



December Newsletter Head Start Blended @ Blue Lake Elementary School

For the month of December, we will be talking about the different holidays celebrated from around the world. The children will share some of the things they do with their families. We will make some crafts that go with the holiday and sing songs. In math, the children are learning that a calendar tells them what season it is, when holidays are, and helps keep track of the days. They are also learning how to sort items, count from a number to find out how many are in a group. We will review the letters we have learned and their sounds. Help your child find and share letters he/she knows when reading together and then practice the sounds.

In Second Step, we will be learning to name feelings and how to manage our strong feelings such as anger and disappointment.

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

We want to wish all the families safe holidays and a Merry Christmas!



Ms. Marilyn and Ms. Barbara



DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Parent Meeting ***December 14th*** at 8:00am
- **Santa coming** to visit the classroom ***December 5th***
- Parent Activity ***December 19th*** at 1:30
- **December 21st** Student Holiday
- **December 22** Winter Holiday Begins
- **January 8th** Classes resume



From the Desk of: Pamela Call, CDS



Holidays can be a time when parents decide that doing things with their children will be a priority, they will use the time to get to know each other and enjoy each other's company. Children love doing things with parents.

Try to arrange some individual time with each child if you can, as well as family time - this helps build good relationships and helps with building your children's self-esteem.

Just one different activity each day will help keep children interested and looking forward to it.

Remember children do not need to be 'entertained' all the time. Just a change of place or a few suggestions can help them to be very creative on their own.

Sometimes saying "I'm bored" is another way of saying "I want you to play with me", and sometimes the child has not even started to try to think of what to do by themselves.

Happy Holidays to everyone & enjoy this time with your family!!

Perfect attendance for November

Lilliana Hamilton

Taliyah Knight

Cole Lengyel

Aiden McGill

Mekhi Redding

Ryan Santiago

Policy Council update for November 2017

The November Policy Council meeting training was held on Thursday, November 16th at 10:00 am via video conference. A quorum was established. Thirteen policy council members were present.

The following reports were reviewed and approved: Budget, Credit Cards, Enrollment/Attendance, Meals and Snacks, Service Areas and Centers.

The results of the election of officers conducted at the October meeting were reviewed. Council members were advised that the person elected as chairman was not eligible for election to an office as he attended the meeting as an alternate and alternates are not eligible for nomination to an office. The official policy council representative from a center is the only person who can be nominated for or elected to a policy council office. The previously elected vice chairman, Sheila Ramos (Representative from Coleman Center in Volusia) was nominated to now become the chairman. There was a unanimous vote in favor of Ms. Ramos. Ramon Ayala was nominated for the office of vice chairman. There was unanimous vote in favor of Mr. Ayala.

Candidates for the following job vacancies have been approved for hire:

Hernando: Substitute Teacher III

Volusia: Substitute Teacher III, Blue Lake Elementary Blended Classroom

Family Advocate, Jo Sheppard Early Head Start

Family Advocate, Holly Hill Head Start

Teacher Assistant III, Blue Lake Elementary Blended Classroom

Substitute Teacher Assistant

Full Time Extended Day Teacher Assistant, EVEC

Nutrition Coordinator

Budget training is postponed until next month due to the hospitalization of the Mid Florida Community Services, Inc., Chief Financial Officer - Kris Bates.

A maximum of 25% for food expenses was agreed upon per Parent Activity. All parent activities have to be submitted, in advance, to the Family Advocate for forwarding to the Family Engagement Coordinator for approval. The cost of food items that serve as materials to help teach a specific parenting skill during a Parent Activity is not included in the food expense.

The School Readiness Committee update was provided. The committee met on Nov. 15th. Topics of discussion included children arriving late at centers, behavior concerns and curriculum.

The Selection Criteria for 2018 – 19 was approved.

Special appreciation was extended to Robin Bowman from WVEC for her recent participation on the interview panel for Family Advocate interviews.

The Program Specialist from our regional office and an Early Childhood Specialist from our regional office visited several of our sites during the week of Nov. 13th. They complimented the consistency of documents on parent boards and health boards in each classroom they visited and recognized the high level of teamwork among staff.

The following committees are looking for parent volunteers: Community Needs Assessment, ERSEA (Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment and Attendance) and School Readiness. Any parent interested in serving on any of these committees can contact the Family and Community Partnership Manager in their county. Volusia county parents can contact Cindy at 386-736-1325. Hernando/Sumter parents can contact Jaclyn at 352-754-2464.

The December meeting will be held on Thursday, December 14th. The meeting will be conducted via video conference. Participants will meet at the conference room of the administrative office closest to their county.

We are already in December the best time of the year to celebrate with family and friends. I want to remind you that our parent meeting is on December 14th at 8:00 am in the classroom. Again, I want to thank you for entrusting your children to our staff and for being involved in the education of your children.

Here I share this information and internet address with information to protect us from identity theft, especially at this time of year.

<https://www.pnc.com/pnc-achievement-sessions/en/home/identity-theft-me-my-shadow.html>

Ya estamos en Diciembre la mayor epoca del año para celebrar en familia y amigos. Les quiero recordar que nuestra reunión de padres es el 14 de Diciembre a las 8:00 am en el salon de clases. Nuevamente le quiero dar las gracias por confiar sus hijos a nuestro personal y por estar envueltos en la educacion de sus hijos.

Aqui comparto esta informacion y direccion de internet con informacion para protegernos del robo de identidad, especialmete en esta epoca del año.

<https://www.pnc.com/pnc-achievement-sessions/en/home/identity-theft-me-my-shadow.html>