

Welcome to La Semana 2008!

27 Years and Growing

Monday, July 28 – Friday, August 1, 9 AM to 2:45 PM
Hosted by All Saints Catholic Church,
19795 Holyoke Ave, Lakeville, MN

WHAT TO BRING

Campers: Have comfortable shoes and warm-weather clothes. Also bring a bag lunch and beverage every day except Thursday. Children who need a mid-morning snack can bring something to eat at recess times. No food is allowed in the building except in the dining room.

Each camper will receive a tee-shirt, which is to be worn daily, left at camp during the week, then taken home on Friday. Many campers also will need to bring parts of their dance costume (see pp. 5-6 below).

Adults: Wear comfortable warm-weather clothes and footwear. The building is air-conditioned but some activities will be outside. Also, bring a lunch every day except Thursday. Cameras are allowed in camp, but please respect the campers and presenters. Each child will receive a yearbook and class photo at the end of the week.

DROP OFF/PICK UP

Please enter the church facility from the northern drive and park in the large lot in front of the church.

Some classroom assignments may have changed, so please check class lists carefully before dropping off your child.

Lists will be on the entry doors and at each classroom. A map with classroom locations (which are in the north wing—Door G, or in the lower level under the church sanctuary—Door F) will be posted at the front entrance. Teen rooms are in the lower level between the church and the north classroom wing.

For the safety of all, please bring K through 7 campers to their classrooms each morning at 9 AM and meet them there promptly at 2:45 PM each afternoon. Classroom facilitators cannot let a child leave without an authorized adult. Please let your classroom facilitator know if anyone other than a parent is allowed to pick up your child. Our hard working facilitators often need to pick up their own children, so please be prompt at the end of the day.

CLASSROOM FACILITATORS

All in-town facilitators **are strongly encouraged to attend an orientation meeting** (especially if they are new or have never attended an orientation before). There will be two orientations: on July 24th at 7:00 PM, at the home of Laura Pardo, 1930 Girard Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55403; and at All Saints Church on July 26th during

camp setup, from 11:00-11:30 AM, in the room next to the cafeteria. **Please RSVP** to Laura Pardo (612-827-5112). For more information, check www.lasemana.org.

You **are also strongly encouraged to organize and decorate your classroom** at camp setup (July 26, 9 am to noon) since camp activities start promptly at 9:00 on Monday morning.

DAYCARE

For those families with children in daycare, please read p. 7 below carefully.

CAMP ACTIVITIES

Monday Morning

Ayudante Orientation, 8:30 AM, Small Teen Lounge

Classroom Orientation and Get-To-Know-You Activities, 9:00-9:30 AM

Facilitator Training/ Orientation (For those who still need to attend one), 9:00-9:30 AM, Library

Flag Ceremony, 9:30-10:00 AM
All parents and campers are invited to Murphy Hall for our welcoming ceremony featuring flags and national anthems from all our campers' birth countries.

Wednesday – Market Day

Please join us on July 30th, when vendors will be selling

items from, or related to, Latin America. There will be something for everyone, young and old alike! Items may include crafts, clothing, greeting cards, books, musical instruments, housewares, CDs, adoption-related items and more. Campers will have opportunities during the day to visit the "Market," and there will be a number of inexpensive items for our younger campers to buy. Please make sure your young children know that they must be accompanied by an adult, either you or a classroom facilitator. Also on Market Day, Latin American food will be available for purchase on a first come, first served basis in the cafeteria. Details will follow.

Thursday – Latin Lunch

No need for a bag lunch on Thursday – our kitchen volunteers will prepare a wonderful Latin meal for all campers and volunteers. Latin desserts will be provided at lunchtime everyday.

Friday – Kindergarten Dance & Assembly

Come to Murphy Hall at 9:15 AM on Friday for a final camp Assembly featuring the Kindergarteners performing a dance in traditional costume, our Corazon Latino dance troupe and a special Latin Hip Hop performance.

Friday – Seventh Grade Graduation, 1:15 PM

If you have a 7th grade camper, you are welcome to attend "graduation" on Friday at 1:15 PM in the Commons (under the church sanctuary). This marks the campers' transition from elementary camp to the Grade 8-10 Junior Teen

program, after which they can return as Ayudantes (helpers).

Friday – Fiesta, 6:00 PM

Fiesta is a camp highlight, and this year the fun begins at 6:00 PM. Your immediate family is invited to Lakeville South High School to watch campers from grade 1 through Senior Teens show off the dances they learned during the week. Dancers will be in authentic costumes, so bring your camera. Once again, we expect to have DVDs of Fiesta available for order.

Seating is always limited at Fiesta. The Lakeville auditorium has 1069 seats and we will have nearly 500 campers. In order to seat all campers and their families, Fiesta is limited to immediate families this year – please no extended family or guests.

Parent Education

Programs on child development, adoption and other parenting issues will be presented throughout the week. Session subjects and times will be posted in the camp office and on our web site (www.lasemana.org) the week of camp. Programs are repeated if possible to facilitate attendance by volunteers. Although each volunteer's first responsibility is to his or her volunteer assignment, each may attend any Parent Ed session if he or she has arranged coverage for that assignment.

CAMP CURRICULUM

K - 7 Campers

A typical day for elementary campers includes a craft activity, dance practice in preparation for the Friday Fiesta, Spanish music

activities, a "Life" session, a presentation or activity related to the year's Specialty (African Influence in Latin America), a lunch break and one or two recess times to burn off energy or hang out with friends. All activities are age-appropriate, interactive and hopefully fun.

Because Christianity is a large part of Latin American culture, your child may hear about Christian holidays, traditions, etc. La Semana is a non-denominational camp open to children of all beliefs and any discussion of religion is only as it pertains to Latin culture.

Teen Programs

Junior Teens (those entering grades 8-10) will be on field trips of varying length for three days of camp week. Tuesday will be an extended day; parents should be prepared to pick up their Junior Teens at All Saints at about 6:00 PM. The remainder of the time will be spent in classes with a similar focus as those for K-7 campers.

10th graders will have a special orientation to the Ayudante program for next year, and will be invited to join the Senior Teen party Friday night after the Fiesta. Detailed information about the Junior Teen program will be mailed to Junior Teen families and also available on the website in mid-July.

Senior Teens (those entering grade 11 through spring '08 high school graduates) spend most of the day placed in classrooms or program areas as Ayudantes (helpers). Senior Teens hear speakers and can choose to attend a teen class and field trip on Wednesday. A party for Senior Teens will be held on Friday evening

after the Fiesta. Please look for a party flyer in the teen area during the week. A letter will be mailed to Ayudantes with details for the week.

Over the course of the next year La Semana leadership plans to form a task force to discuss possible changes to the Junior and Senior Teen Programs. If you or your child will be a participant in either of these programs in 2009 and you would like to participate in this task force, we would welcome your input. Please watch the La Semana website or the daily newsletters at camp for more information. Or, you may send an email to lasemana@gmail.com and we will contact you when task force meetings are planned.

Life Programs

All K-7 campers have three or four "Life" programs during the week, dealing with issues of self-esteem, racism, teasing, adoption, etc. Life activities, developed by trained therapists, are age-appropriate and are tested and modified over the years.

Parents of K-3 campers are welcome to sit in on Life sessions at any time, but we ask parents to leave the room for Life programs for grades 4 and up. The presence of adults other than the trained moderator can inhibit a child's honest expression of feelings.

Much of the Life curriculum is available for review during the week. You may call Judy Long (612-724-1083) or visit with her during camp week with any questions about Life programs.

On Thursday, 4th grade campers will prepare a booklet entitled "My Story." The exact time of Thursday's Life session

will be announced during camp week. Parents are expected to help their child with this project during the Thursday class.

BEHAVIOR

Each family has signed the La Semana Camp Code of Conduct, setting out the minimum expectations for behavior during camp. Junior and Senior Teens will sign an updated version during orientation. **The Code of Conduct has been updated and a copy of the new Code is included in this letter** (see pp. 8-9). **Please read the revised Code carefully.**

We expect all campers to follow the Code's rules at all times. A camper who is having difficulty with camp rules will be reminded. If the behavior continues, a "time out" may be required. If a problem persists, the camper may be asked to spend some time in the camp office or the parents may be asked to remove the child from camp. A camper with repeated or serious discipline issues may be asked not to return to camp the next year.

Adults, please be aware that you are role models for all campers. If you are uncertain about appropriate camp behavior, please ask for help in the office or from a more experienced camp family. We are guests at All Saints and want to be invited back!

CAMP OFFICE & VOLUNTEER LOUNGE

Questions? Need help? Come to the camp office just inside the main entrance to the church. Coffee, snacks and vending machines are

available in the office for *adult* volunteers only.

VISITORS

Visitors are always welcome, but we ask that they check in at the office, let the office staff know who will be their escort and wear a nametag throughout the day. Please do not enter rooms where activities are in session. Visitors under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent at all times.

EMERGENCIES

In an emergency, people outside camp can call 952-469-6464. However, there is only one line for the nearly 700 people at camp. The phone will not take messages and it cannot be used to call out. If you can, please bring a cell phone to camp.

CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME

La Semana is sponsored by PLAC (Parents of Latin American Children), a non-profit organization of families created through adoption. The camp is planned and executed almost entirely by volunteer parents. We have fewer than 10 paid staff, who are hired for specific skills or background that parents of campers don't have. If you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution to PLAC or La Semana, stop by the camp office. This is a great way to honor a deceased family member or other loved ones.

DIRECTIONS

All Saints Catholic Church Site of Camp

Take I-35W from Minneapolis, or I-35E from St. Paul, south until 35W & 35E merge (approximately 20 miles from the center of each city). At Exit 85 (County Rd 5/County Rd. 50) go east (left) 4.1 miles. The

road will become Kenwood Trail. At the intersection of Kenwood Trail and Holyoke Ave., there is a four-way stop (look for the Lakeville fire station and city hall). Go north (left) on Holyoke for 1/2 mile. The church can be seen on your left. Take the second driveway into the main parking lot.

Lakeville South High School – Site of Fiesta

From I-35, exit at County Highway 70 (Exit 81). Go east on Hwy 70, and turn left (north) on Jacquard Avenue. The school is on the left side of Jacquard Avenue.

FIESTA DANCE COSTUME REQUIREMENTS

While La Semana provides most of the costumes needed for Fiesta, we ask that you please provide certain items to complete the outfits.

We have a *limited* supply of some items (blouses, shirts, pants) to borrow. *Please come to the costume area near the dance rooms on Monday to reserve what you need.* Items will be lent on a first come, first served basis.

Please also check the costume notes at the end of this section.

If you have any questions, please call the Costume Coordinator, Mona Bergman Dewane, at 952-925-3989.

Grade 1 boys: white shirt, white pants

Grade 1 girls: nothing needed

Grade 2 boys: white shirt, black pants

Grade 2 girls: white peasant blouse

Grade 3A boys: white shirt, black pants

Grade 3B and 3C boys: white shirt, black pants, black shoes

Grade 3A and 3B girls: white peasant blouse

Grade 3C girls: black shoes

Grade 4 boys (all): black shirt, black pants, black shoes

Grade 4A girls and Mia P, Anna B, Luvia B and Brigid M: black shoes

Grade 4C girls and remaining 4B girls: white blouses

Grade 5 boys (all): black shirt, black pants

Grade 5 girls (all): white peasant blouse

Grade 6A boys: white shirt, black pants

Grade 6B boys: black shirt, black pants, black shoes

Grade 6A girls: white peasant blouse

Grade 6B girls: white peasant blouse, black shoes

Grade 7 boys (all): black shirt, black pants

Grade 7A girls: nothing needed

Grade 7B girls: white peasant blouse

COSTUME NOTES *****

Boys white or black shirts should be long sleeve, button-down dress shirts.

Boys white or black pants should be long dress pants.

Girls peasant blouses should be plain white, free of embroidery or other designs, with short, puffy sleeves and ruffled collar.

Girls black shoes should be Mary Jane style, if possible, with a small heel.

If anyone has any extra long sleeve black, button-down dress shirts or girls black shoes to either lend or donate, we would appreciate it.

If your child will not be dancing in the Fiesta on Friday night, please inform the Costume Coordinator (see above) before camp, or the dance instructor during camp.

Girls, please wear shorts under your skirts on Fiesta night to facilitate changing in the dressing room.

Costume requirements sometimes change during camp week. Please be patient and flexible if the dance teachers need to make any changes at the last minute. Thank you.

INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN IN DAYCARE

We are looking forward to a great time in the daycare room during La Semana! At camp, daycare will be provided for children ages 0-4. Daycare will be available for those who have registered and been confirmed ahead of time and for the days and hours when parents are working at La Semana.

The daycare is located in rooms 210A and 210B, and is open from 8:45 AM to 3:15 PM.

Your child must be brought to the daycare by a parent and signed in daily. Your child will be released only to the parent(s). If your child is to be picked up by someone else, you must notify the childcare staff in writing and also put that information on the sign-in sheet. Please be prompt when getting your child at the end of the day. We realize some parents have jobs keeping them right up to 3:00 PM so we will be open until 3:15 PM, but please come to pick up children as close to 3:00 PM as possible.

Things to bring:

- A bag lunch with a beverage labeled with the child's name. There is no refrigeration. (Age-appropriate snacks will be provided morning and afternoon.)
- Diapers and wipes for the children needing them.
- Napping/quiet time rest blanket or toy.
- A change of clothes – just in case!

PLEASE LABEL ALL ITEMS!

Tee-shirts: La Semana tee-shirts will remain in day care at the end of each day and go home with your child on Friday.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Sheila at 612-724-4765 or shougen@earthlink.net or Marion at 612-722-9903.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Changes have been made to the Code of Conduct! Please read the Code carefully and share it with your children.

LA SEMANA CODE OF CONDUCT

In order to ensure the safety and well being of everyone in the camp community, the following rules will apply to all campers from Kindergarten through high school graduates:

- Campers are expected to participate in all activities and programs at camp and to be with their group or at their assigned places unless permission is granted from an adult in charge.
- Campers should give proper attention to personal cleanliness and dress appropriately. Campers will wear a camp tee shirt at all times. If campers are deemed to be wearing inappropriate attire they may be sent home, asked to change, or instructed to wear more appropriate attire on subsequent days.
- All classroom assignments are final.
- All participants in La Semana and PLAC are expected to treat each other in a respectful manner at all times, including the months outside of camp. Disrespectful, threatening, or hurtful behavior of any type directed toward another camper or PLAC member, or failure to correct inappropriate behavior, may result in exclusion from camp, immediate removal from camp, or other disciplinary action.
- The following are prohibited at camp: hats worn inside the building, use of cell phones, music players, game machines, video or DVD players, weapons or items that look like weapons, non-prescription drugs, illegal substances, tobacco, alcohol, gambling, stealing, hazing, conduct that is disruptive, insubordinate, discriminates, harasses, lies, denigrates or endangers anyone, public displays of affection and any items, symbols or gestures related to gangs, illegal drugs, sex, or violence.
- All participants are expected to promptly report violations of the Code of Conduct to an adult leader of their assigned area.

All Saints Catholic Church, instructors, volunteers and directors and members of this organization will not be held responsible for any accident or losses, however caused, and agree to release all parties involved from any claim, lawsuit or damage, which may arise as a result of or by reason of such loss or accident. I understand that precautions will be taken to ensure the safety of all participants.

I give my permission to be photographed and/or videotaped, knowing that such pictures, images and audiovisuals may be disseminated to the general public.

I have read and agree to the La Semana Code of Conduct. By signing this Code, I am pledging to adhere to the rules outlined here.

I understand that if I do not adhere to the Code of Conduct that disciplinary activity may be taken. I may be asked to leave camp without notice and I will be expected to provide or arrange for transportation at that time. Alternatively I may be excluded from camp now or in the future. My continued participation may also be conditioned on the attendance of my parent or another responsible adult at camp with me.

Print Full Name _____

Grade in Sept. ____

Signature* _____

Date _____

*Signature of parent if participant is in the K-7 program

THANK YOU LA SEMANA PLANNING COMMITTEE!

Camp Chair	Kathi Gallup	651-784-3969	kandkgallup@earthlink.net
Vice Chair & Flag Ceremony	Melinda Greer	952-928-7711	greer.melinda@dorsey.com
Vice-Chair Elect & Facilities	Jim Stromberg	952-937-0123	jimstromberg@gmail.com
Alumni Coordinator	Kerry Noyes	952-476-0546	kerrykn@aol.com
Camp Schedule	Dianne Schmiesing	612-729-2149	slydi.may23@gmail.com
Classroom Placement	Stephanie Tacheny	612-819-8019	s.tacheny09@yahoo.com
Classroom Support	Laura Pardo	612-827-5112	pardocinco@comcast.net
Code of Conduct	Susan Stokes	651-698-0948	sstokes@scc.net
Communications Editor	Gabrielle Dane	651-690-9891	gdane2@gmail.com
Communications Mailer	Kelly O'Brien	612-729-7103	kobrien@voamn.org
Crafts	Jane Zielke	651-681-9100	jzielke@comcast.net
Crafts (Teens)	Carol Bros	952-929-2812	clbros@comcast.net
Crafts (Teens)	Jean Adomatis	952-937-0291	jadomaitis@comcast.net
Dance Costumes (Camp Week)	Paulette Dietsche	651-786-3522	pjdietsche@yahoo.com
Dance Costumes (Pre-Camp)	Mona Dewane	952-925-3989	dewanefamily@aol.com
Dance Instruction	Anna Palchizaca	763-789-4364	apanna01@yahoo.com
Database	Louis Brendemuehl	952-881-2265	lbrendo@aol.com
Daycare	Sheila Hougen	612-724-4765	shougen@earthlink.net
Fiesta	Maryann Mickelson	763-536-0565	tmmickel@comcast.net
Finance & Site Coordinator	Joan Thomas	651-483-9808	thomasjoan@comcast.net
Junior Teens	Sheri Ahl	612-827-3831	ahlhaugen@comcast.net
Junior Teen Programming	Brenda Hartman	651-603-2751	brendah@connections.net
Junior Teen Programming	Randi Vietoris	651-436-7565	mrvietoris@msn.com
Junior Teen Programming	Betty Stulberg	763-533-9059	onwings@comcast.net
Kitchen	Laura Hood	414-464-9315	lashood@sbcglobal.net
Language	Jessica Kunkel	952-888-4847	Jessica_Kunkel@irco.com
Life & Parent Ed	Judy Long	612-724-1083	long_juleann@yahoo.com
Market Day	Brenda Weiler	952-476-9940	pbweiler@comcast.net
Registration	Roxie Burleigh	651-699-5298	roxiebur@aol.com
Senior Teens	Sherry Stern	952-471-0646	slstern99@aol.com
Spanish Music	Jessica Kunkel	952-888-4847	Jessica_Kunkel@irco.com
Code of Conduct	Susan Stokes	651-698-0948	sstokes@scc.net
Specialty	Colleen Albright	952-442-5894	calbright@co.doc.state.mn.us
Volunteer Coordinator	Ginny Green	320-259-8756	vhgreen@charter.net
Warehouse	Angie Steele	651-688-8553	mssteele@comcast.net
Webmaster	Mark Christensen	651-450-4772	mark@markchristensen.com
Yearbook	Jaclyn Dvorak	952-442-5894	j_dvorak@dvorakphoto.com