

From The Director's Desk May 2017



As many of you know, Ms. Sonya is out on a medical leave and is resting at home for the next few weeks after having surgery. The good news is that she does not have cancer and after her recovery, she should be able to return to work good as new. I have passed along all of your positive thoughts and prayers and I know she genuinely appreciates the concern. While she is out Justin will be handling all of the accounting tasks, so if you have a question about your account or need a statement, just let him know. His email address is j.williams@highlandsranchlearning.com. Of course, I am happy to answer any of your questions about payments, charges etc., so feel free to check with me if you need help calculating your payment.

Each year we plan a special event to honor all of the mothers at HRLC. "Muffins with Mom" is scheduled for Friday, May 12th from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. We will be offering a variety of muffins and some special goodies for those who maintain a gluten free diet for you and your child to enjoy. Beverages will be provided as well including coffee, juice and ice water. I hope that you will be able to spend a few extra minutes that morning enjoying a muffin with your child and Happy Mother's Day to all of our wonderful moms.

In the coming weeks we have several staff members returning to us from college and a few new faces popping up as well. Lynette Phillips, from our home office, is helping us during Sonya's absence and will be in the office every other week. In addition to Lynette, we are adding another person to the office staff and her name is Courtney Duecker (pronounce Decker). Courtney will be our Office Assistant and will be here to answer phones, help with organization and complete other tasks as needed. Please join me in welcoming Courtney to HRLC! We have a new teacher starting in the Antelopes room on May 8th and her name is Barb Dater. Barb will be training with Mr. Kyle for a week and will take over the classroom on the 15th. Mr. Kyle will be moving to our Summer Camp program and will need a couple of weeks to prepare the Mustangs room for the summer. I will also have several returning full and part time employees helping in classrooms since most of our staff will be taking time off for a summer vacation. I will be sending a Summer Time Off survey to all families so that we know when/if your child(ren) will be on vacation during the summer months. Please complete this form and return it to the front office as soon as you can. Thanks!

Our swimming pool will be opening on June 5th this year and will stay in operation until Friday, July 28th (Family Picnic Day). We will have two Red Cross certified lifeguards on duty at all times, with a third lifeguard assisting with swim lessons in the morning. In order to participate in the pool activities, children must be three years old, completely potty trained and in Preschool or older classrooms. We offer "open swim" during which each classroom will be assigned a specific time in the pool. During open swim, the classroom teacher(s) will accompany the children to the pool and will assist the lifeguards with supervision. Swimming skills are not required for open swim- we provide water toys so the children can play and have fun in a safe, well-supervised environment. Please don't send any sort of flotation device including inflatable rings, water wings (to put on your child's arms) or life vests. These items actually make it difficult for the children to keep their feet on the bottom of the pool and they can easily become disoriented in the water. During open swim, the children will be learning how to stay balanced and upright in the pool. Keep in mind that the pool is two feet deep at the

*shallow end where most of the classrooms will be assigned. Our pool is kept at a balmy 90 degrees throughout the summer to help little bodies feel more comfortable. This makes a big difference for those children who are sensitive to cooler water. I find that children will enjoy the pool more when the water is almost at body temperature and will be more likely to be willing to learn new skills. Parents are welcome to observe pool activities at any time, but don't be surprised if your child wants you to take him/her home afterwards. Swim lessons, which cost extra, are available to all children in Preschool and older classrooms. These are group lessons during which the lifeguards work with children individually and as a group. Lessons are available in **one week sessions** and are taught each day of the week. If a child is signed up for multiple weeks during the summer, the skills taught continue to advance each week. Most of the children who take lessons are able to swim underwater, stroke across the pool and float on their backs by the end of the summer. Parents will receive a detailed report at the end of the week so that you can find out what your child learned. I highly recommend that you sign your child up for lessons this summer.*



The week of May 1st through the 5th, we will be celebrating Teacher/Staff Appreciation week at HRLC. Throughout the week we provide special treats/gifts to show our hardworking teachers just how special they are to us. I hope that each of you will join us in recognizing your child's teacher(s) for their hard work and dedication to the children. Parents can participate by writing a note, giving a gift certificate or other item to demonstrate how important they are in the life of your child(ren). If you are not sure of teacher's names in the classroom, just stop by the front office to pick up a list.

In closing I would like to remind those of you with elementary school children that our Summer Camp program is almost full and we are trying to make sure that all of our current families can be accommodated for this summer. If you have been considering our camp, be sure to stop by the office and ask for information before we are out of space. Have a great month!

*Teresa Leidenberger
Director- HRLC*

- "A parent will only ever be in one of three places: In front of you to cheer you on, behind you to have your back or next to you you aren't walking alone." S. Turner