



December 2016 Newsletter

Chisholm Head Start



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Holidays can be a busy time when parents must decide which activities to do with their children and make a priority, and then use this time to enjoy moments together that are meaningful and special. Children love doing things with parents. It is an exciting time of the year with a lot of holiday events to see and do.

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

Just a few small activities will help keep children having fun, and looking forward to the time spent together.

Remember children do not need to be 'entertained' all the time. Give them a few suggestions for an activity, such as making cookies, or provide some inexpensive but different art materials to work with together which may even help them to be creative on their own. Sometimes a child saying "I'm bored" is just another way of saying "I want you to play with me".

We here at Head Start are wishing Happy Holiday blessings and a very Merry Christmas to each and every one of you. Take some time to enjoy this wonderful season of the year with your family and friends!!



December's Important Dates:

12/08 parent
meeting 2pm

12/13

Christmas event
(children only)

12/19 parent
activity

12/21-1/3 No
school -winter
break

From Classroom 1: Ms. Sharonda & Ms. Sue

Classroom 1 is very thankful for all of our parents who came out to support our children on their performance. We are teaching our children the importance of being thankful every day. Our child understands that, some people are less fortunate than we are. As the holidays are approaching, we are also reviewing safety when out shopping with their families.

The children had an educational adventure during this season of fall. Exploring the smells of, pumpkins, spices, making hand print turkeys, place mats. We have also dance to funny and wacky tunes, learned turkey counting poems and read some awesome books on fall, thanksgiving fun and nutrition. Each month our children are introduced to a new vegetable or fruit per our nutritional curriculum. The children are learning to try something new and healthy, before they say "I DON'T LIKE IT". So parents please add squash to your grocery list because it was a big hit with all the children.

Parents please continue to read with your children daily. Continue exploring with them on their educational journey. Allow them to observe and investigate nature. Make counting and letter recognition and sight words fun around the house. Remember, you are your child's first teacher. Thank you for allowing your child to be a part of our program. Have a safe and joyful holiday season.

From Classroom 2: Ms. Kenya & Ms. Terry

Greetings from the Superhero's classroom 2. This month the theme is Seasons All Around and we have been teaching the children about the changes in the weather, how the leaves etc is changing and about the four seasons along with a variety of activities and crafts that will help them have a better understanding about the weather. In Second Step the children have been learning about same and different feeling, dealing with anger and the feelings that we have in our bodies. In math we have been rote counting, recognizing numbers 1-5, learning about first, middle and last, numbers in the environment and sets of things. We been working on our first and last names and how old we are and learning how to speak in complete sentences. With the change in the weather, we are asking that you switch out your child's clothing into warmer clothes, Ms. Terry and I thank you for your continued support and understanding.

From Classroom 3: Mrs. Lynn & Ms. Carmen

In classroom 3 we have been learning about fall and the seasons, Thanksgiving and what we are thankful for. We have been working on writing our names, letter identification and letter sounds. We have been rote counting and meaningful counting, we are learning to identify numbers. The children have been working on learning rhyming words, beginning letter sounds, and how to sound out words from letter sounds. In November we spent two weeks discussing and learning about healthy foods and healthy habits. The children made butter and ate it at our Thanksgiving lunch, the children thought this was really cool.

Extended Day: Mrs. Stephanie & Mrs. Amber & Mrs. Amy

Extended Day would like to say thanks to all our children who work so hard reviewing their letters and numbers, using their manners and working very hard. Learning is fun. We will continue to work on different subjects throughout the rest of the year keep a lookout for our wall of fame we will be using our crafts made from our hands with love. Please don't forget to send your child a change of clothes to extended day this is the season make sure the items are weather appropriate thanks. Seasons All Around has been our theme we have focused and discussed the sights and sounds of the four seasons. We also wanted to give a warm Welcome to our new extended day staff member Mrs. Amy D.

Thanks Ms. Stephanie S and Ms. Amber D /Mrs. Amy D.

Parent meeting summary :

November 17, 2016

Parents met and discussed the upcoming center events and activities.

Classroom one children performed at the start of the meeting.

There was discussion about possible ways to improve parent attendance for these meetings. Very few parents have been attending and we need to have more participation in order to make our Head Start program provide the best possible experience for children and families. We also discussed changing the December meeting to a Thursday ,December 8th if parents are in agreement to this. We need to find out if there are topics that the parents would like to have information about that we can give them at future meetings.

Meeting was adjourned at 245pm.



Classroom 1

Jayden D 12/17

Audrey 12/2

Cage 12/10

Davien 12/11

Classroom 2

Jocelyn 12/13

Classroom 3

Travis 12/4

Kasumi 12/4

Policy Council update for November 2016

The November Policy Council meeting was held on Thursday, November 17th at 10:00 am via video conference. Fifteen policy council members were present. A special welcome was extended to a new community policy council member, Carolyn Casler. Ms. Casler is employed by the Early Learning Coalition of Pasco/Hernando counties.

The following persons were approved for hire:

Jessyal Acevedo, *Teacher's Assistant* - Hernando Head Start

Megan Golembieski, *Program Substitute* -Hernando/Sumter counties

Jeamary Garcia, *Teacher* - Horizon Head Start -Volusia County

Brittany Jackson, *Extended Day Teacher* - EVEC - Volusia County

Juliette Santiago, *Family Advocate* - Chisholm Head Start – Volusia County

Budget report training was conducted by Kris Bates, Chief Financial Officer of Mid Florida Community Services, Inc.

The following reports were approved: Budget and Credit Cards, Enrollment/Attendance, Meals and Snacks, Service Area and Center. Staff will be asked to decrease the number of pictures included in center reports and increase the size of any pictures that are included in these reports.

An Information Memorandum recently issued by the Office of Head Start was reviewed. The memorandum highlighted new requirements in the Head Start Performance Standards. As a result of the memorandum, programs are prohibited from expelling or suspending a child due to the child's behavior.

A presentation on the Galileo curriculum was provided Child Development Specialist, Karen Bourbonnais. The twelve learning domains were reviewed. Additionally, information related to how the Galileo data can be easily accessed by parents and utilized by teachers and administrators to support the development of children in the program.

A series of changes to the Policy Council By laws were reviewed and approved during the meeting. The specific areas affected by these changes included:

Family and Community Partnership

Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment & Attendance - ERSEA

Health

Oral health

The following **announcements** were made:

Mid Florida Community Services, Inc. has purchased a new location at 233 Oakridge Street in Holly Hill, Florida. The goal is to open the location at the beginning of the 2017-18 school year. However, if we are awarded the Early Head Start grant, efforts will be made to open the new location in April 2017.

A large room at the Hernando Head Start building is currently being renovated to become a Training Room for use by Head Start staff and possibly community partners.