



MARCH

# 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@mfcfs.us.com , 386-235-4480

It is hard to believe it is already March! It seems like the months are flying by much too quickly. February went by fast and it feels like summer will be here in the before we know it. There will be lots of spring fun and learning going on as we move through this month. We are excited to see the progress of the children at this point in the school year. All are doing so well with their school readiness skills, and our staff all feel very fortunate to have such a wonderful group of children to work with each day. Our littlest ones in Early Head Start are growing so fast and we are having fun watching them learn and discover something new each day.

We appreciate all of your efforts in making your child's school experience a fun one. Parent and family participation and communication make our job so much easier. Thank you parents and families for helping the teachers to get their 2nd home visits with you scheduled and completed.

This month will fill a little shorter since we do have our Spring Break time off. We hope that all of you can enjoy a restful and relaxing break time this month and are able to share some quality family time together. Don't forget Daylight Savings Time starts on Sunday, March 14, 2020 at 2am, So set your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday night! Fortunately our cell phones pretty much keep us on track with this now.



## CONTACT US!

CDS: Jennifer Tinstman 386-235-4480

Family Advocate: Sheena McDaniel 386-956-3859

### 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. Dawn & Ms. Zhane

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



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- Early Release Wednesday, March 3, 2021 @ 1pm
- Virtual Parent Meeting Thursday, March 11 2021@ 3:00pm
- March 19, 2021 Students No School-Teacher In-Service
- Spring Break March 22nd-26th
- Classes resume on Monday March 29th



Head Start  
Mid Florida Community Services  
Early Head Start

Let's Get  
Connected!



@MFCSHHeadStart



## FAMILY ADVOCATE CORNER

By: *Sheena McDaniel*

### GREETINGS FROM THE DESK OF FAMILY ADVOCATE

I would like to greet you as your new Family Advocate. My name is Sheena McDaniel and it is my pleasure to serve you in the capacity as Family Advocate. I am looking forward to meeting all of you, as I have met your children.

**COVID REMINDER:** As we continue to practice COVID 19 protocols, please remember that anyone entering our campus is expected to wear a mask. Parents are to wear mask at drop off and pick up, and to maintain a distance of 6 ft. If you need a mask please ask the teacher or a staff member for one.

**Attendance:** Please remember (1) that teachers cannot sign children in before 7:45 a.m. (2) To call the school before 9:00 a.m. if your child will be absent. My contact cell phone number is 386 956 3859. **Medical Records:** Medical records expiration notices are being sent home and parents are requested to follow the deadlines on the notices.



## A NOTE FROM THE TEACHERS

### HEAD START

#### CLASSROOM 1

It's March and spring is in the air!

We are beginning a new study on Buildings. We will be exploring the topic and investigate what the buildings in our neighborhood and other places look like. We will investigate who builds buildings and the tools they use. We will be learning about building materials and physical forces. We will explore the purpose of different structures. We will be learning some great concepts while making and building things. In our class, March will be another month of discovery and fun through learning! Learning letters, sounds, and numbers. March 2nd is Dr. Seuss Day and we will be reading a Dr. Seuss book and watching a special Dr. Seuss video. We will be emphasizing the numerous rhymes he uses. Spring break is this month... Relax and Enjoy Spring Break!

-Ms. Kathy & Ms. Elaine

#### CLASSROOM 2

This month we will begin the Building Study. It will offer different opportunities for the children to explore buildings. During this study, the children will try to explore and expand their knowledge and understanding of the different types of buildings & materials used to build them. They will also be exploring concepts related to shelter, jobs and the purpose of different buildings. Different types of buildings are everywhere in our community, so please notice them with your child. As always, we will continue to work on recognizing, spelling, & writing our first and last names, numbers, shapes and colors. We look forward to Spring break this month as well.

-Ms. Carolyn & Ms. Nia

### EARLY HEAD START CLASSROOM 3

Happy March! This month in classroom 3 we will be working on sharing, taking turns and making friends. We will be learning about friendship, spring and the colors green and yellow. Our infants are crawling and exploring the classroom while our toddlers are continuing to work on their self-help, communication, and fine and gross motor skills. Please remember to send in an extra change of clothes for your child! Thank you

-Ms. Zhane & Ms. Dawn

#### CLASSROOM 4

March will be bringing in our spring season and a lot of new learning experiences to our little ones. In March, we are learning about the color green & the Season of Spring. We're going to be working on making some St. Patrick's Day crafts. Our classroom is going to keep working on communication and also helping children recognize their feelings words so they can start using words to express themselves. Please make sure to bring your child extra clothes when he/she use the ones that were kept at school. It is important use a mask when picking up and dropping off your child. Thank you for working together with us as a team!

-Ms. Jody & Ms. Adriana

## PARENT MEETING MINUTES

Oakridge HS/EHS

Parent's Meeting Minutes February 11, 2021

- Parent Meeting started at: 3:00 p.m. via ZOOM.
- Parents were greeted by: Family Advocate and CDS

### REPORTS

- Teachers: Yes: X No:
- FA: YES: X No:
- Policy Council Rep: Yes: No: X

### Notes:

- Chairperson, Ms. Charmaine Hibbert had an emergency at work and could not attend. FA and CDS greeted parents.
- FA introduced new FA Ms. Sheena McDaniel
- Teachers presented information on classroom activities and encouraged parents to engage with their children in activities
- Policy Council representatives were not present and no reports were available.
- FA led a Valentine Bingo with parents and staff.
- FA discussed attendance for the month of January. FA expressed concern about the attendance percentage for some Pre-K children and encouraged parents to improve on attendance as this can affect the child in Kindergarten and beyond.
- FA explained to parents and staff the importance of the Blue Comment Card and asked parents to complete them and can request a card as needed.
- FA engaged parents in Parent Curriculum Activity "Making it a Routine". FA invited parents to share anything they gathered from the Parent Curriculum 6-part Series. Teachers participated by endorsing and contributing to the discussion on the importance of routine to children. FA encouraged parents to use every moment as #Teachablemoment with their child.
- Four parents were present at the meeting
- Five staff members were present.
- Meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

\*\*Next meeting will be 3/11/21 at 3 p.m. via ZOOM\*\*



## CHILDREN'S BOOK SUGGESTION

## HOME LEARNING / FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Please enjoy doing the two home activities that are sent home every month with your child. We also wanted to thank all of our parents that attended our Family engagement activities during the month of February. We hope you enjoyed "seeing" your child participating in their classrooms through the zoom session. We are planning zoom sessions for the next two months with hopes that many of our parents will be interested in attending. There will be further information given at our parent meetings each month, so please try to attend.



## POLICY COUNCIL UPDATES

On Thursday, February 25, 2021, MFCS HS/EHS Policy Council met via Zoom. New elections were held for the Chair and Vice Chair positions; these were filled. The Policy Council approved the January PC Minutes. Six prospective staff were approved to proceed with hiring. The following reports were approved: budgets, attendance, enrollment, and snack reports. Lastly, the following Parent Activities were approved: Osteen, Westside, and Easter Seals.

Too Much Glue Written by Jason Lefebvre and illustrated by Zac Retz

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Je39PxnjveY&t=5s>