



JANUARY 2022

# HEAD START NEWS

Bushnell 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 family and friends. We are half way 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, when dropping off or picking up your child, please remember that you must wear a mask during these times. Please remember that pick up time is at 2pm. If you want to come in and help out in the classroom, read a story or join during circle time, we would love to have you. Please see 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: Jennifer Hanner (352)754-2464 ext. 245  
Family Advocate(s): Jasmine Herring  
(352)793-3737 ext. 220  
(352) 573-7716  
Classroom Phone Extensions: **(352)568-0821**  
1: Ext. 201  
2: Ext. 202



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

January 10, 2022 – First Day Back from Winter Break  
January 17th – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (NO SCHOOL)



Head Start  
Mid Florida Community Services  
Early Head Start

Let's Get  
Connected!



## FAMILY ADVOCATE CORNER

*By: Jasmine Herring*

Parents thank you for allowing us the opportunity to get to know your families! We all want the best for both you and your children. During this break we encourage you to continue completing the tasks we have worked with you in establishing (whether it's independence, engagement, potty-training or co-parenting). The opportunities to establish the kind of adults these children will become are as important now as they will ever be, so please remember consistency is key! We look forward to helping you build a great new year.

## A NOTE FROM THE TEACHERS

### CLASSROOM 1

We hope everyone enjoyed the holiday break! To begin the new school year, classes resume on Monday, January 10, 2022. Our class will be continuing to explore and investigate the topic of study about "Trees". Last month, we introduced our study and described some of the characteristics about trees, what they need to live, what can grow on them, where they can live, and the different kinds of trees (Deciduous/Evergreen). This month, to follow up on what we've already learned, we will discuss the differences between forests and orchards. The Home Activities we will be sending home to the families are called, "Making My Name", and "Suds and Fun". Each one will be sent home within a week's span so that gives everyone the whole week to work on it. We ask that each family return the home activity form back to your child's teachers on Friday. For this month, the read-aloud story we encourage families to read together is called 'Growing Trees'. Parents can access the book through the online Teaching Strategies family's portal. The weather has gotten cooler, so we ask that you will dress your child accordingly. Allow each of them to bring in a change of clothes in the event that there's an accident. Thank you for your support, let's make this another wonderful school year at Bushnell Head start!

Love, Mrs. Tammy Herring & Ms. Breanna Everett

### CLASSROOM 2

In classroom 2, We have finished our clothes study and have begun our study on Trees. We are learning about what kinds of trees we have around our homes, school and in our community. We have been learning about our Feelings and Identifying our different feelings in our Second Step Lessons. We are asking everyone to wear masks. Masks are required on campus. Remember to bring an extra set of clothes because accidents happen and our weather is rapidly changing and a small blanket for rest time. Sign in starts at 8am. Pick up is at 2pm. Make sure when you are walking across the parking lot, whether coming in or leaving, you hold your child's hand so they can stay safely with you. If you are going to be late or need to pick up your child early, please give us a call. We hope you all have a safe and great Holiday and New Year. We hope to see everyone back on Monday, January 10, 2022!

Thank you for continuing to work with us this year.

Ms. Heloise & Mrs. Amber



## HOME LEARNING / FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Classroom #1 Home Activities: "Making my Name." And "Suds and Fun."

Classroom #2 Home Activities: "First, Next, Last" and "Clothes Call"

## 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

December 16th Parents were given information regarding mask policy, Christmas gift receipt, and important upcoming dates. Parents were given voting slip for the time and date of the next Parent Meeting.



## CHILDREN'S BOOK SUGGESTION

"Our Tree Named Steve" by Alan Zweibel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZBfSTcf94yk>

[Little Red Riding Hood retold by Bonnie Dobkins - YouTube](#)