

# March 2017 Chisholm Head Start

From the Desk of Jennifer Tinstman, CDS



Can't believe March is already upon us! It seems like the months are flying by much too quickly. February was a flash and surely summer will be here in the blink of an eye. There were lots of exciting events that occurred in February and will be more to come in March.

We are delighted with the progress of the children at this point in the school year. All are doing well with their preschool skills and our staff feels so fortunate to have such delightful, bright and beautiful children. Teachers have had a recent review of morning health check procedures for the children; thank you for your patience as they complete this important process with your child upon arrival each morning.

We also appreciate all of your efforts on our behalf. Parent and family participation and communication makes our job so much easier. March presents another fun filled and busy month in the center. We will continue to fill the children's school days with a combination of fun activities, educational games and many other events. We want to thank parents for helping the teachers to get the home visits completed. We hope that all of you can enjoy a restful and relaxing Spring Break this month and can share some quality family time together.

**Don't forget Daylight Savings Time starts on March 12, 2017 at 2am.  
Set those clocks ahead one hour.**



## March's

### Important Dates:

Spring break 3-10/3-19

Policy council meeting 3-23

Parent activity 3-24

Kindergarten transition meeting 3-28

Parent meeting 3-7

Picture Day 3-24

## From Classroom 1: Ms. Sharonda & Ms. Sue

Classroom 1 will be in the spring of themes and enjoying our families during our Spring Break, March 10<sup>TH</sup> – 19th, 2017. We will also be celebrating Dr. Seuss birthday with creative rhyming, drawings, books and tons of fun. We will also explore spring and its characteristics through weather, plants, observations, predictions, mixing paints and stories. Our class will have fun painting Shamrocks and understanding it is part of the plant family. Our class is constantly moving, learning and growing.

Ms. Sharonda & Ms. Sue

## From Classroom 2: Ms. Kenya & Ms. Terry

Greetings from the Super Heroes. We have a new theme this month which is In the City, In the Country. The children will be learning about the different types of animals, homes, transportation etc found within the city and the country. They will be learning a variety of new vocabulary words and engaging in more conversations amongst each other. They will be working on different crafts for spring, Dr. Seuss and St. Patrick's Day. In math they will be learning about combining and separating, equal groups, whole and parts, and learning about money. They will be learning the letters C, Q, and V as well as their sounds and words that begin with those letters. Our Family Engagement activity is scheduled for Friday March 24 @ 1:30 and we will be making wind socks, We hope you can join us. Thanks for all your support, Ms. Kenya, Ms. Terry

## From Classroom 3: Mrs. Lynn & Ms. Carmen

We have been working on letter recognition, letter sounds, blended sounds, and sounding out words to make sentences. We have been learning compound words and how to make compound words, still reviewing rhyming words. We have enjoyed finger plays and have been doing a lot of them, the children have enjoyed them and they have gained more control with their hands and eye coordination. We have celebrated Black Heritage month, it has been very interesting teaching the children about our ancestors and how they have made a difference in the world. The children have been doing measurements how to identify longest to shortest, heaviest to lightest, we have discovered many different ways to measure things, paper clips, strips of paper, rulers, yardsticks, etc. The children have created their own houses made out of sticks, straw, and bricks, they recreated their homes from the story The Three Little Pigs. The children were able to learn about tools and what different tools are used to build different things. They even had the opportunity to touch and use real tools, this was really interesting and fun. The class also reviewed community helpers and which ones may use tools and what tools they use. The children are identifying numbers, counting, adding to groups and taking away from groups. We have been very busy.

We would like to remind our parents that we start group time at 8:00am, so please try to make it in before so they don't miss out on our discussion and lesson. It is very important that they are here for group time. When you arrive late and we are on the rug it is very distracting for the children and we lose their concentration and as you may know it is hard to keep focused in the first place. Please try and arrive before 8. We would also like to thank all of our parents for all you do and being involved, remember it is very important to start to be involved in your child's education, and it is never too early or too late to do so.

## Extended Day: Ms. Stephanie

We here at extended Day want to thank all of our parents. Thanks Ms. Amber for all you do. Thanks to all our parents for your words of encouragement. We will be making soup this month and talking about all the different vegetables you can add to soup and how they are grown.

FA Corner: Please don't forget our March Parent Meeting which will be held on March 7<sup>th</sup> at 2:05PM. Remember that Spring Week begins March 10 until the 17<sup>th</sup>, classes resume again on March 20<sup>th</sup>. Transition Meeting for kindergarten is March 28 at 2:00 pm. Please don't forget to turn your clocks ahead on March 12 for Daylight Savings Time. This means More Sunshine and longer days.

In other topics please remember our hours of instruction are Monday through Friday 8:00 am – 2:00 pm.

Drop-off time: Extended Day can be dropped off by 7:30 am.

All other children must be dropped off between 7:45 am – 8:00 am.

\*Remember that if you are a parent of an Extended Day child and are no longer working or going to school you should inform the family advocate or teacher.

\*Attendance and punctuality of every child is extremely important. Please ensure that your child attends school daily during the full instruction time so that he/she can benefit from the full learning experience!

\*Parents are asked to call their child's classroom before 8:00 am to report an absence or tardiness for the purpose of meal count. Late calls should not become routine.

As always I can be reached at (386) 427-8149, with any concerns or comments. I also encourage all to call with absences, running late, etc., as it helps so much with recording attendance. Thank you all so much for your efforts in this area so far and for bringing your children to school every day. Our attendance has been great!!

I hope you enjoy this beautiful spring with your family. MS. Julyette Santiago

## Parent Meeting Minutes

February 14, 2017. @ 2:05 pm

Classroom 2 performs "My Heart says Thanks"

Minutes from last minutes were read by Samantha.

Policy Council report was read from January 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Spring Break if from March 13-17<sup>th</sup>.

Transition Meeting is Tuesday March 28<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm.

Teacher Report- Working on new letters, compound words, syllables, construction (measuring ,building). Reassessment are being done and home visit will be made.

Spring Nutrition activity at the Farmer's Market Fairground is scheduled for March 1 from 9-12. There will be a sign up sheet in each classroom to sign up if you need a ride.

Field trip scheduled for march 23<sup>rd</sup>, going the That One Fun Place at the Sunshine mall.

Parents were asked to be thinking of what activity they can do for the children Spring Fling that will be held sometime in April.

Approval for the parent activity , CPR training , still needs to be approved by the policy council .

Next Meeting is scheduled for March 7 @ 2:05 pm, will have viewing of the Eddie Eagle Gun Safety video. Parents can decide if they want the child to see this film when they show it in their classroom.

## 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 23rd at 10 am. It will be a video conference meeting.



**Classroom 1—Taylor 8th**

**Classroom 2—Tennessee 4th Khid'r 26th**

**Classroom 3—Kahlina 31st**