



December 2017 Newsletter

Chisholm Head Start

Jennifer Tinstman—CDS



Holiday time is a lot of fun but can get to be a very busy time. Parents must carefully decide which activities to do with their children and make a priority, so that time is spent enjoying moments together that are meaningful and special. Children love doing things with their parents and family members. It is an exciting time of the year with a lot of holiday events to see and do.

Try to plan 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.

Simple activities make lasting memories. Make a batch of cookies and decorate them, or provide some inexpensive but different art materials to work with together and make some ornaments. You and your child will enjoy a wonderful time just doing things together.

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



KEEP
CALM
CHRISTMAS
IS
COMING



December's Important Dates:

12/20 Parent Meeting— 11:30 am

12/20 Parent Activity—12:00 pm

12/21-1/8 No school
winter break

From Classroom 2: Ms. Lynn & Ms. Carmen

In classroom 2 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.

From Classroom 4: Ms. Sharonda & Ms. Shauntria

Classroom 4 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"

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.

Extended Day: Ms. Amber & Ms. Melanie

We discussed Thanksgiving and the meaning of it. We did some arts and crafts for the holidays. We are writing names and trying to extend the learning in the classroom to extended day.

Family Advocate: Kishmar Petersen.

It's soon that time of the year when we are all out looking for the best Christmas tree for our families. I know that it's going to be filled with fun here at Chisholm, Head Start during the month of December. Christmas is one of my favorite times of the year. I ask that you start brainstorming ideas for your financial goals/resolutions. Start shopping for fresh foods for your holiday dinner. Also try and contact your local electric company to save on any heating costs/weatherization tips from County of Volusia. Parents are asked to call their child's classroom before 8:00a.m. to report any absence or tardiness for the purpose of meal count. The school number here at Chisholm is 386-427-8131 and 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 so much for your efforts in this area so far and for bringing your children to school every day. Please remember to give your Family Advocate your child's current immunization, physical exam, and dental treatment. If your child has been referred for further treatment either to go to the child Pediatrician please do follow up.



Classroom 2

Classroom 4

12/2 Elijah

12/13 Jocelyn

12/17 Ms. Tria

• 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.