

# MOMMY'S TIME OUT

*Lakewood Ranch Mom's Group, Inc.*

*The official newsletter of the Lakewood Ranch Moms Group, written by, for,  
and about moms living in the Lakewood Ranch community.*



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**



## 2013-2014 Executive Board

President	Julie Ruffing
Administrative Vice President	Victoria Cobb
Membership Vice President	Rebecca Gurski
Secretary	Becky Johnson
Treasurer	Michelle Dillingham
Community Service	Ashley McIntyre
Growing Up Sale	Michelle Dillingham
Kids Outings	Rebecca Murphy
Member Spotlight	Lauren Kelly
Moms/Couples Night Out	Candice Carr
Newsletter Editor	Kristen Raniere
Newsletter Sponsor Liaison	Open
Playgroup Coordinator	Jenn Otterness
Preschool Picasso	Sarah Zabel
Public Relations	Melissa Rixon
School Ambassador	Lisa Albano
Sunshine Meals	Katie Bender
Website Administrator	Kristen Raniere
Welcome Coordinator	Linda Tobiassen

## Join the Fun!

Looking to be part of a fantastic group of  
Moms in Lakewood Ranch? Visit our  
website at [www.lwrmomsgroup.com](http://www.lwrmomsgroup.com) and  
start making friends and having fun!



## A Message from Our President

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 1<sup>st</sup> 2014-June 30<sup>th</sup> 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 interesting 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~*

## **A warm welcome to our newest members!**

Please be sure to visit our website and Facebook Page for lots of fun events!

If you are interested in joining the Lakewood Ranch Mom's group, visit our website at: [lwrmomsgroup.com](http://lwrmomsgroup.com) and complete the *Become a Member* form.

New members are always welcome!

**FREE**

**Order Your LWR  
Moms Group Car Decals**



**Size: 3x2**

**Cost: FREE**

**To order contact Julie at:  
[Grasshopper7707@yahoo.com](mailto:Grasshopper7707@yahoo.com)**

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 **AACO**  
American Association of Orthodontists

**TAURUS.** (the bull.)  
april 21- DETERMINED.  
may 21. PUNCTUAL. PRODUCTIVE.  
affectionate. generous.  
\* CREATIVE. thorough.  
LOYAL. CLEVER.  
PATIENT. trust-  
worthy.  
warm- ARTISTIC.  
hearted. DEPENDABLE.  
PERSISTENT. organized.  
SENSUOUS. RESOURCEFUL.  
\* **GOOD-NATURED.**  
extremely good looking.



**LWR Mom's Group**

**May 2014 (Eastern Time)**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 6:30pm - Center	14 9:30am - Monthly	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 7pm - MAY Book	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

For more information on events, please visit our Facebook page, or link our Google Calendar at: [www.lwrmomsgroup.com/calendar](http://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.**



**Pediatric Unit**  
at Lakewood Ranch  
Medical Center



8330 Lakewood Ranch Boulevard  
Bradenton, FL 34202  
941.782.2100

[www.lakewoodranchmedicalcenter.com](http://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.





# Center Montessori School

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/>.

**Event  
Sponsor**



**LWR**  
**MOM'S GROUP**  
**© SPRING**  
**FLING**  
**2014**

**2 FREE Dream  
Frenz will be given  
away at the LWR  
Mom's Group  
Spring Fling!**

**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**



# River Landings Animal Clinic



~ For Every Stage of Your Pet's Life ~



**Dr. Ryan Fox**  
**Dr. Michael Bonda**

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6140 53rd Ave E.  
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[www.riverlandingsanimalclinic.com](http://www.riverlandingsanimalclinic.com)



## OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday  
7 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Saturday  
8 a.m. - noon

We pride ourselves in quality care, a clean and inviting facility and a warm and friendly staff. So that we may provide your pet with the very best in care, our office works by appointment.

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Avian & Exotic  
Medicine**

**Dentistry  
Surgery  
Radiology  
Ultrasound  
Endoscopy  
Laboratory Service**

**Bathing  
Boarding  
Drop Off Service**



~ The Fox Family is a LWR Moms Group Family ~

~ We understand your pets are your family, that is why we treat them as if they were our own. ~



**Kids having Fun!**



Do you know what your children are  
doing this summer?

Come join us for summer camps as  
we go on an adventure and "travel the  
world" ... Departing June 16<sup>th</sup>

Contact Carrie at:  
[carrie@lwrbaptist.com](mailto:carrie@lwrbaptist.com) or call  
941-400-1006 to register today!

Ages 2 Years – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade  
Lakewood Ranch Baptist Church



**Advertise  
with Us!**



Our moms are always looking for new  
service providers in our area. If you are inter-  
ested in advertising with us in our newsletter, or  
on our website, please contact Julie Ruffing at:  
**Grasshopper7707@yahoo.com.**

# HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY MOMS!

All the  
other  
kids...

I'm  
hungry

I need my  
dolly

I didn't  
do it!

Na na  
na na na

Do you  
want to  
build a  
snowman?

That's not  
fair

I had an  
accident

Why do I  
have to go  
to...

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.



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ONLY

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**941-536-4525**

Available weekly, every  
other week or monthly.



*Work Smart Mompreneurs*

We would like to update our website and include our Mompreneurs in our newsletters. Please email Kristen Raniere at [lwrnewsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:lwrnewsletter@yahoo.com) to be included in the next newsletter. Please be sure to include your correct contact information.

Thank you Moms!

## 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 funney, and nice. I love you because you give good pushes on the swings. I love you because you help me to lern to cook macaroni somtimes. I love you because you tried to help me lern to ride my bike, even wen you let go and I fall down. You are good at putting on bandaids and making me feel beter, to. 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 splotted 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: \_\_\_\_\_

## **ADVERTISE WITH THE LAKEWOOD RANCH MOMS GROUP**

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 lwrnewsletter@yahoo.com.

May 2014

### **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](mailto:jenn.otterness@gmail.com)



[WWW.LWRMOMSGROUP.COM](http://WWW.LWRMOMSGROUP.COM)

**Lakewood Ranch  
Mom's Group Inc.  
8374 Market Street # 435  
Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202**