



## May Newsletter Head Start Blended @ Blue Lake Elementary School

It is hard to believe that this is the last month of school. This year has been busy. For the month of May, we will be in the unit "Ready For Kindergarten" with the themes "I Know My ABC's", "We Count" and "Off to Kindergarten". The children will have an opportunity to visit a kindergarten classroom and meet the teacher. We will focus on the letters L, N, and K. The children will enjoy listening to books such as *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* and *We Can*.

We will continue with a nutritional lesson on strawberries. We have enjoyed watching our plants grow throughout the year and are still seeing a few fruits develop, but not enough to eat, unfortunately. We will make a recipe for the children to try strawberries in a dish.

In math, the children will be reviewing patterns and examining symmetry. Two sides are the same as in the two wings of a butterfly. We will review the numbers 1 to 10, working on quantity.

In Second Step, we will be reviewing focusing attention, strong feelings, and fair ways to play.

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.

We have enjoyed watching the children grow and learn throughout this year and know that all of them will do well in the coming years.

Ms. Marilyn and Ms. Anita

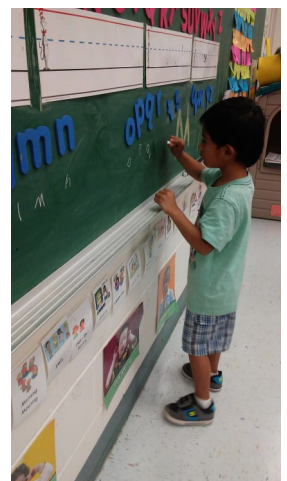
### **DATES TO REMEMBER:**

- Parent Meeting **April 4th at 8:00am**
- Parent Activity **April 19th at 11:15am**

**PERFECT  
ATTENDANCE**

### for the month of March

Cole L  
Karelis N  
Lexiel S  
Melissa S  
Santiago V  
Kevin V.



## Dear Parents,

Thank you for participating at the parents' meeting during this school year 2016-2017.

\* To my rollover parents (returning children), please contact me at **386-774-1520 to set up the appointment.** We need to do the rollover packet for the next school year 2017-2018.

\* For the parents of our future kindergarteners, I have the Volusia County School registration and orientation information. If you don't know what school your child is assigned to, please contact me or email me at [npagan@mfcs.us.com](mailto:npagan@mfcs.us.com).

\* Finally, we are now taking applications for the new school year (2017-2018) for 3 and 4 years old. Please call us for an appointment, and I will let you know what documentation you need to bring and give you an appointment.

Your Family Advocate,

Nelly Pagan



## Equal Credit Opportunity Act (ECOA)

What is the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (ECOA)?

The Equal Credit Opportunity Act, or ECOA, protects consumer rights throughout the loan process. Lenders cannot discourage you from applying for a loan based on certain characteristics. The ECOA promotes the availability of credit to all creditworthy applicants without regard to the factors (also called prohibited bases) listed below:

- Race
- Color
- Religion
- National origin
- Sex
- Marital status
- Age
- Receipt of public assistance income (the fact that all or part of the applicant's income is derived from a public assistance program)

Exercise of rights under the Consumer Credit Protection Act (Example: You cannot be denied a loan because you have filed a complaint against the bank.)

What type of restrictions does ECOA place on lenders?

ECOA restricts the lender from requesting certain information during the loan application process. In general, the lender may not ask:

- For information about a spouse or former spouse unless your spouse is applying with you. If you are applying for unsecured credit, the lender cannot ask about marital status. If you do not qualify on your own, lenders may require a cosigner or guarantor, but may not require that it be your spouse. If you are jointly applying or if the loan is secured, the lender may ask your marital status, but can only use the terms married, unmarried, and separated.
- For income derived from alimony or child support unless you want it considered as part of your income. The lender cannot discount or refuse to consider consistent part-time income, annuities, pensions, alimony, or child support payments.
- About birth control practices or intentions of having children. However, a lender may ask about the number and ages of your dependents.
- About whether you are male or female. Courtesy titles (Mr., Mrs., Miss, Ms.) can be requested, but these are optional.
- For your race, color, religion, or national origin.

Are there any exceptions? Yes. In most cases, lenders are prohibited from requesting the information above. However, for home loans, lenders are required by the government to collect some of the information (race, sex, marital status, and age).

**Nelly Ann Pagán**

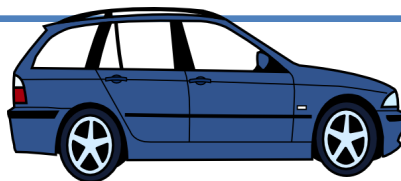
Family Advocate

Blue Lakes / Deltona Lakes / Woodward

Office: 386-774-1520

Cell: 352-277-1619

[npagan@mfcs.us.com](mailto:npagan@mfcs.us.com)



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

Dear Parents,

We are now heading into our last month of school. Please bring your child every day at 8:00am. Don't be late! Also, don't be early picking your child up. We want your child to be able to learn every minute of our 8am-2pm day!

Children need to keep learning all summer long. What can you do? Here are several suggestions for summer learning:

Read to your child every day in English and in Spanish, if you know how. Do it several times a day and in different places. Reading a story before bedtime is always nice, but remember, you can pick up a book anytime during the day to read. (Parents, that do not know how to read, can tell a story by looking at the pictures and making it up. This is just as powerful as reading. Use big words that the children might not know; e.g., enormous, solution, magnificent, contradiction.)

Make a book. Get paper and put together and staple to make a blank book. Cut picture out of old magazines or draw pictures. Write the story under the pictures.

Take your child to the library and get a library card. Then you can check out books to take home every week. Most libraries have a PreK reading hour during the week that you can take your child to. The public library should be one of your child's best friends. It is also a cool quiet place to go in the hot summer!



Enroll your child in a week or 2-week summer Camp or lessons. There are a lot of choices around: art camps, music camps, sports camps, theatre camps, just all-around-fun camps. There are swimming lessons, music lessons, dance lessons, and karate lessons.

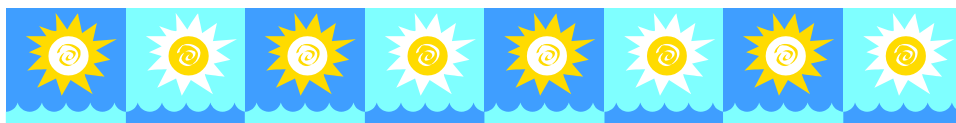


Plan family trips to places you haven't gone. There are so many nice public parks and national parks and forests in this area. Talk about everything you see there. Collect sticks, stones, and leaves and make a pattern on the ground. Stick, stone, leaf; stick, stone, leaf; stick, stone, leaf; etc. See how far you can keep it going. Take paper and markers and draw and write about what you see. Have you been to DeLeon Springs State Park? Have you been to Cape Canaveral National Seashore?



Talk, talk, talk. I have mentioned this before, but have CONVERSATIONS with your child. Try to keep it going for at least five exchanges back and forth. Ask probing questions and what if questions. This is so much fun to do. A child's explanation for some phenomenon can be so entertaining and enlightening!

So in closing, enjoy your summer!! It will fly by! Best wishes to those children going on to Kindergarten next fall and we look forward to when our young ones come back for one more year of schooling at Blue Lake Head Start!





# Policy Council

## Policy Council update for April 2017

The April Policy Council meeting was held on Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am. It was a face to face meeting at the Holiday Inn Express in Leesburg, Florida. Eleven policy council members (9 parents and 2 community partner members) were present.

Fourteen persons were approved for hire.

The following reports were approved/accepted: February 2017 Budget, January - February 2017 Credit Cards, Enrollment/Attendance, Meals and Snacks, Service Area, and Center.

The MFCS Annual Audit was reviewed by Program Director, Heidi Rand. There were no findings. Policy council members were encouraged to review the document and advised that additional copies could be made available upon request.

A review of the Community Wide Strategic Planning and Needs Assessment was led by Carol Coffie, Assistant Director of Early Learning Programs. The review included the process for data collection and a summary of the 828 survey responses. The top five needs identified by parents include Child Care, Transportation, Employment, Dental Care, and Housing.

Policy Council members approved the following revisions to the By Laws:

*EHS will have representation on Policy Council*

*Centers with more than 5 classrooms can have an additional representative on Policy Council*

*Policy council to meet at least 10 times per year*

Policy council members were asked about their training needs. Any future training interests or needs should be sent to Heidi Rand.

Heidi Rand provided the following update about the Early Head Start (EHS) Expansion:

*Classrooms at the Jo Sheppard site and the Hernando Head Start site are being renovated and are expected to be completed by mid-June*

*Additional EHS Classrooms will be renovated and opened later in the program year*

*EHS training for managers has been scheduled for early May*

*Training for teachers, family service and health service members is being coordinated for early June.*

*Attempts are being made to coordinate a CDA credential training for anyone interested in being an Early Head Start teacher*

*All classrooms at Pathways Port Orange location will become Head Start/ Early Head Start classrooms as of 2017-18 program year*

The following announcements were made:

*Applications for Early Head Start and Head Start for 2017-18 program year are being accepted*

*Week of May 1<sup>st</sup> is Teacher Appreciation Week*

*Note of thanks was given to Juan Echezebal, Rocio Renteria and Adelani Adekunle for being a part of interview teams for Early Head Start/Head Start positions*

The next Policy Council meeting date will be announced.

## Names and location of new hires:

### *Hernando:*

Rachel Mackey – EHS Teacher

Elsie Burnett – EHS Teacher

Desiree Isnardi – EHS Teachers

Margaret James – EHS Teacher

Jeananne Wright – HS Teacher

### *Sumter: None*

### *Volusia :*

Kishmar Peterson-Family Advocate

Michele Ashley – Compliance Specialist

Carlene Morgan – School Readiness Specialist

Melanie Pridemore – Program Substitute

Lorri Tipper – Teacher Assistant

Caitlyn Festari – Full Time Extended Day Teacher

Angela Merriweather - Teacher

Maribel Maneilla – EHS Teacher

Ashley Shaffer – Disability Services Specialist

