



# March Newsletter Head Start Blended @ Blue Lake Elementary School

Spring is just around the corner. For the month of March, we will begin with the theme “In the City; In the Country”. We will compare the differences of what the city is like and what the country is like. We will look at pictures, read books, and construct buildings with boxes. In math, the children will be creating groups and separating them to learn basic addition and subtraction. They will be examining equal groups and learning about whole and parts. The children will also be learning about coins.

The letters we will focus on this month are C, Q, and V. We will use such words as build/construct, tools, machine, and size. Help your child find and share letters he/she knows when reading together and then practice the sounds.

In Second Step, the topics will be all about play. The children will be learning how to invite others to play and how to join with a friend or in a group.

If you are going to be late or if your child is going to be absent, you can contact the teachers by calling 386-248-5883.

Ms. Marilyn and Ms. Anita

## ***DATES TO REMEMBER:***

- Parent Meeting **March 7th at 8:00am**
- Student holiday/Teacher work day **March 10th**
- Spring Break **March 13 –17**
- Parent Activity **March 22nd at 11:15am**



**PERFECT  
ATTENDANCE**

for the month of March

Aidan C.



Dear Parents,

Thanks for all the parents that returned the Summer VPK voucher. Those how still in the process please let me know if you need help.

### **SPRING INTO NUTRITION!**

Come and learn about healthy eating and gardening with other Head Start parents at our Spring Nutrition Event! Head Start will provide transportation for you to the Farmer's Market at the Volusia County Fairgrounds on Wednesday March 29th.

There will be cooking demos, education stations, taste testing, a make and take herb garden, goodie bags, and all attendees will receive a **FREE \$5 voucher** to spend at the Farmer's Market.

Please contact me, Nelly Pagan your Family Advocate, to reserve your spot as soon as possible. Seating is limited.



### **The Four C's of Loan Decision Making**

What are the Four C's?



Lenders generally review the Four Cs to decide whether to make a loan to you. The Fours Cs are: capacity, capital, character, and collateral.

- Capacity refers to your present and future ability to meet your payment obligations. This includes whether you have enough income to pay your bills and other debts.
- Capital refers to the value of your assets and your net worth.
- Character refers to how you have paid bills or debts in the past. Your credit report is one tool lenders use to consider your willingness to repay your debts.
- Collateral refers to property or assets offered to secure the loan.

[www.fdic.gov/consumers/consumer/moneysmart/](http://www.fdic.gov/consumers/consumer/moneysmart/)

***Nelly Ann Pagan***

Family Advocate

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## *From the Desk of Dr. Marcy Guddemi, Child Development Specialist*

We are very happy so many children are having perfect attendance! Thank you for doing your part to get your child ready and to school on time. The daily schedule starts at 8:00am and if your child is not here by 8:10am, then he/she is tardy! When a child is tardy or absent, he/she misses important learning. The brain is developing so fast at this age and it needs the stimulation school provides.

Thank you, also, to those parents who have volunteered in the classroom! Remember, everyone should try to volunteer at least one day per month. Having you in the classroom is so meaningful for your child! Plus, you get to see how preschool children learn and how the brain is stimulated.

This month, I would like to remind parents that too much screen time (computers, cell phones, TV, I-Pads, tablets) is NOT a good thing for preschoolers. And it is NEVER a good thing for infants and toddlers to play with parents' cell phone or I-Pad, etc..

Research has found two disturbing trends among preschoolers who use screens too frequently and for too long. One is that their fine motor skills (hand and finger movements) are not developing properly. Lack of fine motor skills means that using a pencil, crayon, or markers is hard. It means the lines that the child draws may be wispy or wobbly and that it is hard to write his/her name. It is also hard to button, zip, or tie shoes. Lack of fine motor control is so severe with some that therapy must be performed to strengthen the muscles of the hands and fingers to get the child ready for school.

The second trend is that the muscles that control the eye to see far distances are not developing properly. Using screens is near vision. Therefore, too much screen time prevents far vision from developing. More and more preschoolers are wearing glasses today. Besides limiting screen time, children also need to go outside where they can practice seeing even farther than the four walls of a room.

Please, limit the amount of screen time for your child. One hour total a day is enough! If he/she begs to watch one more program, go for a walk outside or send him/her outside to play instead. You could also get a book and read to your child. If you do a little art project you would also be strengthening his/her fine motor muscles. You are your child's role model, so try not to overuse your screens either! Your child is watching you and looking for your lead.





# Policy Council

## Policy Council update for February 2017

The February Policy Council meeting was held on Thursday, February 23rd at 10:00 am. It was a video conference meeting. Policy Council members from Volusia County met at the Volusia Administration Conference Room in Deland. Policy Council members from Hernando and Sumter counties met at the Hernando Head Start Conference Room in Brooksville. Thirteen policy council members (11 parents and 2 community partner members) were present.

The following person was approved for hire:

*Kari Thornsbury, Dietary Aide (Hernando County)*

The following reports were approved/accepted: December 2016 Budget and Credit Cards, Enrollment/Attendance, Meals and Snacks, Service Area and Center. Heidi Rand- Director, expressed concern regarding the amount of classrooms (more than 25%) with attendance rates below 85%. Parents are encouraged to be mindful of the attendance policy and remind other parents as well.

*An overview of the High Scope Curriculum, Houghton Mifflin Curriculum, and Galileo Assessment/Curriculum was provided by Heidi Rand. A detailed review of the Second Step Curriculum will be presented next month.*

Our Quality Assurance Manager - Jeff Heyne, led a training on Head Start program eligibility. He explained the four eligibility categories, provided examples of funds that are considered to be income and described the consequences a staff member would face if it is determined that the staff member did not accurately process income information in an effort to ensure that the family is determined to be eligible.

Policy Council members were advised that our program has been asked to submit a grant proposal for Volusia/Flagler United Way. The grant proposals will request funding to support kindergarten readiness and promote healthy lifestyles in Volusia County.

The next Policy Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10 am. It will be a video conference meeting.