pottery, painting and drawing. She is a member of Pa. Guild of Craftsmen, Bucks County Guild of Craftsmen, International ARTS & CRAFTS Network and is a certified Art Teacher in Pennsylvania. Joanne has taught people of all ages for over 23 years. She has received numerous awards and grants such as the Picasso Project, Art Futures Grant from the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Dean M. Lockheim Award [Fleisher Art Memorial], R. Robert Smith Photography Award [Fleisher Art Memorial], 1st place crafts Shade Festival, etc..

Joanne graduated from Kutztown University with a B.S. in Art Education. This is Joanne's first year at ALAC

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Rueben Wilson: Head Counselor

Reu has always had a strong interest in the visual arts, especially photography and video/movie making. Working with the natural light, or lack of it, to obtain particular effects on the images portrayed in his photographs is his main interest. He did an internship with the Philadelphia Inquirer Staff Photographer with focuses in the Fine Arts and Publication. He is a Photography Major at the University of The Arts in Philadelphia. To be able to teach children some of the basic and more advanced photography techniques will give him the opportunity to pass on his passion for the visual art media. This is Reuben's first year at ALAC's Summer Art Camp.

SENIOR COUNSELORS

All Senior Counselors are either working and/or teaching professional artist, visual or performing arts graduates or in a college art degree program.

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INTRODUCTION

The following information is presented to provide you with answers to most of the question you may have as you prepare your child for the wonderful experience of attending Allens Lane Art Center's (ALAC) Summer Art Camp (SAC). The Senior Counselors and Head Counselor are always available to talk to you and answer specific questions about your child's day at camp.

STAFF CONTACT

You will be provided the name and phone number of the Senior Counselor before your child starts camp. Senior Counselors will call you a week prior to the start of camp. We urge you to discuss any matters that will be helpful to the counselor in dealing with your child. Please give any notes for the counselor or other staff member to the assistant director in the camp office.

ATTENDANCE

If your child will be absent, please notify the camp office as soon as you know and no later than the evening prior to the following camp day, and if a sudden illness by 7:30AM.

BUNK ASSIGNMENTS

Bunk assignments are determined by age, bunk requests and year in school. Special requests for group placement must be written on the application sheet or brought to the attention of the camp office prior to June 24th.

STORAGE FOR CAMPERS

All children have a shared cubby to store their belongings. Younger children should bring a change of clothes.

CLOTHING/SUPPLIES LIST FOR CAMPERS

ALAC Summer Art Camp supplies one t-shirt. Please make sure we have your child's size on file.

Please be sure to **label** your child's belongings. This is definitely helpful for any items which may be misplaced. If an item turns up missing, there will be lost and found containers to store items until they are recovered. Below is a list of items your child will need for camp. They are separated into two columns. One column is the items you will leave at camp in camper's cubbies. The other column is the items the child will take home with them on a daily basis.

TO BE LEFT IN CAMP

Pair of flip-flops
Bottle for water
2 pair extra underwear
2 pair of socks
Cap or Sun Visor
Change of clothes
Goggles

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ITEMS TO BE TAKEN HOME

Backpack
Plastic bag for wet clothes
1 Bathing Suit
1 Bathing Towel

- 1) On the first day of camp, campers should bring all items that should be left in camp. All items should be labeled with your child's name.
- 2) On swim days we suggest that campers bring their swimsuit, towel, goggles and plastic bag for wet swimsuit in their backpacks.

DISCIPLINE

It is our policy to keep disciplinary issues minimized and to help children monitor their own behavior. The staff presents model age-appropriate behavior guidelines and reflective communications. We encourage self-control, self-direction, responsibility, and cooperation. When practical and safe, logical or natural, consequences will be presented to your child.

We practice positive discipline which instructs the child as to what they should do. For example, "We walk inside the building," versus, "No running!" "Time out" may be used selectively for children who are the risk of harming themselves or others. The period of "time out" will be just long enough to enable the child to regain control of him/herself and will never be longer than 1-2 minutes per each year of age. During the "time out" a member of the staff will visually observe the child.

Aggressive physical behavior (fighting, hitting, biting, etc.) by a child toward another child or staff member is **unacceptable**. Staff members will intervene immediately should this type of situation occur in order to protect all of the children and encourage more acceptable behavior. Physical restraint (a staff member holding a child) will not be used except as necessary for control of the situation. Parents will be informed if such an incident occurs. If the child's behavior is extremely disruptive, and/or harmful to him/herself or others, a parent may be asked to remove the child from camp for the day. If the behavior continues and becomes a pattern, the parent will be asked to remove the child permanently from camp. At that point the refund of your paid fees will be \$50.00 per week, each week enrolled. Open communication between home and camp is considered the key to effective discipline.

❖ If a counselor deliberately hits a camper they are fired immediately.

❖ If a camper hits a counselor they will be expelled from the Summer program.

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HEALTH AND WELFARE/FORMS

The Health Form must be filled out by a parent, signed by a doctor and returned to the camp office by June 15, 2013. Campers will not be permitted to attend camp without the health form!

ALL FORMS

For any parents who have not turned in forms including health, medical/doctor's note, or other, please do so immediately. The sooner we have this information, the more efficiently we will be able to care for your child.

DROP OFF/PICK UP

Drop off is at **8:30AM**. **Any parent who drops their child off before 8:30AM will be charged for before care.** It is important to arrive before 8:45 AM. On Thursdays, our trip buses will leave shortly after. When you drop off, pull around the art center and drop your child off in the appropriate bunk line at the tennis courts. We will be there to assist in this process.

If you need to speak with someone, please find a parking spot. Extra space is available near the playground. Please do not block the driveway. When exiting the art center, it is better to turn right onto Allens Lane and go around the block. Picking up your child is done the same way as drop off. Pick up is at 3:30pm. If someone else is picking up your child, or you need to leave them for after care, please let us know by writing a note, or calling the camp, so that we can notify their counselor.

DON'T BE LATE!!!!

Please pick your children up on time. If your child is checked into aftercare, you will be billed for that day. Our aftercare program ends at 6:00pm sharp. Please arrange for your child to be picked up on time. ***Our late fee is \$5.00 for every ten minutes after 6:00 pm.***

BEFORECARE

Campers arrive at 7:30am (signed in by parents)

From 7:30am - 8:30am we have organized games & activities. Campers who want, have the opportunity to sit in a quiet area to read or draw. At 8:30am the campers line-up with their bunk outside.

AFTERCARE

Aftercare starts at 3:30pm and ends promptly at 6:00pm. We have roll call from 3:30-3:45pm, then an afternoon snack. We alternate movies and games, along with free play depending on what best suits the campers on that particular day. We also allow campers to work on their individual projects if they wish. Menus are posted on Fridays for the next week. You may substitute a snack from home if you wish.

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AFTERCARE SNACKS

*Hummus Carrots Celery
Frozen Chocolate Bananas
Crackers and Cheese
Mixed Fruit Smoothie
Pop Corn
Fruit Kebab
Watermelon/Mellon/Honeydew
Pita/Pizza
Apple Toast*

RAINY DAY DROP OFF/PICK UP

On rainy days, please drop your child off at the front door. Line-up will take place upstairs in the theater instead of the tennis court. Pick up will be done in the same way. Please pull up to the front door, and your child will be brought to you.

LUNCH

Send in a lunch every day. We are not able to refrigerate lunch. Lunch is scheduled for 12:00 Noon. If you are concerned about spoilage, you can place an icepack in your child's lunch. Please send lunches that do not need to be heated in the microwave. On trip days, send your child's lunch in a disposable bag and containers.

SWIM DAYS

Our swim days are Monday and Fridays. All Bunks, 1-7, will swim at one session from 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. at the Roxborough YMCA,

Monday: Y lifeguards and ALAC staff will teach the campers to swim and set guidelines for those that can already swim.

Friday: Is Game Day in the Pool

Campers should come with their swim gear, a towel and flip flops in their back packs/bags. You may also want to send goggles since some children frequently open their eyes under water. All campers will change in the dressing room at the pool before and after the swim session.

FOOTWEAR

Throughout the summer, there will be many activities that require sneakers such as hikes, soccer, softball and tennis, etc... Please be sure to have campers pack or wear sneakers and socks each day, so that he or she does not miss out on a fun activity.

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TRIP DAY ALERT

The majority of our trips are on Thursday. On trip days please send your child to camp in their Allens Lane T-shirts. All campers will be given one T-shirt on the first day of camp. If your child comes to camp without their T-shirt on a trip day, you will be required to purchase another shirt for \$15.00. **There are no exceptions to this rule. Also, pack your child's lunch in a disposable bag and containers with their name on it. We cannot carry lunch boxes on trip days. Enough water is crucial, especially if is an outdoor location.**

TRIP SPENDING MONEY

If you choose, you may send in spending money for your child to use on trip days. Some parents have expressed a concern about the request of trip money. It is very difficult to find a happy medium that will satisfy all of our families. Despite our best attempts, every trip offers the opportunity for campers to spend money. Therefore, it is your option to send in a few dollars for each trip. If you choose to do so, please put it in an envelope with your child's name on it with the amount and give it to the Senior Counselor unless you feel that your child is responsible enough to hold it themselves. Also, please inform your child what they are allowed to spend the money on. We are not able to keep track of how children choose to spend their money.

LABELS

Please be sure to label your child's belongings. This is definitely helpful for any items which may be misplaced.

BEAT THE HEAT

We do everything possible to keep the kids cool during the hot days of summer. However, there are a few things you can do to help out. You may want to send a water bottle that your child can fill up and take outside for sports. For children who are very sensitive to the sun you may also want to send in a sun visor or baseball cap. We provide sunscreen so it is not necessary to send in unless your child needs a specific brand.

CRAZY TUESDAY

Each Tuesday is based on different themes. Our camper will combine with other bunks to create, play and experience new things. We will have special guest performances and workshop classes.

GALLERY ART SHOW AND THEATER PERFORMANCE

The mid and ending performance productions and gallery shows will occur during weeks 4 and 8.

Every Friday look for our camp newsletter "Camp Connections," informing you of current and coming events.

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SUMMER ART CAMP 2013 TRIPS

The Philadelphia Insectarium

Thursday, June 27, 2013

8046 Frankford Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19136

The Mann Music Center

Monday, July 8, 2013

52nd and Parkside Ave.
Fairmount Park
Philadelphia, PA 19131

Upper Darby Performing Arts Center

Thursday, July 18, 2013

601 Lansdowne Ave
Drexel Hill, PA 19026

Fonthill Museum and The Moravian Potter & Tile Works

Thursday, July 25, 2013

Court St. and Swamp Rd. and Pine and Ashland Sts.,
Doylestown, PA

Philadelphia Art Museum

Thursday, August 1, 2013

2600 Benjamin Franklin Parkway
Philadelphia, PA 19130

Dutch Apple Theater

Thursday, August 8, 2013

510 Centerville Road
Lancaster, PA 17601-1306

Ozzy's Sports Fun Center

Friday, August 16, 2013

5411 Pottsville Pike
Leesport, PA 19533

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NOTES AND QUESTIONS

DON'T FORGET WATER BOTTLES

WE WEAR ALA C T-SHIRTS ON TRIP DAY

EAT BREAKFAST

NO FLIP FLOPS

DON'T FORGET PAPER LUNCH BAGS FOR TRIPS

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