



JANUARY 2022

HEAD START NEWS

Brooksville Head Start Newsletter



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FROM THE DESK OF YOUR CDS

By: Jennifer Hanner

Happy 2022! I hope that everyone had a great holiday and enjoyed your time with your friends and family. We are halfway through the school year, and the children and teachers have been busy learning about the different studies in the classroom. Every week the teachers send home lesson plans and activities using our Teaching Strategies app. Just a few friendly reminders: all Head Start parents need to be parking up front, with the exception of classroom 1402; anyone checking in or picking up a child must wear a mask during these times. Our check in station closes at 9am, however you can drop off our child at any time. We asked that if you are dropping off your child after 9am, please call your Family advocate or your child's teacher so that they can meet you to check in. Please remember that pick up time is at 2pm. If you want to come in and help out in the classroom, such as by reading a story or joining during circle time, we would love to have you! Please talk with your child's teacher to set up a time. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me. I hope you all have a great January and stay warm.



CONTACT US!

CDS Name: Jennifer Hanner
 CDS Phone Number(s):
 (352) 206-4616
 Office (352) 754-2464 ext. 245
 Family Advocate Names: Jody Lopez
 FA Phone Numbers: (352) 754-2464 Ext. 209, 213, and 249
Center Phone Number and Classroom Extensions: (352) 754-2464
 901 : Extension 1901
 902: Extension 1902
 903: Extension 1903
 904: Extension 1904
 701: Extension 1701
 1402: Extension 1402



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

1/4 Class Resumes
 1/18 Parent Meeting VIA Zoom
 1/17 No School



Head Start
 Mid Florida Community Services
 Early Head Start

Let's Get Connected!



@MFCSHHeadStart



FAMILY ADVOCATE CORNER

By: Jody Lopez

Greetings to all our Families!

I look forward to seeing you all at our next Parent Meeting on Tuesday, January 18, 2022 at 9AM via Zoom. We encourage everyone to participate in our monthly meetings as you are part of the decisions and changes that occur in our program.

During the month of December, children both in EHS/HS will be receiving gifts from a community sponsor who chose to sponsor our program. Thank you to all the sponsors who made it possible for our program to deliver beautiful smiles of all our children during this Holiday Season.

Lastly, please bring your child to school on time and every day. If your child is absent or going to be late, please notify your FA or teaching staff.

I would like to wish every a safe and healthy holiday and will see you in 2022! If you have any questions or concerns, please contact at 352-247-1115.

Reminders: All Expiration Notices for Immunizations and Physicals have already been sent out for children for the month of December/January. Please update these documents and submit them to your FA.

Feeding Tampa: Wednesday, December 22, 2021 from 12PM-1:30PM. This is a drive through mobile pantry and will take place in Kennedy Park.



CLASSROOM 701

We are very happy that we have completed the first school semester. The children are learning more about trees and how to take care of them. We also continue to study our topic of Second Step: Managing Emotions. We want to let you know that we are continuing to send the home activities by TSG. We thank the parents for all of their help this year, and hope that next year you can all be involved even more in the daily activities of your child. Remember that your participation is very important. It is also important that you read stories to your child daily. Any questions can be communicated with Ms. Evelyn at elugo@MFCS.US.com, or with Ms. Virginia at vtraverzo@MFCS.US.com.

Ms. Evelyn & Ms. Virginia



A NOTE FROM THE TEACHERS

CLASSROOM 902

Our classroom is finishing up the Ball study. The children have had opportunities for exploring, counting, sorting, and classifying. You are more than welcome to finish the Tree at-home activity and bring it to school when we return on Jan 4! 😊 When we return from break, we are going to start over a little and do some of the activities from the first weeks. With the long break, we are all going to need reminders! Happy Holidays!

Ms. Yolanda & Ms. Kim



CLASSROOM 904

Currently Closed.



A NOTE FROM THE TEACHERS

CLASSROOM 901

Hello again! We in classroom 901 having a very fun time during this month. This past month was full of great activities. The children created their holidays ornaments and made a lot of crafts related to the Holidays around the world. They learned so much about trees. Now they know how to recognize what is and is not for recycling, and how water helps people and the environment. The children are having opportunities to learn so much related to our theme. One of our books for this new investigation is: Who Lives in Trees? The children wanted the have this book read over and over again. I am very positive about the children learning and following the routine well. The children are continuing to learn about their emotions and feelings on a daily basis with the help of our puppets and Second Steps.



As part of our schedule, the children will continue to brush their teeth. The children are doing very well with using their masks. Our daily schedule is 8:00 am to 2:00pm. It is important to follow it. Please don't forget to provide your child a small blanket, a jacket as it is getting so cold in the morning, and a change of clothes.

Thanks, Ms. Marybell & Ms. Margie

CLASSROOM 903

Welcome Back!

Dear Parents,

In January, we are getting back into our non-holiday routines as we continue learning. This month, the students continue learning about Lights.

How do lights work? What are the benefits of lights? How can or can't we survive without lights? We'll be going over these and other essential discussions provided by the Teaching Strategies curriculum. As we continue working with Second Step, this unit introduces Playing and Sharing with friends. We will strengthen fine motor skills as we string a garland with animal-friendly food to hang outside for animals who may have trouble finding food this time of year. We will also be talking about Martin Luther King, Jr. and learn why he was so crucial to our society.

As a reminder, children need to wear appropriate closed-toed shoes, and please bring a blanket, a jacket for chilly days, and extra clothes for minor accidents. Our learning path will continue as we learn more new things. We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. Ms. Zulma & Ms. Beth

CLASSROOM 1402

Hello, families and friends of Classroom 1402! December is here! Classroom 1402 is bringing in the new month with our focus lesson about music. Everyone loves music! It has been very fun and interesting exploring the various methods of how to create music. Discussions about different instruments, musical sound groups, and dancing has kept the attention of our students all month long. Our students enjoy dancing and moving to the beat of different sounds of music. Second Step is something we do every day. This month consists of managing our feelings. We discuss ways to control our anger, what to do when we are sad, and how to help our friends when they are having a rough day. Of course, we all know that this month has a special holiday. Because of the many different ways to celebrate around the world, Mrs. Jackie and Mr. Diante decided to introduce our children to some of the different ways cultures around the world celebrate December's holidays. Again, we would like to thank our parents/guardians for everything. Continue to assist our students with their learning outside of the classroom. Our big break is coming up soon. Let's keep our students sharp and start the 2022 year off strong! Have a safe holiday!

Mr. Diante & Mrs. Jackie



HOME LEARNING / FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

PARENT MEETING MINUTES

Each month classroom sends home two learning activities. Please see your child's teacher for more information.

POLICY COUNCIL UPDATES

December Policy Council met via Zoom on December 16, 2021. Quorum was established with 13 community reps present. Heidi Rand, requested a change to the agenda to place Denise Mercado, Inclusion Coordinator on the agenda to present a training on Inclusion. Denise explained the process of the Inclusion Team reviewing every screening conducted on children and then reviewed with families and referred when needed. The inclusion team educates parents on the entire referral process to empower them to advocate for their child. If a child is under 3 they are referred to our partner Early Steps. If the child is over 3 they are referred to our partner Fiddlers on the Hernando County side and Child Time in Volusia. These partners come directly onsite and work with the teachers and child in the Head Start classroom. The Inclusion team also goes directly into the classrooms to observe students and work with teachers to assist with strategies and material usage through modeling. Denise mentioned that a higher number of children on the autism spectrum are being seen and due to this the inclusion team is being proactive and going through an autism spectrum navigator training through UCF to provide the highest quality support. The November meeting minutes were approved. Amy Thomas, Deputy Director of Children's Services, introduced Michelle Hann the new Education Manager for Hernando/Sumter County. The Budget and Credit Card statements were approved. The Enrollment, Attendance and Snack reports were approved. Tanya Hall, Deputy Director of Program Services, presented the Recruitment Action Plan and was passed. Heidi Rand presented and discussed the Temporary COVID-19 Vaccination, Testing, and Face Covering Policy. She stressed that this is a temporary plan and subject to change and be put on hold based on any changes from the Office of Head Start. Following an open discussion the vote was 8 yes and 6 no. The majority passed the temporary policy. Seth Williams, Health Manager, stressed that all of our regular health prevention strategies and our procedures with students currently in place would not change if the temporary COVID-19 policy is to be implemented or put on hold. Heidi Rand presented the Criteria for Selection of Children for 2022-2023 program year and was passed. Staffing Reports were presented for information purposes. All Service Area and Center Reports were presented and approved. Next Policy Council meeting is Thursday, January 27, 2022.

Parent Meeting Minutes Tuesday, December 14, 2021 at 9AM

1parent was in Attendance on Zoom call
Meeting and Minutes were done by Jody Lopez (Family Advocate)

FA read minutes from November 23, 2021 Parent Meeting. FA explained that a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and Policy Council Member was needed for the program. Policy Council Meeting will be held on Thursday, December 16, 2021 at 10Am via Zoom
Students with Perfect Attendance were announced.
Program Reminders:

No School for HS/EHS – Monday, December 20 through Monday, January 3, 2022 (Winter Break)
Monday, January 17, 2021 (Martin Luther King Day)

Program hours for EHS is from 8AM-4PM/HS is from 8AM-2PM Monday through Friday.
Parent's will be notified if a child's Physical/Immunization is expiring.
Parent's must complete a Changes to Family Information Form in order to add someone in the pickup list or change demographic information.

Parents were notified that the program is taking applications for the 2021-2022 program year. Parent were encouraged to tell others that might benefit from the program.

Feeding Tampa: Wednesday, December 22, 2021 from 12PM-1:30PM

Parent were notified that Meal boxes and a gallon of milk will be handed out on Friday, December 17, 2021 during drop off and pick up. All parents must park in the front of the building on Friday.
Parents were also notified of the Holiday Sponsors. Fa mentioned that every child will be going home with Holiday gifts by Friday.

Parents were asked if they had any concerns – No Concerns were mentioned.

Next Parent Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 18, 2022 at 9AM via Zoom.



CHILDREN'S BOOK SUGGESTION

The Mitten By Jane Brett
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d3rRWzdHv5M>