



NOVEMBER

# HEAD START NEWS

Oak Ridge Head Start & Early Head Start Newsletter



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## FROM THE DESK OF YOUR CDS

By: *Jennifer Tinstman*

From the desk of: Jennifer Tinstman, CDS jtinstman@mfc.us.com , 386-235-4480

Happy November and Happy Thanksgiving to all of our children and families! Thank you for your participation in center meetings and events. You are all doing a great job having your children prepared for school each day and we appreciate your efforts in arriving on time and picking up promptly as the school day ends. We are hoping to begin enjoying some cooler days soon so please be sure to check that your child's extra set of clothing is appropriate and send a light sweater or jacket also when needed. A few quick thoughts on 'play' and its importance for your child's development. . . It is generally through play that a preschool child learns about the world around them. It is very important that we give children time for a variety of play, including dramatic play and make-believe, as well as allowing them creative building, counting, and problem solving opportunities.

Because young children enjoy play, it becomes a very natural way for them to learn about themselves and about the world in which they live. Since, children learn through play, they must be given enough time to do so. When you see your child actively involved in play at school, you can be assured that they are doing a lot of important learning while enjoying the learning process. We look forward to sharing another fun month with your children and encourage you to continue to participate in center activities and events when you can, including the home activities sent home by your child's teacher. This shows your child that school is very important and that you value it. At this time of the year as we all celebrate Thanksgiving with friends and family, we are reminded of how grateful we are to have you and your children here with us at Head Start each day and we wish you a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday.



## CONTACT US!

CDS: Jennifer Tinstman 386-235-4480

Family Advocate: Yasmin Moore 386-956-3688

### Classroom Phone Number & Extensions

386-366-8242

HS Classroom 1 Ext. #101 Ms. Kathy & Ms. Elaine

HS Classroom #2 Ext. # 102 Ms. Carolyn & Ms. Nia

EHS Classroom #3 Ext.# 103 Ms. Lavonne & Ms. Carla

EHS classroom #4 Ext. #104 Ms. Jody & Ms. Adriana



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

No School Tuesday, November 3—Teacher In-Service Day

No School-Wednesday,

November 11—Veteran's Day

No school- November 23-27 Thanksgiving Holiday

Virtual Parent Meeting Thursday, November 12 @ 3:30pm



Head Start  
Mid Florida Community Services  
Early Head Start



# FAMILY ADVOCATE CORNER

**By: Yasmin Moore**

## FROM YOUR FAMILY ADVOCATE

Parents, we thank you so much for your patience with us as we check in and out your children daily. As we progress into the school year, please let's continue to "Wash Up, Back Up and Mask Up" for the safety of our families and staff.

- Don't forget to wear your mask when checking in or picking up your child. If you do forget, we have masks available for you at the check in/out table.

- Please continue to maintain 6ft at check in and pick up.

- Children 2 and older as well as staff will continue to wear masks in the classrooms and in the Center.

**PARENT MEETINGS:** Parents are encouraged to participate in Parent Meetings as much as possible, as the number of participants is significant to our continued funding of the Program. How are we doing? Please take time to fill out our online Customer Service Survey at the following link or get a survey card from your Family Advocate. Your feedback will be of significant help to the Program

English: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NCRYDV9>

Spanish: <https://es.surveymonkey.com/r/XPVFCG8>

Medical records: Parents please turn in the updated Dental, Physical or immunization record(s) for your child which was requested by your Family Advocate.

Please contact your Family Advocate if you need any assistance.



## A NOTE FROM THE TEACHERS

### HEAD START

#### Classroom 1

November is a time of showing thankfulness and appreciation. It also brings a new theme to look forward to. Our new study is Pets. Our class will explore how to care for pets and will create a classroom pet shelter or pet store. We will investigate what kind of animals are pets, characteristics of pets, and where pets live – their habitats. We will have fun taking a virtual trip to an animal shelter. During this month we will be "Giving Thanks" and explore what makes our families special. This is a great time to focus on things we are thankful for in our lives. We also hope everyone enjoys their Thanksgiving Holiday! We would like you to know that we are thankful for our parents and our children in our classroom!

Ms. Kathy and Ms. Elaine

#### Classroom 2

Welcome Fall! We think you are finally here! Please remember, as the weather is changing talk about the season of Fall (Autumn) with your child. Our new study, PETS, has begun. We will be talking about: What kind of animals make good pets, where do pets live, what do they eat, how do they make us feel, and more. Don't forget to check your Teaching Strategies Family Portal for our class time zoom on Fridays, everyone should be joining in!! November, is a short month. Thanksgiving break will be here before you know it and so is the time change, Fall back! Just a reminder: School starts at 8:00 am. It is very important for your child to be in school as close to that time as possible! Thanks in advance for helping your child be on time for school every day! Also, work on spelling and recognizing first name, counting and recognizing numbers to 10 (or more), and describing shapes, WE WILL!!!

With hearts of kindness: Ms. Carolyn/Ms. Nia

### EARLY HEAD START

#### Classroom 3

Introducing your new teaching team: Ms. Zhane and Ms. Dawn. We would like to thank you for the opportunity to teach your children at this very important stage of their lives. Thank you for you trusting our program with your most valuable treasure. We love what we do and that is to give the best quality care to our children. Getting to know your child is one of our priorities and to reach this goal we need your help. Please share with us your child's preferences. We have individual learning activities for each child every month in our classroom, as well as, sending you home activities. For us, effective communication is very important. Please let us know if there are any changes at home so we have insight to any unexpected behaviors. If your child is sick please keep him/her at home and give us a call. The weather is changing and flu season is here. Please make sure we have an extra set of clothing for your child in the classroom in case of spills or potty accidents. Please let us know if in any way we can be of help to you. We look forward to getting to know you.

Ms. Zhane and Ms. Dawn

#### Classroom 4

This month in classroom 4 we are working on direction words. For example: up, down, over, under, and through. We are playing games and doing physical activities to help the children learn what these words mean. We are also continuing to work on our social skills, being kind to our friends and using gentle hands. We are looking forward to a great month and Thank you in advance for your participation in our zoom sessions on Fridays.

Ms. Jody & Ms. Adriana

## PARENT MEETING MINUTES

October 8, 2020

- Parent Meeting started at: 3:30 p.m.
- Parents were greeted by: Family Advocate (FA), Yasmin and Child Dev Specialist (CDS) Jennifer.
- What's going on in the Classrooms- teachers and CDS

### REPORTS

- CDS provided updates
- Teachers: Yes: x No:
- FA: YES: X No:
- Policy Council Rep: Yes: X No:

### Notes:

- Teachers and CDS greeted parents and presented information on classroom activities. Teachers encouraged parents to have conversations with their children and engage them in conversations which make them to think and relate materials
- Policy Council representatives gave their reports. Reps will need to have training before they can vote at Policy Council meeting
- FA led the Voting of Officers for Parent Committee. Results of vote: Chairperson- Ms. Charmaine Hibbert; Vice Chairperson- Ms. Leah Gonzalez; Secretary-Rochelle Brown. Co-Vice Chairperson was not selected.
- Parents voted to approve Jason Meehan as a Policy Council Community Representative
- FA led Voting of parent meeting day/date & time. One parent had difficulty with afternoon meetings due to work. However, she will be able to log on whenever possible. Meetings will continue to be held 2nd Thursdays @ 3:30.
- FA reviewed important information for the month of October
- FA engaged parents in parent curriculum, "Your Child's Brain and its amazing Potential". FA presented a slide show and talking points. Parents did ask questions and requested copy of the slide.
- FA spoke about the importance of attendance and informed parents of Certificates for perfect attendance. 2 children in EHS received Perfect attendance Certificates for October. FA encouraged parents, especially of children in HS to be diligent in getting the children to school every day and on time as their future success is dependent on present attendance.
- FA will greet parents at drop off and pick up and issue the Blue Comment Cards
- Walmart Gift cards were awarded to the first two parents who logged on and stayed for the whole meeting. FA asked parents to invite the male figures in the children's lives to the meetings.
- Meeting adjourned at: 4:10 p.m. Present: 7 parents. Staff: 8.

## HOME LEARNING / FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Although, we are in attendance physically at school Monday-Thursday, school is in session Monday-Friday. Friday Zoom sessions are essential for our children to continue learning and growing every day of the week. Please check your Teaching Strategies Family Portal for information on logging onto live zoom session with your child's classroom teachers and peers. If you have any questions on how to log onto zoom, please contact your child's teacher.



## POLICY COUNCIL UPDATES

The start of a new Policy Council has begun on October 22, 2020. Policy Council met via Zoom to allow ease for communication and voting while practicing COVID 19 safety practices. All Board leadership positions were voted upon and filled. The September minutes were approved by the new Policy Council. Eight prospective hires were approved. OHS IM (ACF-IM-HS-20-05) was reviewed regarding the Focus Area One and Focus Area Two Audits, as well as CLASS will not be audited for the 2020-2021 year. Service area and center reports were approved.

### Spookley The Square Pumpkin

Written by Joe Troiano & Illustrated by Susan Banta  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qo2BAoqxbdM>



## CHILDREN'S BOOK SUGGESTION