



JANUARY 2022

HEAD START NEWS

Hope Place Head Start & Early Head Start Newsletter



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FROM THE DESK OF YOUR CDS

By Rhonda Lochiatto

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year! We are excited to welcome all of our families back to the year 2022!

As always, I have an open door. Feel free to pop in anytime with any questions, comments, concerns, or even commendations!!!



CONTACT US!

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386-281-3315 Ext.110 & 111
Classroom Phone Number & Extensions
386-281-3315
11-1: x201 11-4: x204
10-6: x106 11-6: x206
10-7: x107 11-10: x210



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Return to School – January 4th
Early Release Day EHS/HS – January 12th
No School, MLK, Jr. Day – January 17th
Every Wednesday – Early Release for HS



Head Start
Mid Florida Community Services
Early Head Start

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Connected!



@MFCSHHeadStart



FAMILY ADVOCATE CORNER

By: Bernadette Flake & Jamie Iraci

Happy Holidays!!!

We hope you all enjoyed your time with your friends, families and loved ones during our break from school. This year, our thanks go to the Tanger Outlets and the Auxilium Manus DEO and The First Baptist Church of Daytona for their generous gift donations to our students. Our Parent Meeting for December took place on the 9th. Discussed at that meeting was the centers ongoing concerns about the lack of child safety seats, speeding in the parking lot and leaving children unattended in running cars. All of these issues continue to be of concern. Resources have been and will continue to be provided for those who need car seats as it is the law to have the appropriate sized car seat to transport your child. Please, drive safely with your children!!

Our next Parent Meeting will be held at 4pm on January 13th. Items will be raffled off to one lucky winner out of those that attend. This month's winner of a collection of sports balls, Trelody Paulk!!

A NOTE FROM THE TEACHERS

CLASSROOM 11-1

Welcome to 2022!

We hope everyone had a safe and relaxing winter break. Now that we are back we are going to start talking about what kind of clothes people wear. We will continue to work on letters, numbers, shapes and colors. The children are starting to form letters by holding the pencil in a three-finger grip.

-Ms. Phaleisa and Ms. Susan

CLASSROOM 10-6

Happy new year from classroom 10-6!

We hope all is well with you and your families. Our wish is that you enjoyed the holidays and we are ready to "KICK OFF 2022!" Please take advantage of all the different opportunities that we offer, please see the Family Advocate and/or classroom teacher. If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions please do not hesitate to share. Volunteers are always welcome and we appreciate the help...once again "HAPPY NEW YEAR"!

-Ms. Ericka and Ms. Jodi



CLASSROOM 11-10

Welcome back to the year 2022!! We hope your winter holiday and New Years were fantastic. We have many fun planned activities for this month. Our study will be "Sand". We will review our shapes, numbers, and letters. Your child will realize as the school year continues how we are surrounded by numbers and shapes in everyday life. Let your child push buttons on an old phone and recognize numbers. Identify letters on posters, bulletin board for example: "M" stands for McDonald's "s" or "S" for Stop.

-Ms. Cynthia and Ms. Terry



A NOTE FROM THE TEACHERS



CLASSROOM 10-7

Happy New Year! We hope everyone enjoyed their holiday break. As we settle into the new year, we are excited to start our new study on Clothes. Some of our topics are: Different types of clothing, How do you put them on?, How do you take them off?, How do you protect clothes?, Clothes for work and play. Some of the activities we will enjoy will include measuring friends with sock, mitten matching, and self-help skills (zipping, buttoning & snapping). As always don't forget to read, read, read!

-Ms. Kiki and Ms. Wendy

CLASSROOM 11-4

During the month of January, we will be exploring different things about clothes such as the way that they are made and what we use them for. The students will also be learning the color red and the shape rectangle. They will be working on brushing their teeth. The book that we will be reading is "Red Riding Hood" and they will be tracing one to two. We are also having them hold their fingers up for 1-5. Our early release will be January 12th and we will be closed on the 17th If you have any question feel free to contact us.

-Ms. Mary and Ms. Monica

CLASSROOM 11-6

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Welcome back. We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday. Fun Fact: Did you know that January is considered the coldest month of the year. Good thing we live in sunny Florida! Also, we celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day (17th) and National Donate Blood for the whole month.

This month, our class will be exploring rocks. What rocks look like, their similarities and differences, and also what they can be used for. A great activity for you to do at home is to go on a nature hunt and collect different rocks, stones, and pebbles and observe them. Talk about them to your child. Explore and enjoy! As always, don't forget to read to your little ones every night. Two great books to read for this month is The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats and Snowmen at Night by Caralyn Buehner. Need books? Check them out at your nearest public library or use HOOPLA. HOOPLA is a digital media streaming app that lets you borrow books instantly on your mobile device free with your public library card. Check it out!

-Ms. Barbara and Ms. Maria



PARENT MEETING MINUTES

Meeting was brought to order by introducing parents and staff to the meeting. There were seven parents present for the parent meeting.

FA presented ice breaker questions to start the meeting. Parents and staff engaged in the questions of "If you could add anyone to Mount Rushmore, who would it be and why? and what was your least favorite food as a child and if you still hate it or now enjoy eating it?" Policy Council minutes were presented: Policy Council: November Policy Council met via Zoom on November 18, 2021. Quorum was established with 15 community reps present. The October meeting minutes were approved. Budget Training was conducted by Kris Bates, CFO. Kris thanked each representative for their dedication and commitment to serve as being an active participant and representing the importance of being a part of their child's future. Mr. Bates explained how to read a Budget Revenue & Expense Variance Report. To the far right on the % left is what is left in expenses and revenue in the program term. Kris Bates explained that we plan to spend the funds that are allotted by the end of the grant period to reach 100%. When you see parenthesis in revenue you have collected more money than budgeted for. When you see this in expense it means we spent more money in that expense item than originally budgeted for. When seeing this in In-kind or match it means we received more donations, volunteers, or space than budgeted for and needed to match the grant which is a good thing. The Budget and Credit Card statements were approved. The Enrollment, Attendance and Snack reports were approved. Home-based Policy safety Precautions for Home Visitors, Group Socialization Agenda Outline, and Home Visit Format was presented by Amy Thomas and approved. All Service Area and Center Reports were approved. Staffing Reports were presented for information purposes. In other business policy council representative presented questions from parents If now that volunteers are permitted in the classroom are they required to be vaccinated. Heidi responded that vaccination is not required but being masked is. Heidi also recommended in a question regarding clothing options for parents and a diaper exchange each site to work with FA's at locations regarding a clothing exchange drop program. Heidi informed that we do not have a diaper exchange but the early learning coalition does provide them through a special grant to families enrolled in Early Learning Coalition and receiving School Readiness funds. Heidi informed that the staff do work with the community to get turkeys and food donated for families. Jennifer Fowler informed that FA's are out working in the community for partnership sponsors. At this point 100% of centers based and home based have been sponsored for Christmas. Any families willing to assist with working with FA's for sponsor assistance is appreciated. Seth Williams shared that the Grab N Go shelf stable meals are packed and at sites ready to go home with children during the Holiday week closure. Next Policy Council meeting is Thursday, December 16, 2021

Teachers Erika Davis, Jodi Shelton and Wendy Raspberry provided parents on what was going on in the classrooms. Teachers discussed the arrival of Santa Clause next Wednesday on December 15th for children to ride on the sleigh with Santa and take photos. FA spoke on the Parent Curriculum topics of Self Care & Goal Setting and the importance of both topics. FA and teachers spoke on upcoming dates for Christmas and New Year's vacation which starts December 16th-January 4th.

FA spoke on how they are mandated reporters and how important it is to not leave children unattended in running vehicles with other children in the car while they run in for drop off, and that if they are seen placing children in any vehicle without proper child restraints they will be reported. If seen FA will ask that the child remain on premises with staff until proper restraints can be obtained and a call will be made. Information was provided at the parent meeting in regards to obtaining a child car seat. Questions & Answers: Parent and staff discussion on car seat issue, attendance, weekend meals.

Next Parent meeting is scheduled for January 13th 2022 4pm.



CHILDREN'S BOOK SUGGESTION

HOME LEARNING / FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Grab a bag of mini marshmallows. Try these low-prep activity ideas... 1) MARSHMALLOW COUNTING: Grab a hot cocoa mug and a number cube. Have your child roll the cube and add that many marshmallows to the mug. Keep rolling and adding until the mug is filled. If your child is ready count all the marshmallows in the mug at the end for an added challenge. 2) MARSHMALLOW BUILDING: Grab some flat toothpicks and have your child use marshmallows and toothpicks to build. Leave it open-ended and let them create anything they'd like or add some focus by building letters, numbers, or shapes. 3) MICROWAVE MARSHMALLOWS: Ask your child to predict what will happen if we heat up a marshmallow. Then test it out. Put the marshmallow on a plate in the microwave for a few seconds and watch closely. Discuss what happens first and then after the microwave is turned off. If you have large marshmallows compare the difference between the two. 4) MARSHMALLOW ART: Toward the end of the week grab some paper, glue and your marshmallows. Invite your child to make a picture by gluing marshmallows to the page.

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.

<https://youtu.be/xajQz49mRU>

I am Martin Luther King, Jr. by Brad Meltzer