

# 2017 Parent Orientation Handbook

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## ABOUT 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 (Bad Girls Dormitory, Stuck On You, Split and a bit part in Dawn of the Dead), toured internationally (London, Germany and Saudi Arabia) with a music revue, appeared on Another World and Guiding Light 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 127<sup>th</sup> Street Repertoire in New York City. Mrs. A. has taught dance and acting for over 40 years. She has served as the director for several Summer Arts Enrichment Programs primarily in Pittsburgh, New York and Philadelphia..

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.

This is Mrs. A's eighth year as Director of Allens Lane Art Centers' Summer Art Camp.

### **Susanna DiCastro: Assistant Director**

Susanna studied Art History and Psychology in Italy. She worked as a manager in an Art Gallery in Rome for 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. Since 2012 she also teaches Italian at the Scuola Marco Polo, in Philadelphia.

This is Susanna's eighth year as Assistant Director for ALAC's Summer Art Camp.

## **KEY STAFF**

### **Alma Sheppard-Matsuo: Art Specialist**

Alma is a visual storyteller, print-maker and educator from Brooklyn NY and just recently moving to Philadelphia PA. She received her BFA in traditional animation in 2010 from the School of Visual Arts (NYC). Upon graduation she began to create art focused on local issues ranging from migrant rights to environmentalism with community puppetry groups such as the People's Puppets (NYC), Great Small Works (NYC) and Bread & Puppet Theater (VT). This developed her emphasis on visual narrative as a tool of advocacy, which have been used in private publications and public installations in the form of moving murals, giant puppets, prints

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and more. Sheppard-Matsuo's work has been featured in numerous publications, including Tablet Magazine, Viewpoint Magazine and l'Humanite. She has taught visual arts and puppetry in numerous NYC schools and has traveled from Minneapolis MN to Wilmington DE to Kolkata India teaching workshops and residencies.

This is Alma first year at Allens Lane Art Center's Summer Art Camp.

### **Jah'Meek David Williams: Dance Specialist**

Jah'Meek has a *BFA, from the University of the Arts* and currently dances with PHILADANCO. He trained and danced with Dance Theatre of Harlem under Arthur Mitchell; the Dance Alloy Theatre under Greer Jones; and, the Eleone Dance Theatre under Shawn-Lamere Williams. Jah'Meek's theatre credits include: *Rhythm Stories*, directed by Lakai Worell; *Unto Us A Child Is Born* and *The Promise* directed by Kier Nelson; *MAAFA Suite: The Healing Journey*, directed by Michele Hawkins-Jones and *Carols In Colors*, directed by Shawn-Lamere Williams. Jah'Meek has taught at The Pointe Summer Dance Camp, Eleone Dance, C.A.P.A Creative Arts and Performing Arts, Chez Dance Studio and PHILADANCO. He shared that he truly began to enjoy teaching children when he became a father. "The creativity generated when working with children is off the charts".

This is Jah'Meek's third year at Allens Lane Art Center's Summer Art Camp.

### **Jean Johnson: Music/Vocal Specialist**

Jean Johnson has performed music for over thirty years. She is a classically trained Jean Johnson, a lyric soprano, has been active in music for more than thirty years. A classically trained Coloratura, Ms. Johnson has worked professionally as a soloist; a section leader; a vocal coach; and a voice teacher, as well as an interim choral director. In 2011, Ms. Johnson was a vocal coach for the production, "A Gate Called Straight," directed by Grammy winner Stephanie Mills; scored by three time Emmy winner, musician/composer, Bill Jolly.

Believing that "one must use it or lose it" Ms. Johnson is a member of Sounds of Joy!...A Music Ministry. The group specializes in liturgical music composed or arranged by African Americans and has ministered throughout the tri-state area. Ms. Johnson currently provides vocal instruction through the Allens Lane Art Center, Mt. Airy Learning Tree and Main Line School Night.

This is Jean's seventh year at Allens Lane Art Center's Summer Art Camp.

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## **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 fifth year with ALAC's Summer Art Program.

## **Janice Strawder: Mosaic Specialist**

Janice received her MFA in Ceramics from Louisiana State University, and her BFA from Wichita State University, KS. She spent three years as Artist-in-Residence at the Florida Gulf Coast Art Center in Belleair, Florida, then moved to Philadelphia in 1994 for an Artist Residency at **The Clay Studio** where she continues to teach. Janice has been instrumental in bringing national ceramic exhibits to the greater Philadelphia area, and has worked as curator and special projects coordinator for several national ceramic exhibitions and conferences. Most recently, Janice opened **Manayunk Pottery**, in the Manayunk section of Philadelphia where she produces her own work, and is developing a line of "Manayunk Pottery". Janice also serves as the Studio Manager for Allens Lane Art Center's Ceramic Program.

This is Janice's third year with ALAC's Summer Art Program.

## **Colleen McMenamin: Drama Specialist**

Colleen is thrilled to be joining the Allens Lane Art Center's Summer Art Camp for the 2017 season! She's been involved with theater since she was a child. Colleen earned her bachelors of art degree in theater from King's College. While studying in college she spent 2 summers as a storyteller and puppeteer at Knoebels Amusement Park. In addition, Colleen taught acting classes in puppetry and storytelling at a recreation center. Since college she's taught at many after-school programs teaching drama, as well as a professional puppet theater. I am anxious to start teaching drama to the creative campers at Allens Lane Art Center.

This is Colleen's first year at ALAC's Summer Art Program.

## **Rosie Cocchiaro: HEAD COUNSELOR**

Rose graduated from Temple in 2014. She will return for her Masters in Early Childhood Education this upcoming fall. Rosie has almost ten years of experience working with children and young adults, and she is currently working in the Lower Merion school district. She is also a part of the ComedySportz Major League, performing improvisation in Philadelphia. She enjoys drawing, painting, singing, and cooking on her free time. She says: "My biggest joy is infusing creative energy into everyday life!".

This is Rose's first year with ALAC's Summer Art Program.

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## SENIOR COUNSELORS

Many of the Senior Counselors are either working and/or teaching professional artist, certified school teachers, visual or performing arts graduates or in a college arts related degree program.

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## INTRODUCTION

The following information is presented to provide you with answers to most of the questions 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 of the Senior Counselor before your child starts camp. Senior Counselors will call you 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, if possible, no later than the evening prior to the absence. If it is a sudden illness, please notify us 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 20<sup>th</sup>. We will honor your request if at all possible.

## 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 container 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

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## ITEMS TO BE TAKEN HOME

Backpack/Lunch Box  
Plastic bag for wet clothes  
Bathing Suit  
Bathing Towel

- 1) On the first day of camp, campers should bring all items that should be left at camp. All items should be labeled with your child's name.
- 2) On swim day we suggest that campers wear their swimsuit and bring underwear, a full change of clothing for after swimming, towel, goggles and plastic bag for wet swimsuits 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 at 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, for 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 or send them by e-mail no later than June 15<sup>th</sup>. 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 of 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 by 8:45am at the latest. Our Trip (Thursday) buses will leave shortly after. When you arrive, pull around the art center and drop your child off opposite the Center's front door, in front of the tennis court path. 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 \$10.00 for every five 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 disposable bags and containers.

## **WATER PARK DAYS**

Our water parties will be held on Wednesday afternoon.

**All campers should have their swim suits and a change of clothing, a towel and pool shoes/flip flops in their back packs/bags. Pool shoes/flip flops are for the wet areas only.**

## **FOOTWEAR**

Throughout the summer, there will be many activities that require sneakers such as volleyball, 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.

## **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.**



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## **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. Please 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 it 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 the 4th week (Friday, July 21<sup>st</sup>) and 8th week (Wednesday, August 16<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, August 17<sup>th</sup>).

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

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## ***2017 SUMMER ART CAMP TRIP SCHEDULE***

### ***DUTCH APPLE THEATER***

***Thursday, June 29th***

510 Centerville Road  
Lancaster, PA 17601-1306  
717-898-9712

### ***ROCK SCHOOL OF DANCE***

***MANN Center for the Performing Arts***

***Monday, July 10th***

5201 Parkside Ave,  
Philadelphia, PA 19131  
(215) 546-7900

### ***MOVING ARTS OF MOUNT AIRY***

***THE ART OF DRUMMING***

***Thursday, July 20th***

6819 Greene St, Philadelphia, PA 19119  
(215) 842-1040

### ***SPIRAL Q (Tentative)***

***Thursday, July 27th***

118-128 North Broad Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19102  
(215) 972-7600

### ***MURAL ARTS TOUR***

***Thursday August 1st***

City of Philadelphia Mural Arts Program  
128 N. Broad Street  
PAFA, Hamilton Building (Side Entrance)  
Philadelphia, PA 19102

### ***Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts***

***Thursday, August 10TH***

118-128 N. Broad Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19102  
(215) 972-7600

### ***OZZY'S SPORTS FUN CENTER***

***Friday, August 18th***

5411 Pottsville Pike  
Leesport, PA 19533  
(610) 926-6162

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## NOTES AND QUESTIONS

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**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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## NOTES AND QUESTIONS