

Marin YMCA Child Care

Ross Valley NEWSLETTER

Session 1
August 25-September 5

Important Reminders

- California State Licensing requires that ALL children be signed in/out by their guardian every day.
- It is the parent's responsibility to call the child care site and inform them of your child's absence by the time he/she is to arrive in our care.
- We will not allow any child to leave with a family member or friend if they are not on the emergency pick up list or if we do not have a written letter from you. We will also ask for a photo I.D. of all visitors who will pick your child up.

Important Billing Information

The following applies to ALL families including agency subsidized billing.

Fees are due one month in advance, on the 20th of each month. A \$15 late fee will be charged to the next month's bill if not paid by the 20th. Any outstanding balances more than 5 days past due will result in your child automatically being dropped from the program. Outstanding balances may be sent to collections if not paid within 30 days.

If you have any questions regarding the billing calendar or your statements please call 415-446-2157.

Director's Maternity Leave

Dana McCune, Child Care Director, will be out on Maternity Leave at the end of August through the middle of January. If you need assistance while she is out, contact Kara Ghilotti, Youth & Teen Director, at 415-446-2134 or Mickey Pedersen, Associative Executive Director at 415-446-2108.

Phone Numbers

- Lisa Herrmann, Loma Verde (Facility #210108649) .. 883-2663
- Shyla Bauer, Pleasant Valley (Facility #214005036) ..892-7476
- Joy Lindeman, Rancho (Facility #210110154) 898-6061
- Trish Cross, San Ramon (Facility #210110153)..... 892-4849
- Lauren Fried, Brookside Lower (Facility #213006147).. 460-1050
- TBA, Brookside Upper (Facility #TBA) 457-4465
- Kara Ghilotti, Manor (Facility #213000337) 456-5349
- Dana McCune, Director..... 446-2140
- Marin Branch..... 492-9622

Dear YMCA Parents

It is time to put away the flip flops and open up the books. We are very excited about the 2008-2009 school year and hope everyone had a spectacular summer break. Many of our Child Care Sites have new staff that will bring in a bundle of energy and laughs. Along with the new fees, we will be providing a light breakfast every morning, guest speakers throughout the year, and exciting new clubs.

The YMCA takes the child care business very seriously and wants to make sure we are providing the best care for all the children. We simply can not do it without your support. Every year we ask for parents to be part of a parent advisory committee and every year we have not been very successful. This year we are asking again but trying something new. Parent surveys will be sent out in the beginning of October and each site will be holding a parent meeting to go over the results. With your input the Site Directors will be creating a chart of work to ensure we are fulfilling the needs of all of our families. Then we may ask you to be on a committee that will meet 5 times throughout the year or a sub committee to complete a task like a vegetable garden. Please be on the lookout for the Parent Night date.

Thanks for choosing the YMCA as your child care provider. We are honored to be trusted with your child/ren.

Dana McCune
 Senior Child Care Director

Site Specific Information

Ross Valley Sites

The Ross Valley District has finalized plans to send two second grade classes to the Brookside Upper campus. They have asked the YMCA to proceed with our licensing application for morning and afternoon care. The application was sent on June 16th but could take up to 6 months for licensing to process. In the mean time, the Upper kids will be asked to attend the Lower campus where we are going to increase the license capacity to 100. We will hire a Site Director for the Upper campus who will work with Lauren to create a sub program for the 3-5th graders. We are working with the school on the transportation issue. At this time all of the kids attending Upper who need care will be asked to take the 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. bus. The school will provide care for the second grade kids who are Early Birds and Late Birds.

After listening to many concerned parents in regards to our new fee structure, we put a specific time block together for the Early Bird/Late Bird schedule for those kids who only need care for 8:00–9:00 a.m. or 2:00–3:00 p.m. If you need care for that hour, fill out a change form to reflect your request. You will automatically be enrolled for Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday for a monthly fee of \$100. Please note that Wednesdays are Early Release Days and will not be included in the block. You can obtain change forms at any of our sites or online. If you go over your allotted hour, you will be charged a drop-in rate.

Bank Draft

There is still time for you to save on child care fees by signing up for bank draft, which begins on Session 3. Sessions 1 and 2 will be billed and need to be paid separately. Families on bank draft will not receive invoices once automatic payments start.

Brookside

Welcome back Brookside families! We hope you had an amazing summer filled with fun and memories. This school year we are looking forward to an exciting adventure here at the YMCA full of crafts, games, sports, clubs and more.

We know that the first two weeks can be somewhat overwhelming but we want to assure you that with the help of Brookside staff, children and parents following the policies and procedures, I can foresee a school year filled with adventure and memories.

We would like to welcome back our teachers Corey Kephart and Shane Graham after their fun summer off, as well as Torazo Satow, and Kristy Persily, our returning head teachers. We are in the process of hiring several extra staff to start in the fall. I, Lauren Fried, am extremely excited to be expanding our program with not only k-2nd, but for a brief time, 3-5th as well.

For our new kindergartner families, please be advised that we will be picking up your children at their classrooms throughout the school year. The first and second graders will walk over on their own. If for any reason your child(ren) do not arrive at the YMCA within the first 10 minutes of dismissal, we will call teachers and parents to find out their whereabouts. It is extremely important that you give us a phone number where we can reach you during the time of school release.

The Brookside YMCA staff would like to invite all families to our beginning of the year open house to meet our wonderful staff, have any questions answered before school begins, and meet other YMCA families. Open house will be held on Friday, August 22 from 6:00–8:00 p.m. in the multi-purpose room at the Brookside Lower Campus. We are looking forward to meeting and reuniting with all our wonderful YMCA families.

The Brookside Staff

Manor

Hello Manor families! I cannot believe how fast the school year is approaching. The staff here at the Manor YMCA are working hard to get the site up and ready for Fall. We are extremely fortunate to have mostly all returning staff so the transition into the school year should be a smooth one.

There have been many changes to our prices and with that many questions. Please note that we are always available to help. We are holding an Open House on Thursday, August 21 from 4:30–6:30 p.m. We would love for you to come check out the site and answer any questions you may have. We strive to provide you with the highest quality program and greatly appreciate any suggestions or feedback you may have, so come tell us what you think!

Speaking of changes, Mimi Choudhury is our new Assistant Site Director. As Dana McCune will be on maternity leave this Fall, I (Kara) will be the “go-to” person for all seven of our sites, therefore, I will not be as available as a full time Site Director would be. I will be relying heavily on her to help this site run smoothly. Please feel free to go to her with any questions.

Upcoming dates to remember:

- Manor YMCA Open House – Thursday, August 21, 4:30–6:30 p.m.
- Labor Day – Monday, September 1: CHILDCARE CLOSED
- Manor School Back to School Night – Wednesday, September 3: Childcare will be open for all Manor Families (donations appreciated)
- Manor YMCA Parent Night – mid-September (TBD)

Finally, a very Happy Birthday to all of our August babies! Thank you and we look forward to seeing you soon!

Manor YMCA Staff: Kara, Mimi, Anne, Nicole, Kirsten, and Josh