

# WEST ESSEX YMCA

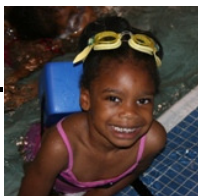
## Member NEWSLETTER

### Summer 2009



We build strong kids, strong families, strong communities.

## West Essex YMCA: MISSION CAMP



A parent writes: "My six year daughter is counting the days until summer camp begins when she can see her friends, go on trips, learn new skills and see her counselors Nicole and Tara. This year however, I lost my job and with the rising cost of living, how do I tell my daughter she cannot attend camp this summer."

The answer: **MISSION CAMP and the West Essex YMCA!**

Our Mission is to enroll kids in our Super Summer Day Camp and Pioneer Trails Day Camp and raise the much needed funds for financial assistance to send these children to camp.

Our goal is simple. We want to make sure that we can reach out and serve as many kids as possible this summer. Our financial requests have increased by 40-60%.

In response to the survey of past-camper parents were: many parents cited financial hardship and uncertainty about the economy as the primary reason for delaying their camp registration, parents rated our program quality with very high marks. Furthermore the parents who have already registered their children identified the YMCA's financial assistance policy as a major factor in choosing to enroll in our camps.

Several national and local media outlets have reported that parents are looking for cost-effective alternatives to private camps and are looking toward the YMCA for help. We believe parents know that when they register for our camps, they will receive the same program quality and experience as the others camps at a more reasonable cost.

The West Essex YMCA Board of Managers wants to send a message to parents who need our help. We are here for you. The West Essex YMCA


has a long history of helping those in need and we feel compelled to take action now.

Through its Annual Strong Kids Campaign, the YMCA will seek to raise funds to fulfill the overwhelming financial assistance requests from parents that want to send their children to camp. The YMCA has more than 75 volunteers who will make phone calls, send emails, and personally visit with approximately 1,000 past donors to seek their support of this effort.

We need to convey to our donors, members and volunteers that we need your support more than ever before. The West Essex YMCA has a very committed group of volunteers who want to ensure that every child who wants to go to camp and will attend camp, regardless of the inability to pay.

For additional information on registering for Super Summer Camp or Pioneer Trails Day Camp, or to make a donation to the Strong Kids Campaign, please contact Kathie Amato at [kamato@metroymcas.org](mailto:kamato@metroymcas.org) or 973-992-7500 ext 113.

## Pioneer Trails Day Camp

Accredited by the American Camp Association and the State of New Jersey, Pioneers Trails is entering its 54<sup>th</sup> year of service and is held at the beautiful campus of Caldwell College. Camp Directors Bob Lampf and Joe Lanni, have  designed activities that will challenge and develop each child while meeting new friends and making everlasting memories. Pioneer Trails received 93% Excellent and Good reviews from our parents whose children attended camp in 2008. If you have children between the ages of 3 ½ and 14 years of age Pioneer Trails is the perfect answer to your summer dilemma. June 29<sup>th</sup> is the first

day of camp, we are filling up quickly a \$100.00 deposit will hold your spot.

### **Super Summer Day Camp**

Are you a working parent looking for a camp experience that your child will love and give you peace of mind this summer? Then Super Summer Day Camp is the place for you and your child. Super Summer Camp offers a safe, healthy, fun-filled and worry free environment. Your child can have a great camp experience building self-esteem, lasting friendships and treasured memories. A \$100.00 deposit will hold a spot for a child entering kindergarten through eighth grade.



Your Camp Director Fran Egnizzo and her staff are busy planning exciting trips, Talent Show, Camp Olympics, lock-in and innovative activities for the children. We are very proud that Super Summer Camp received 98% Excellent and Good surveys from families that attended the camp in 2008. Register your child and give Super Summer Camp a try.

### **Peanut Shell Child Care Center**

With over 31 years of experience, Peanut Shell offers a wide variety of creative and motivating activities to instill a love of learning in your child. State Licensed and NAEYC accredited. Peanut Shell provides a fun and nurturing environment for your infant, toddler and preschooler. Our goal is to partner with families to help every child fulfill his or her maximum potential. If you are in need of child care or know someone please visit our Open House on June 19<sup>th</sup>, July 18<sup>th</sup> or August 15<sup>th</sup> or call 973-533-1511 for more information and times.



### **Weekday Nursery and Child Care Center**

Weekday is concerned with the growth of the whole child: physically, socially, intellectually, and emotionally. We strive to create an atmosphere where play comes naturally. We encourage independence, exploration and creativity. Our program helps children understand and express their needs and become aware of the needs of

others. We believe that each child is unique; development is a continuous, learning and active process. A positive pre-school experience strengthens and enriches the young child. Weekday is state licensed and hires experienced certified teachers who have knowledge of working with young children. Our Open House is scheduled for June 11<sup>th</sup>, July 8<sup>th</sup>, August 12<sup>th</sup> or call 973-992-1203 for more information and times.



### **West Essex YMCA & H1N1 Flu (swine flu)**

The West Essex YMCA would like to keep you informed what H1N1 Flu is, how we are preventing the spread of this disease and what you can do too. All our fitness equipment, mats and children's toys and equipment are cleaned twice a day by our staff. In addition we would like to ask each of you to please wipe down equipment upon completion of your workout.

H1N1 Flu is a type of flu virus that causes respiratory disease that can spread from person to person. Symptoms are: fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headaches, chills, tiredness and vomiting or diarrhea. If your child has allergies one way to tell the difference is that they will not have a fever and do not appear ill.

Children and adults are at risk if they come in contact with someone who is displaying symptoms listed above. Be sure to teach your children about how to avoid germs by always washing their hands. They should be reminded to cover their mouths and noses whenever they sneeze or cough.

So remember teach your child to wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds (sing ABC song or Happy Birthday twice)! Cough and sneeze into a tissue, sleeve or into the inside of their elbow. If you can, stay away from people who are sick, try to maintain a distance of at least six feet.

Please keep your sick child home and call your family doctor if you have any questions.