



JANUARY 2022

# HEAD START NEWS

Spring Hill Head Start Newsletter



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## FROM THE DESK OF YOUR CDS

By: *Ronjaneen Harris*

I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays and are having a wonderful and happy New Year. Please make sure you dress your child for the cold weather in warm clothes and closed-in shoes. Also, make sure you bring your child an extra pair of warm clothes to place in their cubby. This month, we look forward to seeing you at the parent meeting and the parent engagement activity. Also, the teachers will begin to schedule home visits for next month. If you have any questions about these activities/and or events, please ask your child's teacher. Each month, your child's teacher sends home two home activities for you to do with your child. Please understand that the interactions between you and your child are very important. When your child sees that you enjoy spending time with them and that learning is important, they will be enthusiastic about learning and also believe that learning is important. Research from the National Coalition for Parent Involvement in Education shares that "no matter their income or background, students with involved parents are more likely to have higher grades and test scores, attend school regularly, have better social skills, show improved behavior and adapt well to school. Your child is learning so much from doing the home activities. When your child plays with puzzles, beads, lace cards, and math manipulatives, they learn eye-hand coordination; number concepts like more and less, longer and shorter; how to create and reproduce patterns; concepts of color, shape and location; how to use number words; first, second...; how to notice differences and to form categories; left and right progression (a reading skill); one to one correspondence; and patterning skills. So, continue working with your child on the home activities and make sure you return the signed forms to your child's teacher.



## CONTACT US!

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 Family Advocates:  
 Lynda Kersey (352) 556-4800, Ext. 2105 | Brianna Yuhasz (352) 556-4800, Ext. 2201  
 Lynn Woerner (352) 556-4800, Ext. 2203 | Nitza Jerez (352) 556-4800, Ext. 2204  
**Classroom Phone Number & Extensions**  
**(352) 556-4800**  
 Classroom 502 Shelley Mott and Olena McCumsey (352) 556-4800, Ext. 2502  
 Classroom 601 Theresa Nunez and Wanda Pagan (352) 556-4800, Ext. 2601  
 Classroom 602 Norma Padro and Lucia Quiles (352) 556-4800, Ext. 2602  
 Classroom 701 Sherry Harris and Theresa Scott (352) 556-4800, Ext. 2701  
 Classroom 702 Amy Doyle and Ryan Fuller (352) 556-4800, Ext. 2702  
 Classroom 901 Amy French and Janet Thomas (352) 556-4800, Ext. 2901  
 Classroom 902 Jennifer Orlandi and Mariani Suarez (352) 556-4800, Ext. 2902



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Children return to school on January 4  
 Parent meeting is January 11 at 1:00 pm  
 Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday is January 17  
 Early Release is January 26 at 1pm



Head Start  
 Mid Florida Community Services  
 Early Head Start

Let's Get  
 Connected!



@MFCSHHeadStart



## FAMILY ADVOCATE CORNER

*By: Lynda Kersey, Lynn Woerner, Nitza Jerez, and Brianna Yuhasz*

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!! We are halfway through this school year and we hope you and your child are enjoying every moment learning new skills and having new experiences. We are so grateful that we have so many agencies and sponsors have been stepping up in providing to our families and children this season. Each child received gifts, and some families received a basket and some are receiving a meal at a restaurant. Thank you to each one of those sponsors! The school is providing each one of the children with meals for the weeks off. If your child was absent the last day, please contact your family advocate to receive your meals. We will be open Monday-Wednesday to assist you during the two weeks of the break. BE SAFE!



## A NOTE FROM THE TEACHERS

### CLASSROOM 502

Happy New Year! This month, we will begin our Pets Study. We will learn about different kinds of pets and how to take care of them. We will compare living and nonliving things and what living things need to stay alive. In Second Step, we will be learning about how to cope with strong feelings like disappointment and excitement. We will be learning techniques about how to calm down. As always, we will still practice name writing and recognition. We will review the colors, shapes, numbers, and letters which we have learned so far. We hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday! Thank you. ~Miss Shelley and Miss Olena

### CLASSROOM 601

Happy New Year and welcome back to school! We hope you had a wonderful break. In Second Step, the children are still identifying uncomfortable feelings and reviewing the steps for calming down. Please continue to review the Second Step letter that is sent home on Fridays. Also, please check the front door for updates in the classroom and school. We will be continuing our investigation of TREES. Children are still working on alphabet letters and sounds. Children are also working on identifying numerals and identifying how many are in a group. Make sure home activities are done as soon as possible and turned in. Thanks. ~Mrs. Theresa and Mrs. Wanda

### CLASSROOM 602

Welcome back. We all hope that you had a great holiday season with friends and family. Here's the latest from the school. January will bring a ton of excitement. We will be learning and talking about "Buildings". Buildings are everywhere in our community. They vary in size, color, construction, material, function, and locations we are using in different seasons.

January also marks the Second Step program about social skills. We will send information each Friday. This will continue our work on the whole language and pre-reading skills. We hope all of you had a very happy and healthy holiday and a Happy New Year!

~Mrs. Norma and Mrs. Lucia

## A NOTE FROM THE TEACHERS

### CLASSROOM 701

Happy New Year 2022. I hope everyone had a blessed and prosperous New Year. This month, we will begin our Clothes Study. We will find out what we know about clothes and what are the features of clothes. We will also find out how to take care of our clothes. How do people make clothes? We will continue going over our letters and letter sounds. We will go over numbers 1-15, colors, and shapes.

~Ms. Sherry and Ms. Theresa



### CLASSROOM 702

Happy New Year! We are so excited to be back and getting into full swing of things. We will be working on our name, numbers, and the sounds of the letters. We will be continuing our Trees Study. The children will be taking the second VPK assessment and we will send home the results as soon as they come in. The children will also be learning about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and other important figures in history that shaped our country. We have an awesome parent activity scheduled for this month and we hope you all will attend. We are looking forward to seeing what this new year brings. ~Ms. Amy & Mr. Ryan

### CLASSROOM 901

Happy New Year! It's time to get up and move after the holidays, so we are starting our Exercise Study in Creative Curriculum. We will talk about what we know about exercise and what we want to find out, the different kinds of exercise, how our bodies move when we exercise, and what our bodies need in order to move and exercise. In Second Step, we are reviewing listening and following direction skills. We will then start talking about the feelings we feel in our bodies and then naming those feelings such as strong ones. We continue to work on name recognition and writing, letter and number recognition, sounds, counting, colors, shapes, and scissor skills. Please continue to work on these learning skills at home to reinforce what we are learning at school. Thank you. ~Ms. Amy & Ms. Janet

### CLASSROOM 902

This month, we will work on getting back to our classroom routine. We will be working on letters Ee, Hh, Rr, and Mm. Please work with your child on writing their first and last name. We will continue to work on rhyming words, compound words, letter name and sounds, and number recognition. Please work with your child at home. We will begin working on the Pets Study. Please send your child with a picture of their pet. Thank you for working with us in your child's education. This second part of the year will go fast, so let's make it the best we can!!!



## PARENT MEETING MINUTES

Welcome- Mrs. Jerez.

What's New- Alicia Wards stepped down as the chairperson and we needed to replace her. Ms. Holly Barnes who was the chairperson before, was willing to run again. She was voted as new Chairperson.

Discussing bringing back the Parent Activity in person using a safely social distance, parent decided in having their activity at the Mariner Bowling and moving the date to February 16th to have more time for the process and planning.

Parent Curriculum Lesson Handouts coming soon. Food boxes will be coming for the holiday break, please stop this afternoon and tomorrow to pick up.

Policy Council Updates - Mrs. Craig and Mrs. Nunes share that the only thing happened on the meeting was going over budgeting.

Early Dismissal- January 26, 2022 and February 23, 2022

No School/ Holiday Breaks coming up as follows - December 20, 2021 Begins Winter Break with students returning on January 4, 2022. January 17 Martin Luther King Jr Day. February 21 Presidents Day

What's going on in my classroom - Norma Class 602-HS. Mrs. Donna Class 402-EHS

Perfect Attendance Certificates- Family Advocate

Special Recognitions - All our classrooms were sponsored this year for the holidays. At this time, we would like to mention those who had big hearts and went out of the way to purchase gifts for all the children in our classrooms this holiday season. They are as follows: Kiwanis Club of Spring Hill, MFCS Senior Services, The Black Educators Caucus of Hernando, Community person, Girl Scouts Sarah Ruggieri, Florida Luxury, Doris M Rodríguez Law Office, The Joshua Foundation, Divinity Spa, NYLA Hair Studios, Halo Hair Salón, Mrs. Mary Homer & Spring Hill Kiwanis Club, and Elks Club Brooksville

Reminders - \*Please keep the gates closed after entering and exiting for the safety of the children on campus; \*Please continue to wear masks when on the campus for everyone's safety; \*Also, when driving in the parking lot please be mindful of the arrows so traffic flows in the intended direction and preventing accidents.; Speaking of holiday boxes of food, please remember to check your child's backpack the end of the week food is sent home and the teacher may place the bag in the backpack to ensure parents get them and do not forget them at school.

Questions and concerns- None

Total in attendance 20 parents and 5 staff members



## HOME LEARNING / FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

- Do things together that you and your child both enjoy (e.g., taking a walk, baking muffins, or swimming) and talk about what you notice and what you are doing, thinking, and feeling. Encourage your child's dramatic (pretend) play by asking questions and sometimes assuming a role. (Are you making a sandwich for me? I like cheese sandwiches with mustard. I'd like to take a trip on your airplane. Where are you going?)
- Collect empty food containers, grocery bags, paper and pencils to make shopping lists, and some play money to encourage your child to pretend that she/he is going to the grocery store.
- Offer old clothes, hats, suitcases, plastic dishes, empty food containers, and writing materials so your child can play house. If possible, make office supplies available as well.
- Provide writing materials for your child to use as she/he plays.
- Offer your child different kinds of art materials and talk about how they can be used.
- Encourage your child to talk about what he is doing and thinking as she/he plays.

(Source: Teaching Strategies, Volume 3: Literacy, page 117)

## 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.

## CHILDREN'S BOOK SUGGESTION

[The happiest tree, a yoga story. - Bing video](#)