



Parent Letter

August/September 2016

Dear Parent(s) and Guardian(s),

As our summer days near an end we are all looking forward to the change of seasons and the beautiful colors that come with it! Our last baseball game of the season was on Thursday, August 11, 2016. We are thankful that the weather cooperated with us this year and I am happy to report that although a few of the games were moved inside, none of them had to be cancelled. I would like to send out a special thanks to all of our dedicated volunteers for their continuous efforts to support our clients so that they are able to partake in this opportunity.



Announcements:

As many of you know, we have two confirmed cases of MRSA on campus. At this time, we are taking all necessary precautions to ensure the safety and care of your loved ones. I have attached a MRSA information sheet to the Parent Letter in the event that you would like to learn more information. If you have any additional questions, please contact me, or Krissy Dolen, DON, at (630)593-5156.

Exciting News:

Marklund is proud to be a partner with the Aspen Lane Wine Company, an Aurora-based winery established by an amazing family whose goal is to give back to organizations that support children and adults with disabilities! As a partner, Marklund receives a donation for every bottle of wine selected through the Wine Club, or simply a la carte on the website – when the purchaser chooses Marklund as its charity of choice.

Wine enthusiasts can support Marklund by joining the Aspen Lane Wine Club. Check it out at <https://www.aspenlanewinecompany.com/Wine-Club>.

Client Updates:

It is with a heavy heart that I announce the passing of Vicki G. from MVH on July 7, 2016. Vicki was a member of the Marklund family for over 30 years. Vicki will be greatly missed by all of her housemates and the staff at Marklund. A funeral was conducted by Gil Fonger, CEO, at Brust Funeral Home and an onsite memorial took place last month.

We have a new face in MVH! Please join me in welcoming Tammy to the MVH home. Tammy was admitted on August 21, 2016, from Alden Village in Bloomingdale, IL. Tammy's mother is exceptionally happy to have Tammy at Marklund and she is thrilled that she will get to visit her often.

Campus Updates:

I wanted to keep you all informed of the staffing situation at the Geneva campus. We are continually looking to recruit and hire new CNAs for our homes and DT. We have several staff that are moving to IHR status as a result of upcoming class schedules. Marklund offers generous tuition reimbursement for eligible staff who wish to further their education. Many staff are taking advantage of this benefit. As a result, we will have some new faces around campus. Please welcome these new employees into their new respective roles.

Developmental Training Updates:

At Developmental Training, we are wrapping up our lessons and discussions on the Olympics and are excited to be rolling out our new curriculum in the classrooms beginning September 2nd. Our first lesson will be a Labor Day lesson. The month of September is themed "Change of Seasons." Each week is related to that theme and each day is related to the theme of the week. Week 1 is Weather, Week 2 is Sports, Week 3 is Harvest, and Week 4 is Wildlife and Greenery. Each day at DT will include a lesson based on the theme of the week and an activity or craft to go along with it. We are excited to begin this new change at DT to provide a learning experience for all of the individuals we serve.

Parent Survey:

This is a reminder that the parent survey was sent out last month. I would like to thank all of you who took the time to submit your responses! If you have not yet completed the survey, we ask that you please do so. Your response helps us to know how we are doing as an organization, and it lets us know if there are any areas that may need improvement. The survey can be completed online. The website for the survey is: www.surveymonkey.com/r/marklund16

Parent Portal:

I am happy to report that the Parent Portal is back up and running! I have attached instructions for accessing this section of our website. Please contact me if you have any further questions.

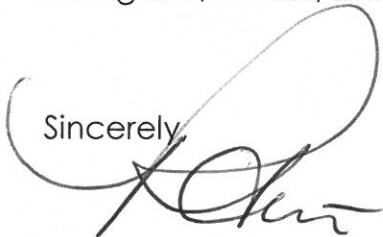
Upcoming Events:

- Sept. 10, 2016- Parent Meeting @10:00 a.m. Hyde Center
- Sept. 17, 2016- Marklund's 6th Annual Pancake Breakfast
- Oct. 23, 2016- Marklund's 4th Annual Run, Walk & Roll

We always have exciting events taking place. Please notify us if you are interested in participating in any activities we have to offer.

Keep up with Marklund happenings on our social media sites: Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn and YouTube!

Sincerely,



Rachelle Jewison,

Administrator of Marklund Hyde Center and Community-Based Services

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"Making everyday life possible for individuals with profound disabilities"

Instructions for Accessing the Parent Portal:

Registering as a user on the Marklund website will give you access to a password-protected Parent Portal, which includes information exclusive to our parents/guardians.

If you are already registered, you should still be activated.

To register as a NEW user, please do the following:

1. Go to www.marklund.org, then scroll down to the bottom of the home page and click on the **CREATE AN ACCOUNT** link in the lower right corner.
2. Fill out the required information on the form. In the last box, "About Me" please write that you are a parent or guardian
3. **Click REGISTER.**
4. You will receive an email explaining next steps.
5. Please note: registering on the site **will not** give you immediate access to the Parent Portal. A website administrator will need to activate your account. You will receive notice when that is complete.
6. When your account is active, you may login to the website in the login box located at the lower right corner of the home page. Once logged in, click on the **MyMarklund** tab found at the top of the home page to access the portal.
7. If you have any questions, please email me at rjewison@marklund.org.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA)

What is MRSA?

MRSA is a kind of bacteria that is resistant to some kinds of antibiotics. To understand MRSA it is helpful to learn about *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteria, often called “staph,” because MRSA is a kind of staph.

What are staph?

Staph are bacteria commonly carried on the skin or in the nose of healthy people. About 25-30% of the U.S. population carry staph on their bodies at any time.

Do staph always make people sick?

No. Many people carry staph in their nose or on their skin for a period of time and do not know they are carrying them. They do not have skin infections. They do not have any other signs or symptoms of illness. This is called “colonization.”

Sometimes, though, staph can cause an infection, especially pimples, boils and other problems with the skin. These infections often contain pus, and may feel itchy and warm. Occasionally, staph cause more serious infections.

How are staph spread?

Staph are spread by direct skin-to-skin contact, such as shaking hands, wrestling, or other direct contact with the skin of another person. Staph are also spread by contact with items that have been touched by people with staph, like towels shared after bathing and drying off, or shared athletic equipment in the gym or on the field.

Staph infections start when staph get into a cut, scrape or other break in the skin. People who have skin infections—painful, swollen pimples, boils, and rashes, for example—should be very careful to avoid spreading their infection to others.

Is MRSA different from other staph?

Yes. MRSA is different from other staph because it cannot be treated with some antibiotics. When antibiotics are needed to treat a MRSA infection, the right antibiotic must be used. If the right antibiotic is not used, the treatment may not work.

MRSA is just like other staph in almost every other way:

- MRSA can be carried on the skin or in the nose of healthy people, and usually not cause an infection or make them sick.
- It can cause minor skin infections that go away without any special medical treatment.
- It is spread the same way as other staph.
- The symptoms are the same as other staph infections.

MRSA is sometimes said as a single word, “mersa,” or by saying all four letters, “M-R-S-A”

MRSA



What are the symptoms of an infection caused by staph?

Pimples, rashes, pus-filled boils, especially when warm, painful, red or swollen, can mean that you have a staph or MRSA skin infection.

Occasionally, staph can also cause more serious problems such as surgical wound infections, bloodstream infections and pneumonia. The symptoms could include high fever, swelling, heat and pain around a wound, headache, fatigue and others.

What should I do if I think I have a staph skin infection?

Keep the area clean and dry. See your doctor, especially if the infection is large, painful, warm to the touch, or does not heal by itself.

How will my doctor know if I have a MRSA infection?

The only way to tell the difference between MRSA and other staph infections is with lab tests. Lab tests will also help your doctor decide which antibiotic should be used for treatment, if antibiotic treatment is necessary.

Your doctor will usually take a sample on a swab (like a Q-tip) from the infected area. The sample will be sent to a laboratory to see if the infection is caused by staph. Blood and other body fluids can also be tested for staph.

How are MRSA infections treated?

Most MRSA skin infections are treated by good wound and skin care: keeping the area clean and dry, washing your hands after caring for the area, carefully disposing of any bandages, and allowing your body to heal.

Sometimes treatment requires the use of antibiotics. Lab tests help your doctor decide which antibiotic should be used for treatment, if antibiotic treatment is necessary. If antibiotics are prescribed, it is important to use the medication as directed unless your doctor tells you to stop. If the infection has not improved within a few days after seeing your doctor, contact your doctor again.

How can I prevent a staph infection?

- Regular handwashing is the best way to prevent getting and spreading staph, including MRSA. Keep your hands clean by washing them frequently with soap and warm water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer, especially after direct contact with another person's skin.
- Keep cuts and scrapes clean and covered with a bandage until they have healed.
- Avoid contact with other people's wounds or bandages.
- Avoid sharing personal items such as towels, washcloths, toothbrushes and razors. Sharing these items may transfer staph from one person to another.
- Keep your skin healthy, and avoid getting dry, cracked skin, especially during the winter. Healthy skin helps to keep the staph on the surface of your skin from causing an infection underneath your skin.
- Contact your doctor if you have a skin infection that does not improve.

**For more information about MRSA,
visit the MDPH website at www.mass.gov/dph**