

Neighborhood Post

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Summertime fun

Cara McKinley (left), an art instructor at the Lighthouse ArtCenter in Tequesta, takes a look at the 3D sculpture being created by Alexandra Goldman, 10. The center is offering its summer camp. **Story, Page 6.**

DAMON HIGGINS
Staff Photographer



6 THE PALM BEACH POST • THURSDAY, MAY 5, 2011 N

IN FOCUS

Lighthouse ArtCenter in Tequesta keeps focus on art

It has a summer camp where kids create sea-life art.

By BILL DIPAOLLO
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

TEQUESTA — As a 5-year-old growing up in the village, Megan Elyse Bell remembers happy days at summer camp playing outside and doing arts and crafts.

Now as an adult, she is doing the same thing — except as a camp teacher.

"We'll be making drawings and sea monsters... Plus, the children will be learning, and they won't even realize it," said Bell, who is also the assistant director of education at the Lighthouse ArtCenter.

Registration is open for children aged 4-12 to sign up for the camp, which runs from June through August.

Each week, students will have ocean-themed subjects to work on, Bell said. Campers will use sand and shells to create



Chloe Reynolds, 9, an art student at the Lighthouse ArtCenter in Tequesta, works on her 3D sculpture.

sea-life art using water colors, acrylic paint, pencil, pastels and clay.

The attention to art is the reason Bonnie Cotton is again sending her two children Eliana, 8, and Rebecca, 6, to the camp. The "all art" atmosphere makes the 40-minute drive from her home in Palm City worthwhile, she said.

"The children live and breathe art," Cotton said. "When they come home on Fridays with their art work, we have them set it up. Then, we have an art show."

Elizabeth Lerner, who plans to send her 10-year-old daughter for her fifth consecutive summer, said Maddy's self-confidence in her art

work has steadily grown. The camp has a different theme for art work every year.

"One year, it was art based on food," said Lerner, of North Palm Beach. "The children at the camp have the same love for art. They develop a real connection with each other."

Lighthouse ArtCenter is a member-supported community arts association. The nonprofit, 501 (c) (3) organization's programs are funded by the Palm Beach County's Cultural Council and the Tourist Development Council.

Bell, who volunteered as a teenager at the summer camp and was hired in 2008, said her fond



Staff photos by DAMON HIGGINS

Cara McKinley (left), an art instructor at the Lighthouse ArtCenter in Tequesta, takes a look at the 3D sculpture being created by Alexandra Goldman, 10, in the center's third- and fourth-grade portfolio class. The course is a preparatory class for the Bak Middle School of the Arts in West Palm Beach, McKinley said. "We do our best to encourage art in the community." The center is offering a summer arts camp with an ocean theme.

memories are revived every year when school lets out.

"When I was a kid, summer camp was my favorite time of the year," she said. "I hope we can make those same memories for these children."

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Lighthouse ArtCenter Summer Camp

Where: 395 Seabrook Road, Tequesta
When: June 6-Aug. 12
Camp hours: Weekdays only, 9 a.m.-noon, for ages 4 and 5; 9 a.m.-3 p.m. for ages 6-12.

Weekly cost: Ages 4-5, \$110 for members and \$135 for nonmembers. Ages 6-12, \$185 for members and \$210 for nonmembers. After-care from 3-5 p.m.; \$75 per week or \$20 per day.

More information: Go to LighthouseArts.org or call (561) 748-8737.