



HEAD START NEWS

Hernando Head Start May Newsletter



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FROM THE DESK OF YOUR CDS

By: Jennifer Hanner

It is hard to believe this school year is coming to an end. It is always bittersweet at the end of the school year. As many of you transition into kindergarten, we are sad to see you go, but are happy for your new experiences that will await you and your child. We will always be here to support you if needed and we wish you the best of luck! For our returning families, we are excited for what the new school year will bring to you and your child, and we can't wait to see you in August. Thank you to all the parents who came to our kindergarten transition meeting. It was nice to see faces in person as well as some who joined us via zoom. If you are still in need of help with registering your child for kindergarten, please stop by your Family Advocate office, and they will be happy to help support you in this transition to your child's new school. As the school year comes to an end, please note that we do not do a graduation or moving up ceremony for the children. Instead, the classrooms are getting ready to do some fun parent engagement activities with you and your child. Please keep an eye out in your child's classroom for more details. The end of the year also brings parent/teacher conferences. Your child's teacher will be having a signup sheet for these, so please keep an eye out for that. As we say goodbye for the summer, we want to wish everyone a fun and safe summer. We are looking forward to many new adventures that will await everyone next school year.



CONTACT US!

CDS: Jennifer Hanner : Cell phone- 352-206-4616

Family Advocates:

Irene Dongen: 352-736-1325 x209

Lynda Kersey 352-736-1325 x213

Gigi Alexis 352-736-1325 x249

Classroom Phone Number & Extensions
352-754-2464

Ext. 1701, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1402



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Teacher Appreciation week:

May 2nd- May 6th

Last day of school

May 27th

Early Release at 1pm



Head Start
Mid Florida Community Services
Early Head Start

Let's Get
Connected!



@MFCSHHeadStart



FAMILY ADVOCATE CORNER

By: *Gigi Alexis*

Hello Families!

Time flies so fast, I cannot believe it has been a month already. Thank you to those parents that attended our Live Parent Committee Meeting in April! It was a pleasure to see everyone! We are excited that we were able to elect a Chairperson, a Vice Chairperson, and a Policy Council Representative. In the parent meeting, we discussed the date and time for our parent activity, and the decision was made to aim for Tuesday, May 17th. One of our Behavior Specialists was present for this meeting. They are working to build relationships with all of the families.

Please bring your child to school on time and every day. If your child is going to be absent or late, please notify your FA or teaching staff. For questions or concerns, please contact Gigi at 352-573-8126, Irene at 352-247-1499 or Lynda at 352-573-7181. We want to remind you to update your physicals and immunizations if your child is returning next school year. Please stop by the FA office to do your rollover paperwork. For the VPK class, please apply for the voucher at www.phelc.org. If you have any questions or need assistance, please come to the office and we will assist you. Thank you!

See you at our next parent meeting!

A NOTE FROM THE TEACHERS

Classroom 901

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Just to let you know, we will be starting a new study for our children. This study will be building. We will have lots of studies and activities regarding building. The children will enjoy learning every day. We will be starting our Home Visits this month, so please make sure you see us to sign up for a day and time. We will be holding our end of the year celebration on Thursday, May 26 at 10:00 AM, on the South Playground. We will be having a bubble party, and we will hand out the certificates of completion. Hope to see you all there! The last day of school will be May 27, and it will be half day. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to teach your child. Have a great summer and we will see you next school year.

Thank You,
Ms. Virginia and Ms. Margie

Classroom 902

Hello Families,

Thank you for participating in the Family Engagement activities that we have been sending home! The children are always eager to share what they worked on. If you practiced 'Making My Name,' just let us know at drop off/pick up so you can add your time to the InKind. We will be having two very special events coming up! Please know that if you are not able to attend you may send someone in your place. We will be ending our pet study soon, but we've enjoyed learning new things and sharing information and ideas with each other. Petting dogs and touching a snake skin were very exciting. You can always look at the lesson plan, under Family Partnerships, for ways that you can participate in the study. Please remember to send a blanket with your child, as we do not have enough extras. The last day of school is May 27th, which is also a half day. The school year has flown by, and we have enjoyed getting to know you and your children.

Best Wishes,
Ms. Yolanda & Ms. Kim

A NOTE FROM THE TEACHERS

Classroom 903

Dear Parents and Guardians

And just like that, we are ending our school year. It has flown by; all good things do. We'll review all our learning material during the following weeks: letters, numbers, shapes, colors, compound and opposite words, days of the week and months, the seasons of the year, and many other things they learned. Your child learned about trees, pets, gardening, exercising, and additional beneficial investigation to prepare them for Kindergarten. They made new friends, respected them, used their words to express their feelings and needs, and recognized other people's emotions. They learned to stay safe, play together, respect others' properties and responsibilities, found ways to keep themselves calm, and increased their vocabulary. I could go on, but my most important lesson was about loving and feeling your child's love. Students are more than bodies; they are our future. A little piece of my heart goes with every child in this class.

Please, don't forget to stop by and come to visit me. If you need to register other children, please see your F.A. Our last day of school is May 27, 2022. It was a great school year, and it was my pleasure to be part of your child's learning.

I want to thank those parents that took the time to participate in our activities.

Have a great and safe summer!
Ms. Zulma & Ms. Max

A NOTE FROM THE TEACHERS

Classroom 701

Hello Parents,

In the month of April, we talked about the different types of clothes, and the children had the opportunity to perform several activities. We also continue to involve children in small group activities, and we take weekly notes of the activities in which they had the opportunity to participate. We are putting those notes on TSG, where you can have access to everything we are teaching. Also, we will start the second parent conference in May, so it is important that you let us know what day you want to do it and the time of your preference. We had the opportunity to be in the virtual story: Knuffle Bunny: A cautionary Tale. Your child will be participating in the Safer Smarter Kids prevention education program for a week. This curriculum will arm your child with the necessary skills to avoid sexual abuse, without being explicit or in any way scary. We also had a cooking activity with peaches. On May 6, we will have our Parent Engagement Activity. In the month of May, we will be starting a new topic about Insects.

Thank you,

Ms. Brittany and Ms. Evelyn

Classroom 1402

Hello families and friends of Classroom 1402! As we know, April is here and May is right around the corner. Classroom 1402 has been focusing on our lesson about Pets. Pets come in different sizes and different shapes. Learning about each other's pets allows the students to share some things that they have in common and some things that differ. As our lesson comes to a close in late April/early May, we plan to shift our focus on preparing for the next grade level, kindergarten! Learning about the environment, what to expect, how to behave, and enhancing our friendship skills all play a huge part in being successful in kindergarten. We are also going over safety and what to do when strangers approach. The Safer, Smarter Kids education program will equip our students with the knowledge on keeping themselves out of danger and knowing what to do when unsafe situations arise. Making sure each one of our students is prepared for the next step in their education is a top priority of ours. 'Grow It! Like it!, Try It!' for this month is peaches! Our students will have the chance to taste peaches and learn some of the nutritional facts about them. Second Step this month will focus on following directions and realizing that there are consequences behind our actions in the classroom. Our last day is May 27! It will be here before we know it! Again, we would like to thank our parents/guardians for everything. Continue to assist our students with their learning outside of the classroom. Let's keep our students sharp and prepare them for the next stage of learning!

Thanks,

Mr. Diante & Mrs. Jackie

PARENT MEETING MINUTES

Parent meeting was opened by the CDS. Jennifer Hanner reminded parents about the upcoming Kindergarten Transition meeting. "What's going on in the classroom" was updated by Zoribel Nevarez along with the calendar for the end of this school year and the upcoming one.

Diana Yates introduced herself to the parents and let them know that she and Rebecca Martinez (not present) were available on campus for any behavior issues.

Deputy Director Tanya Hall gave a description of Policy Council. Gigi Alexis gave a description of the various positions. Voting for the parent committee chairperson and a Policy Council representative was held. Rollover, recruitment, and attendance were discussed by both Gigi and Irene Dongen. Lynda Kersey gave the parents a packet on Your Brain and Its Amazing Potential



CHILDREN'S BOOK SUGGESTION

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fmOCyP4VyP4>

Oh the places you will go! By Dr. Suess

HOME LEARNING / FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

701: Development Activities : "ABC Song" / "I Spy"

901: How Many Steps?/ Read a Book, Ask a Question

903: Home activities: Game 181 How Do You Walk When?

1402: Home Activity: Showing What I Know & This is Who I Am, Add to the Tale, A Book About Me / Games: Bingo

POLICY COUNCIL UPDATES

April Policy Council met via Zoom on April 28, 2022. Quorum was established with 13 present.

Annette Becklan, Head Start Mental Health Consultant, presented and trained the members with a thorough presentation on Social and Emotional Mental Health.

The March meeting minutes were approved. The Budget and Credit Card statements were approved. The Enrollment, Attendance and Snack reports were approved.

Jennifer Fowler presented request for Parent Activity Funds that were approved.

Heidi Rand presented on ACF-PI-HS-22-02 on Head Start Funding Increase. This was presented for information purposes only and voting not required. Heidi stated that the focus for the pay increase will go the Teachers and Teacher Assistants. Management is working on the budget to eliminate center positions to help divide the funds.

Staffing Reports were presented for information purposes. All Service Area and Center Reports were presented and approved.

Seth Williams shared the update on writing the No Kids Hungry Grant. He shared that the grant was submitted before April 15th and waiting to hear if the program receives the funding. Until funding is received we do not at this time have funds to provide backpack meals at this time. If approved the program will run for 25 weeks. Seth explained that the Sunshine Health grant was not approved.

Next Policy Council meeting is Thursday, May26, 2022.