



Parent/Guardian Session Letter – Specialty Arts Camp

Week 5: July 28, 2025 – August 1, 2025

Welcome to Specialty Arts Camp! We are thrilled to have your child join us for an exciting, active, and engaging camp experience. Whether it's their first time at camp or they're returning for another adventure, we are dedicated to providing a safe, inclusive, and memorable environment for all campers. Please read the attached information carefully and do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Camp Details

The camp day runs from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm (daily).

Location: Chestnut Hills Developments Recreation Complex - 1867 Valley Farm Rd, Pickering, Pottery Studio.

Meet Your Camp Director

Hi, I am Reza! A lifelong clay enthusiast, I have been teaching art for 32 years! I've been an academic lecturer, art director, and even written six books—but my favorite thing is getting my hands messy and imaginations soaring in the studio with kids!

Camper Pick-Up/Drop-Off Procedures

Specialty Arts Camp takes place in the Pottery Studio at Chestnut Hill Developments Recreation Complex (CHDRC).

For the safety of all campers, please drop off and pick up your child at the Pottery Studio. Be sure to check in and out with our designated Pick-up/Drop-off counselor each day.

For safety reasons, any alternate pick-up person you designate will be required to show photo ID to camp staff before your child is released into their care. Please make sure they are aware of this protocol and that your child is picked up on time.

Absenteeism / Safe Arrivals

If you know in advance that your child will be absent or late, please email me at rhosseiny@pickering.ca or camps@pickering.ca. If you would rather leave a voicemail, please call 905.420.4660 ext. 3246.

If a camper is absent without prior notification, we will attempt to contact the parents/guardians.

What To Expect

Unleash your creativity at our Specialty Arts Camp! Campers will dive into the world of clay, crafting unique projects that reflect their personal style. They'll also master the art of painting, creating stunning masterpieces to proudly display at home.

What to Bring to Camp

- **Clothing:** Campers should wear comfortable clothes suitable for activities. Please do not send valuables, as campers are responsible for their own belongings. Remember to label all items (e.g., lunch bags, extra clothes, coats) to help prevent mix-ups. Indoor shoes (running shoes are recommended) are also required.
- Campers may be outside during the camp day so please pack appropriate clothing for outside play.
- **Lunch and Snacks:** Campers must bring a nut-free lunch each day. Please pack lunch in non-breakable containers (no glass). Campers will have two snack breaks and lunchtime, so extra snacks are encouraged.

Allergy Notice

Please be sensitive to any food allergies that may be brought to your attention (i.e. tree nut allergies that can be life threatening). For this reason, please do not pack tree nuts, tree nut products, or any products containing traces of nuts in your child's lunch for camp. If staff are unsure of snacks (i.e. granola bars), Campers will be asked not to eat them at camp. Fruit is always a healthy and allergy safe snack! Please feel free to send a copy of the ingredients of any items we may be unsure of (i.e. cookies). Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

- **Water Bottle:** Please pack a reusable water bottle. There are water fill stations available at camp to keep your child hydrated throughout the day, as they may be outside.

Swimming

Campers will swim on Thursday in the indoor pool at the CHDRC from 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm. Please ensure your child brings a towel and bathing suit in a separate bag. Campers who choose not to swim will be participating in other activities in the Pottery Studio.

Pool Guidelines

- **Campers (8 years – 12 years):** A 4:1 counselor-to-camper ratio applies to campers 8 and up.

Deep End Swim Test:

Campers aged 8 - 9 may take a swim test to swim in the deep end without a life jacket. To pass, they must swim 10 meters and tread water for 30 seconds. If they do not pass the test, they will be required to wear a life jacket for the remainder of the week. Even if they pass, a counselor must accompany them in the deep end to maintain the 4:1 ratio, so access to the deep end may be limited. No exceptions and the lifeguards decision is final. We also must always adhere to a 4:1 ratio so therefore your child may not be able to swim in the deep end of the large pool at all times.

Wristbands

On the first day of camp, each camper will receive a wristband in their camp's designated color. Please help ensure your camper wears their wristband throughout the week. If the wristband is lost or damaged, a replacement will be provided the following day at camp.

The following is a list of the special theme days at Specialty Arts Camp:

Monday, July 28	Tuesday, July 29	Wednesday, July 30	Thursday, July 31	Friday, August 1
Orientation Day! Welcome to Camp!	Flora & Fauna Frenzy! Dress as your favorite plant or animal	Elemental Energy Day! Come as an element of nature – Earth, Water, Fire, or Air	Camp Colors: Nature Day Wear a color found in nature	Nature's Runway: Eco-Fashion Show! DIY costume day using recycled or natural materials

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us directly via email at camps@pickering.ca

Looking forward to enjoying a fantastic week together!

Reza Hosseiny, Specialty Arts Camp Director