May 2014

2014-2015 Executive Board Positions
Now Available

Please Contact Julie Ruffing at: grasshopper7707@yahoo.com if you are interested in volunteering for any of the following positions:

- Membership VP
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Growing Up Sale Moms/Couples Night Out
- Welcome Coordinator
- Newsletter Editor
- Preschool Picasso
- Play Group Coordinator
- Website Editor
- Newsletter Advertising Sales

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2013-2014 Executive Board</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Vice President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership Vice President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Growing Up Sale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kids Outings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member Spotlight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moms/Couples Night Out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newsletter Editor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newsletter Sponsor Liaison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playgroup Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool Picasso</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Relations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Ambassador</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunshine Meals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website Administrator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welcome Coordinator</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Join the Fun!

Looking to be part of a fantastic group of Moms in Lakewood Ranch? Visit our website at www.lwrmomsgroup.com and start making friends and having fun!
Hi Moms,
I hope everyone had a wonderful Easter and Spring Break!

We are currently looking for volunteers to take over the following committee head positions:
- Membership VP
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Growing Up Sale Moms/Couples Night Out
- Welcome Coordinator
- Newsletter Editor
- Preschool Picasso
- Play Group Coordinator
- Website Editor
- Newsletter Advertising Sales

The positions run from July 1st 2014-June 30th 2015. Since our Moms group runs solely on volunteers please consider offering your time so that we can keep this group running smoothly. If you are interested in hearing more about any of the positions please feel free to email me any time at grasshopper7707@yahoo.com.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the Spring Fling next month. The kids will have a blast with all of the things that Victoria has planned!

Cheers!
Julie Ruffing

“One advantage of being disorderly is that one is constantly making exciting discoveries.”
~Winnie the Pooh~
For more information on events, please visit our Facebook page, or link our Google Calendar at: www.lwrmomsgroup.com/calendar
We’re caring for kids... in a very special place

The Pediatric Unit at Lakewood Ranch Medical Center was created to reassure parents in our community that care is available when their children need overnight observation or extended treatment.

The Pediatric Unit provides skilled care for children from physicians and specially trained nurses; spacious family-style suites; and a healthcare team certified in Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS).

- A parent bed
- A mini-refrigerator
- A dining area and couch
- Toys, books and video games to help young patients feel at home

For more information about the Pediatric Unit at Lakewood Ranch, please call 941.782.2223.

8330 Lakewood Ranch Boulevard
Bradenton, FL 34202
941.782.2100
www.lakewoodranchmedicalcenter.com

Physicians are on the medical staff of Lakewood Ranch Medical Center, but, with limited exceptions, are independent practitioners who are not employees or agents of Lakewood Ranch Medical Center. The hospital shall not be liable for actions or treatments provided by physicians.
Montessori education is quickly becoming the “new age of education” locally and worldwide. Although Montessori was developed in the early 1800’s by Maria Montessori, parents are now seeing the value in the principles of the method, at home and at school. One of the main questions that I receive as a Montessori advocate is „ How do I bring Montessori into my home? “

As stay at home moms strive to build an environment that intrigues and entices their children, they are interested in pulling from this method to enhance their child’s experiences. One of the main assets of a Montessori environment is exactly that … the environment.

As you begin to familiarize yourself with Montessori you will read about the “prepared environment.” The classroom is an essential part of the child’s experience, and therefore needs to be prepared, just like the home environment. Typically, a child’s home environment is made up of their bedroom and possibly a playroom. Here are a few tips to simplify your child’s environment and begin to bring some of the Montessori philosophies into your home.

**Reduce clutter** – Get rid of big bins or baskets that house lots of different toys. This becomes chaotic and typically, the toys or activities are mixed up and not complete. Instead, utilize one of your shelves to house individual activities, usually 3 or 4 to one shelf. Pack away the others and utilize for rotation every 2-3 weeks. Make sure the activities that you choose to place on the shelf have all of their pieces and are not broken. This invites the child to use and explore a few items for a while. While you are setting up the room you can introduce the child to the materials and show your child how to return the activity to the shelf when s/he is done. It may sound crazy, but if you consistently remind and demonstrate how to return activities, soon the child will do the same thing.

**Empower the child** – I am sure that many of you have heard your children say … “I can do it myself” or “me do it”? Each statement is a cry to us as parents to let them have control over some things. One way that Montessori gives children power is to create an environment that allows children to manipulate and emulate the things that we do at home. In the classroom this area is called practical life. This idea can be recreated in the home environment in many ways. The kitchen is one of my favorite places to empower the child. First, make sure the child has plates and utensils in a low cabinet for them to access, this invites the child to set the table, get her own glass for a drink, etc. If you also utilize another low cabinet for appropriate snacks and edible items, the child is able to get a snack independently. In the refrigerator, put a small pitcher with water and other snacks that the child can access. You may be thinking of the mess that is for sure going to follow, and this, I have to say is inevitable. However, the independence that the child feels while fulfilling her needs, far outweighs the time it takes for us to clean up spilled water. Over time the child will learn how to be precise and soon the messes will disappear, leading to independence, confidence and your child’s self-esteem glowing.

**Enrich your child’s experiences** - The Montessori Method offers an array of opportunities for the child to learn. From the primary classroom (3-6 yrs) all the way to the middle school, the child is given experiences that s/he will remember and learn from. With summer fast approaching, we all are getting excited to spending relaxing days with our children. However, if your children are anything like mine, they enjoy some type of schedule and structure. Therefore, build your time around themes or ideas, and utilize our local beaches, museums, parks and waters for exploration. Visit our local museum to expand your knowledge on local history, and then take a tour of one of the first trains in Manatee County at the local train station in Parrish. Have a beach week where you collect and dissect small animals that live in our local waters, and enhance your time with a trip to Mote Marine. Look at art through different eyes, and visit the Chihuly museum in St. Pete, or the Dali museum, where both take art to another level. There are so many options, each offering a unique learning experience for your child and you too!!

When I think about Montessori, I think about the doors that it opens for children of all ages. I observe the satisfaction that they feel as they master an activity or prepare their own snack for the first time. As a mother, one of my ultimate goals is to offer my children many different ways to support who they are. Put that all together with the no ceiling curriculum and the lifetime experiences offered, and for many it is becoming the education of choice. For more information on Montessori you can visit our school website at [www.centermontessori.org](http://www.centermontessori.org) or the American Montessori Society at [http://amshq.org/](http://amshq.org/).
LWR MOM’S GROUP SPRING FLING 2014

SATURDAY JUNE 7TH
4-6PM
GREENBROOK ADVENTURE PARK

Special Event:
Fun to be Fit Mommy & Me Class

Bounce House
Petting Zoo
Ice Cream Truck
Crafts
Snacks

2 FREE Dream Frenz will be given away at the LWR Mom’s Group Spring Fling!
Kids having Fun!

Our moms are always looking for new service providers in our area. If you are interested in advertising with us in our newsletter, or on our website, please contact Julie Ruffing at: Grasshopper7707@yahoo.com.
We would like to update our website and include our Mompreneurs in our newsletters. Please email Kristen Raniere at lwrnewsletter@yahoo.com to be included in the next newsletter. Please be sure to include your correct contact information.

Thank you Moms!

Your children may not say it everyday, or maybe they haven’t learned the words yet, but you are the most important person in their lives. They love you everyday, you are their superheroes.
Mothers' Day... Short Story

For Mom, whom I love more than words can say or stories can tell.

Mothers' Day

The little girl sits at her desk, swinging her legs and chewing the eraser tip on her pencil, looking at the blank piece of paper before her. The assignment is to write a letter for Mother’s Day, telling why the little girl loves her mother. She looks around the classroom for inspiration, then at what the classmate beside her has written. Finally, she leans over her paper, pokes her tongue out of the corner of her mouth in concentration and writes,

Dear Mom,

I love you because you are funny, and nice. I love you because you give good pushes on the swings. I love you because you help me to learn to cook macaroni sometimes. I love you because you tried to help me learn to ride my bike, even when you let go and I fall down. You are good at putting on bandaids and making me feel better, too. Happy Mothers Day.

Satisfied, she takes out her pencil crayons and decorates the margins of the letter with colourful flowers. For the final touch, she draws a prize ribbon that says “BEST MOM.”

Three days later, the little girl gets up very early, sneaks into her mom and dad’s room, and leaves the letter and a small peat pot with a marigold sprig on Mom’s night table so that she will be surprised when she gets up.

At breakfast time, the little girl gets a wet-eyed kiss from her mom, and hears, “thank you, honey.”

Almost exactly ten years later, a girl sits at her desk in her bedroom, a blank piece of stationery before her. “Dear Mom,” it says, and that’s all it says. The teenager wants so much to write something special for her mother, but the words are all tangled. Tears start up and recede again and again. Tears of gratitude for the times when Mom came through with understanding or a hug at just the right moment; tears of anger when Mom said or did something unfair, or refused a special privilege that everyone else’s mom was allowing. The gratitude wins out, and the girl starts by writing,

Dear Mom,

I know we don’t always see eye to eye, but I just want to tell you that you are the best mom a girl could ask for. Thank you for bringing me into this world, and for listening and for…

Tears spill out of the girl’s eyes onto the paper, and she crumples the splotched missive and tosses it in her trash can. After two more similar attempts, the girl rips the paper to shreds, dries her eyes, goes to the mall, and picks out a generic card. The best she can do.

Almost exactly fifteen years later, a woman is awakened by whispering at her bedside. She turns away from the little noises and cracks an eye open to look at the clock radio. 6:45 a.m. Her husband is grinning at her, so she rolls her eyes, and turns over to face her three children, who are armed to the teeth with homemade bead necklaces and cards, and hug coupon books. She makes a suitable fuss over everything thrust at her, and then gets up to make toast for her hungry two-year-old, who is demanding breakfast in a language that only a parent can understand.

That evening, the mother creeps into her children’s rooms to kiss them as they sleep. As she looks upon them, she is hit with a wave of what can only be described as mother love, and she thinks, now I understand those wet-eyed kisses when I was seven. And I probably should have given my mom the letter I tried to write when I was seventeen.
Lakewood Ranch Moms Group, Inc.
Membership Renewal Form

Please complete this form and mail it, along with your $30 check made payable to Lakewood Ranch Moms Group, Inc., by July 15, 2014 to:
Lakewood Ranch Moms Group, Inc. | 8374 Market Street #435 | Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202

Name: ________________________________________________________________
Address: _______________________________________________________________
City: ________________________________ State: ________ Zip: ________________
Phone: __________________ E-mail: ______________________________________

Children’s Names:                Birth Date:                                    School Attending*:
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

Our group is run completely by volunteers. Please note that we request all members to contribute to the success of our group by volunteering annually in one form or another. Some of the ways you can help our group be successful are by taking on an executive position, volunteering at a special event or community service project, providing a sunshine meal to a fellow mom, for example. Please check the box or boxes below to indicate some ways you may be able to help out:

☐ Delivering a Sunshine Meal to a new mom or mother in need. You can cook or order the meal from a local restaurant.
☐ Be a part of our Community Service Committee by helping plan and volunteer at events to raise funds for our selected charity
☐ Participate in the new playgroup format as a participant and host of playgroups (generally for kids 4 and under)
☐ Be a part of our Welcome Committee and deliver welcome packages/bake cookies or other baked goods.
☐ Assist with the newsletter production as a part of the Newsletter Committee
☐ Assist with locating sponsors for our events, ads for our newsletter to help raise funds for our events.
☐ Answer questions other moms may have about the school(s) your child attends.

I, the undersigned, understand that my participation and the participation of any members of my family in any Lakewood Ranch Moms Group, Inc. activity or program is completely voluntary, and we hereby give permission for myself and my family to join in those activities and/or programs. My family shall hold harmless this Moms Group and any Moms Group volunteers for representatives, paid or unpaid, and/or the providers of any activity or program location and/or materials from any liability and/or responsibility for any accident, illness, or injury that occurs during or as a result of any function or program. I accept that the final responsibility for my safety and that of my family rests with me.

Member’s Signature: ____________________________ Date: ________________
Below you will find a list of available ad sizes, along with the price and dimension of each ad. They are:

- **Business card ad (full color)** $30.00/month 3.5” x 2.5”
- **Quarter page ad (full color)** $50.00/month 3.75” x 4.875”
- **Half page ad (full color)** $75.00/month 7.75” x 4.875”
- **Full page ad (full color)** $100.00/month 7.75” x 9.75”

(There is a 10% discount if you choose to pay for 1 year of advertising.)

*All of our advertisers receive full color ads at no additional charge.*

**Event Sponsorship:**
The following Moms Group events are available for sponsorship: The Spring Fling, The Luau, The Halloween Extravaganza, or The Sunday with Santa. There are different levels of sponsorship available and the details of each level are listed below. They are:

1. **Platinum Sponsorship ($600 minimum)**
   - Half page advertisement for 6 months in the monthly Lakewood Ranch Moms Group, Inc. newsletter (ad will print for 6 months after the event date). [$450.00 value]
   - If the sponsor wishes to do so, they may write an article for the LWR Moms Group newsletter. The article must be family friendly. The LWR Moms Group reserves the right to not use any article which is deemed not so.
   - Recognition as a Platinum Sponsor on all promotional pieces and registration materials for the event (both on website and our monthly newsletter).
   - Sponsor may provide a table and/or a banner at the event for increased exposure! Sponsor is also provided the opportunity to raffle a door prize. All materials and door prizes must be suitable for viewing by children whom attend all of our events.

2. **Gold Sponsorship ($350 minimum)**
   - Quarter page advertisement for 3 months in the monthly Lakewood Ranch Moms Group, Inc. newsletter (ad will print for 3 months after the event date). [$150.00 value]
   - If the sponsor wishes to do so, they may write an article for the LWR Moms Group newsletter. The article must be family friendly. The LWR Moms Group reserves the right to not use any article which is deemed not so.
   - Recognition as a Gold Sponsor on all promotional pieces and registration materials for the event (both on website and our monthly newsletter).
   - Sponsor may provide a table and/or a banner at the event for increased exposure. Sponsor is also provided the opportunity to raffle a door prize. All materials and door prizes must be suitable for viewing by children whom attend all of our events.

3. **Silver Sponsorship ($150 minimum)**
   - Quarter page advertisement for 2 months in the monthly Lakewood Ranch Moms Group, Inc. newsletter (ad will print for 2 months after the event date). [$100.00 value]
   - Recognition as a Silver Sponsor on all promotional pieces and registration materials for the event (both on website and our monthly newsletter).

4. **Bronze Sponsorship ($75 minimum)**
   - Business Card advertisement for 2 months in the monthly Lakewood Ranch Moms Group, Inc. newsletter (ad will print for 2 months after the event date). [$60.00 value]
   - Recognition as a Bronze Sponsor on all promotional pieces and registration materials for the event (both on website and our monthly newsletter).

Payment arrangements and newsletter ad artwork should be submitted in .jpeg or .pdf file format to Julie Ruffing at grasshopper7707@yahoo.com. Please make sure to specify the size of the ad when you email payment and the ad artwork. Ad submissions are due by the 10th of the month prior to publication. For example, materials for an ad placed in the August newsletter must be received by July 10th.

We look forward to working with you! If you have any questions, or need any further information, please feel free to contact Julie Ruffing at (941) 807-4359 or grasshopper7707@yahoo.com or the Newsletter Editor, Kristen Raniere at lwrnnewsletter@yahoo.com.
Looking for a Playgroup?
We are always happy to start new playgroups or help place you and your child in an existing group. Our playgroups are for children up to three years old. For more information please contact Jenn Otterness at jenn.otterness@gmail.com