

Chisholm Head Start

February 2018

Happy February!

From the Desk of: Jennifer Tinstman, CDS
386-235-4480

Our new year is off to a great start! Happy February to all of the children and families! This is the month that we associate with Valentine's Day and love and caring. Take some time this month to teach your child to care for other people by expressing kindness through their words, a hug or just taking time to visit or play with friends and family members. The teachers spend a lot of time each day teaching the children social skills and ways to show caring for one another. During this Valentine's month of February would be an excellent time to reinforce at home, ways to help and care for others.

With the cooler weather here, this means that you or your child may become sick at some point. One of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of germs and stay healthy is by washing your hands frequently throughout the day. There are a lot of colds and the flu going around and if your child is ill and cannot attend school, please let your teacher or family advocate know that they will be out for the day. We appreciate your help keeping us informed.

Please make sure that children are coming to school each day with weather appropriate clothing and note that the classrooms still go outside each day weather permitting.

Thank you for your participation in classroom events, parent meetings, and activities with your child. Please make Parent meetings a priority and put Tuesday, **February 27th** on your calendar.

Always remember, YOU are your child's first teacher and your involvement makes all the difference in your child's school success!



February's Important Dates:

2/19 No school
President's day

2/27 Parent meet-
ing at 2:05

From Classroom 2: Ms. Lynn & Ms. Carmen

Classroom 3 has been working and learning about animals, we have discussed wild and domestic, animals that can fly, swim, walk, slither, etc. It has been so much fun learning about animals. The children enjoyed this theme so much. We were able to graph animals, sort animals, talk about where they live, how they live, what they eat, and being able to identify the mommy's and babies.

We have also been learning about WINTER, we have discussed the different season's and all about winter, the children can tell you the animals that like the weather cold and the one's who don't. We have discussed solids and liquid, we experienced with water and that the cold will make the water freeze, we also made snow, this was a great experience since we don't get snow in Florida. The children enjoyed these experiments, it was really fun.

From Classroom 4: Ms. Sharonda & Ms. Tria

Classroom4 started the year off in winter wonderland, through snow experiments, snowman shapes. Our class also learned about landmarks near our schools and in our city. The children explored the use of tools and how they are used on a daily basis throughout the class, home and construction. The children had fun learning and creating rhyming words and opposites. They have soared in the areas of sorting and numbers 1 -30. Our children are constantly moving and learning through music and outdoor activities. Classroom one will be remembering and celebrating the past, the present and our future African Americans who paved the way for equality, education and opportunities to excel. A few reminders, parents please take your children to the bathroom upon entering the classroom. Also, please bring in a change of clothes as the weather changes and update all new telephone numbers and address. Parents thank you for being a part of our program.

Extended Day: Ms. Amber & Ms. Melanie

We are glad to be back and ready to endeavor on a New Year. The children are following lead with what they are doing in the classroom, we have been discussing animals, weather, winter, and transportation. The children have been able to get back into routine without it taking to long and ready to learn. Please remember the weather is changing and we have had some cold weather, please remember to dress your children appropriately and make sure that they have a change of clothes that is appropriate for the weather.

Perfect Attendance

Classroom 2:

Madison Jackson Jacob Zollo
Olivia Nohr
Tristan Rainge
Andre Troupe
Kharlie Walker

Classroom 4:

Alfonso Cucuzella
Colt Goodwin
Jocelyn Jutras
Brantley O'Neal
Tashan Stephens

FA Corner: Ms. Kish Petersen:

Hello, I would like to welcome you all again to a wonderful new year here at Chisholm. I would like to briefly discuss a few things which I hope can be beneficial to you and your families. First off, here is some information on signing up for the first time home buyer program. As many of you have mentioned earlier to me as to one of your goals being able to purchase your own home. Here is a step closer and the information you will need. Please contact Patti Young at 386-257-6012 or email her at pyoung@volusia.org; the first time home buyer program assist also with closing cost. Secondly, I would like to discuss, minimizing the cost of your car repairs by taking care of your vehicles ahead of time: oil changes, tune ups, keeping car filled with gas, etc., and lastly beware of predatory lending. Predatory lending is the unfair, deceptive, or fraudulent practices of some lenders during the origination process.

*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. 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!!

*Please remember to give your Family Advocate your child's immunizations, physical exam, and dental treatments. It is very important to keep these documents up date, first for the health and well-being of your children and because it is a requirement of the school.

Parent Meeting

We do not have any parent meeting minutes due to the fact that we didn't have any parents show up to the meeting and were unable to have one. Please remember that it is important to attend the parent meetings and be heard., it is you, as the parents who help make this program successful and we do need your input on many things. It would be wonderful if you could please try to attend some of the meetings, we understand that it is hard to come to all of them, we need you to help make Chisholm Head Start successful and to help make each child that attends here successful as well.

Policy Council Update – January 2018

The January Policy Council Meeting was held on Thursday, Jan. 25th at Lake Sumter State College in Leesburg. Twelve policy council members, including MFCS Board Liaison, Evone Jackson, were present. Eight staff members were present.

Heidi Rand, Director of Early Learning Programs, stated that the Head Start budget information indicates no concerns.

Jeff Heyne, Quality Assurance Manager reported the overall attendance percentage for last month was 84.91%.

The following reports were approved: *Budget, Credit Cards, Enrollment/Attendance, Meals and Snacks, Service Areas and Centers. Parent Activity requests* for Brooksville/Hernando and Coleman were approved. New hires for the following positions were approved:

Hernando: Teacher in Brooksville/Hernando ; Hernando: Substitute Teacher ; Hernando: Teacher in Spring Hill; Volusia: Extended day staff at Oakridge center ; Volusia: Substitute at Jo Sheppard ; Volusia: EHS Teacher at Malloy; Volusia: Family Advocate at Port Orange center ; Volusia: Center Aide in Volusia County ; Volusia: Teacher Assistant at EVEC ; Volusia: Teacher Assistant at Blue Lake ; Volusia: Nutrition Services Coordinator in Volusia County

Amy Thomas, Deputy Director of Children's Services, presented the Disability Services Policy and Procedures which were amended to reference the Early Head Start children. Jeff Heyne led a review of the new Selection Policy and

Amy Thomas, Deputy Director of Children's Services, presented the Disability Services Policy and Procedures which were amended to reference the Early Head Start children. Jeff Heyne led a review of the new Selection Policy and Procedures and spoke about the Project Spotlight Policy and Procedures. A project spotlight ensures that all identified needs are met before a child is placed in a classroom. Every department signs off stating that the child is ready to start. Lastly, Heidi Rand presented the Impasse Procedure. The procedure is established to resolve any internal disputes.

Amy Thomas presented the updated School Readiness Goals. The updates include the addition of Language and Literacy Development, to support our ESL (English as a second language) children. A Spanish version of the goal sheet is available.

Amy Thomas conducted training on the Second Step Curriculum. This curriculum teaches children how to explain their emotions, control their behavior, listen, pay attention and get along with others. One of our classrooms is featured in the Second Step marketing video. Our Head Start classrooms have a weekly lesson from Second Step.

Heidi Rand facilitated eligibility training. The training included a review of eligibility types, the eligibility verification process, being sensitive to families and disciplinary action for unacceptable conduct from staff.

Carol Coffie, Deputy Director of Program Services, presented a PowerPoint on the Community Wide Strategic Plan and Needs Assessment. The review included the purpose of and process for conducting the assessment, assessment highlights and a summary of the assessment recommendations.

The top 3 needs identified by parents are Child Care, Employment and Housing. The top 3 needs of families identified by community partners are Housing, Employment and Medical Care.

The grant application for Early Head Start funding was reviewed by the council.

New EHS Classrooms will be opening soon at the Malloy site in DeLeon Springs, Hernando site in Brooksville and Chisholm site in New Smyrna.

The federal review is scheduled for the week of February 12th. Several guests will be visiting sites during this week.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 22nd at 10am and will be conducted via video conference. Members will meet in the conference room at the administrative office in their county.



Classroom 2

Classroom 4

Brantley. N 2/3
Alfonso 2/20
Brantley. O 2/28