



HEAD START NEWS

Spring Hill Head Start Newsletter



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FROM THE DESK OF YOUR CDS

By: Ronjaneen Harris

As this school year comes to an end, we would like to thank you for all your participation and dedication to your children and our program. You are very much appreciated. Although research shows that many children often lose many skills they acquired prior to the summer months, this does not have to happen. There are many things that you can do with your children to maintain many of these skills. You can start by reading with your children.

There are a lot of great websites with a variety of activities, such as space, arcades, book clubs, club hubs, promotions, e-newsletters, parent files, fun reading, web books, comics, color, movies, fun blogs, playgrounds, and lots of games that make learning fun you can use with your children over the summer months. Some of the websites are the following: pbskids.org/games/, www.funbrain.com/, dawn.jpl.nasa.gov/aboutus/index.asp, and you can contact Spring Hill Branch Library at 352-754-4043 for available hours.

Have a wonderful summer and make learning fun.



CONTACT US!

CDS:
Ronjaneen Harris 352-279-1599, Ext. 2209

Family Advocates:
Lynda Kersey (352) 556-4800, Ext. 2105
Brianna Yuhasz (352) 556-4800, Ext. 2201
Nitza Jerez (352) 556-4800, Ext. 2204



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Early Release Day is May 27 at 1pm.,
No-School -May 30 - Memorial Day



Head Start
Mid Florida Community Services
Early Head Start

Let's Get
Connected!



FAMILY ADVOCATE CORNER

By: Nitza Jerez, Lynda Kersey, and Brianna Yuhasz

This month, we had our first Parent Meeting and Transition to Kindergarten Meeting in person, and it felt SO GOOD! We were able to also project the meeting by Zoom for those that couldn't attend. We had eighteen parents that attended by Zoom and ten in person. Parents in attendance learned to advocate for their child that will be starting Kindergarten. We encourage everyone to attend our last parent committee meeting for the year which will take place on May 10 at 1:00pm. Hope to see you!



A NOTE FROM THE TEACHERS

Class 502. Happy May! Our last study of the year is the Sand Study. The children will learn about the properties of sand and the habitats of creatures who live in sandy places. We will review our Second Step social-emotional skills which we have been learning this whole year. We continue to work on letter writing and recognition and counting and number recognition. As our Head Start school year is close, we wish to take this opportunity to thank each and every parent and caretaker for your continued support throughout this year. I hope you know how much we love and care for your children. We appreciate you letting us have them as part of our school family. We will miss them and we hope you all have a safe and enjoyable Summer Break!

Gratefully. ~Miss Shelley and Miss Olena

A NOTE FROM THE TEACHERS

Class 601. Happy May! We are almost done with the school year. We will be wrapping up the end of the year with Gardening. In Second Step, we will be reviewing fair ways to play, identifying our feelings, and ways to calm down. We will also be having our ZOOM end of the year performance on Tuesday, May 24, and the children have been working hard to show off! Please continue to read with your child and bring in books to share in the classroom. Please get with Ms. Theresa or Ms. Wanda if you have any questions.
Thanks! ~Mrs. Theresa and Mrs. Wanda

Class 602. March brings us wonderful projects. Our unit of study this month is "Wheels - Exploring the topic: What do we know about wheels? What do we want to find out? And we will continue with our Second Step curriculum, learning to be better students, including how to focus your attention, listen carefully, and ask for help. Our children are working very hard on different projects. To celebrate "Mother's Day", we will have our in person and/or Zoom celebration on May 24. Over time, we will be sending more details. Mrs. Lucia and I want to give a big thank you. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you all for your support and appreciation during this school year. Thank you.
~Mrs. Norma and Mrs. Lucia.

Class 701. Welcome to May. Our last study will be on gardening. We have already planted our garden. We planted pumpkin seeds, tomatoes, peppers, green beans and flowers. We will find out how to care for our garden. Who helps gardens grow? How do gardens help people and the environment? How can we harvest our garden? We will be saying good-bye to our four and five-year-old children as they will take on a new adventure to kindergarten." We wish them well." Have a good summer and stay safe.
~Ms. Sherry -Ms. Theresa

Class 702. How time has flown by, this is the hardest part of the year for us as teachers. We have given everything we have to your children and we have watched them grow so much over this last year. We are ready with a heavy heart to send them on their way to kindergarten. We know they will make us proud. We have many fun activities planned for the remaining few weeks so please check the desk often. The children will conclude their study of Insects and start learning about going to Kindergarten. We will be reviewing all the letters of the alphabet and numbers 1-20. We love you and will miss you!! Kindergarten, here they come!!
~Ms. Amy and Mr. Ryan

A NOTE FROM THE TEACHERS

Class 901. Welcome to May from classroom 901! We can't believe this is our last month of school. We will finish out the year doing the Getting Ready for Kindergarten Study in Creative Curriculum. During this study, we will talk about how preschool and kindergarten are the same/different, how we feel about going to kindergarten, and how we make and keep friends? In Second Step, we will be learning about transitioning to kindergarten. We will talk about learning new things, making new friends, and riding the school bus. 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

Class 902. Wow the end of the year is around the corner! We are entering our last month of school. This month, we are working on reviewing all the letter and sounds, working on compound words, rhyming words, writing first and last name neatly. Please continue working with your child at home, it makes a big difference. On May 20 at 11:00am is our End of the Year Celebration, family members are invited to come see the children perform. On the morning of May 25 from 10:00 to 11:00 is our water day activity in the large playground. Please bring your child wearing his/her bathing suit, sunblock already applied, water shoes, towel, and a change of clothes. Let's enjoy the time we have left.

~Ms. Jennifer and Ms. Stefanie



PARENT MEETING MINUTES

Spring Hill Center. 4/12/2022.

Opening: Welcome.

Present: Nitza Jerez, Family Advocate; Brianna Yuhasz, Family Advocate; Lynda Kersey, Family Advocate; Keyandra Raines, Family Advocate; Nadeige Alexis, Family Advocate; Ronjaneen Harris, CDS; Zoribel Nevarez, CDS; Michele Hann, Education Manager; Jennifer Orlandi, Teacher 902; Carrie LeBarge, HCSD Early Learning Specialist; and Total parents: 22.

Discussion:

1. Welcome! Introductions made. Parents attended via Zoom and in person.
2. Parents given link to check what school child will be zoned for kindergarten. Reminder to see FA if in need of updated shots and physical to register
3. Parents received handouts and raffle ticket for prizes. Announced days off, last day of school for Head Start children (May 27th).
4. Ms. Jennifer, from 902, presented what is going on in each classroom.
5. Transition to Kindergarten presented by Carrie LaBarge
6. Prizes given to parents who attended in person
7. Reminder to parents who have concerns about how transition may affect their child's behavior to reach out to Rebecca Martinez, our Behavior Specialist.

Questions and Concerns: None

HOME LEARNING / FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Tips for parents on
kindergarten transition

Practice kindergarten skills. ...
Set clear bedtime and morning routines. ...
Start phasing out nap time. ...
Ask how your child is feeling. ...
Practice asking for help. ...
Read together. ...
Introduce new friends. ...
Remind your child of strengths.
You can find these tips in detail at
<https://www.understood.org/en/school-learning/choosing-starting-school/moving-up/how-to-get-ready-for-kindergarten>



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.



CHILDREN'S BOOK SUGGESTION

1.) Get set! Swim! By Jeannine Atkins.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BY-eoj9Ww_k