



# November 2017 Newsletter

## Chisholm Head Start



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Happy November and Happy Thanksgiving to all of our children and families! Thank you for your participation in center meetings and events. You are all doing a great job having your children prepared for school each day and we appreciate your efforts in arriving on time and picking up promptly as the school day ends. We look forward to the cooler days now and are grateful for the time we get to spend with all of you.

I want to share just a few thoughts on 'play' and its importance for your child's development. It is generally through play that a preschool child learns about the world around them. It is very important that we give children time for a variety of play including dramatic play and make-believe, as well as allowing them creative building, counting and problem solving opportunities. Children are learning so much while they play even though it may not appear to be a structured academic setting that we have learned to associate with the learning process.

Because young children enjoy play, it becomes a very natural way for them to learn about themselves and about the world in which they live. Since, children learn through play, they must be given enough time to do so. When you see your child actively involved in play at school, you can be assured that they are doing a lot of important learning while enjoying the learning process.

We look forward to sharing another fun month with your children and encourage you to continue to participate in center activities and events if you can, including the home activities sent home by your child's teacher. This shows your child that school is very important and that you value it. Please remember to ask your child each day about what they have been learning as they play and work together with their friends at school.



### November's Important Dates:

11/4 Daylight savings time

**11/10 No school  
Veterans Day**

11/22-11/24 No  
school thanksgiving  
break

11/21 Parent Involvement

11/28 Parent meeting

## From Classroom 4: Ms. Sharonda & Ms. Tria

Greetings families, Mrs. Shauntria and I are THANKFUL for you allowing your children to be a part of our Head Start program. Our program allows the children to explore their little minds through all of the school readiness goals and learning objectives. Our children are still trying to figure out this thing, called feelings, sharing, focusing, listening, manners and calm bodies. We continue to use the program "Second Step" because it gives the children real life scenarios. Second Step enforces problem solving, how to use our words, how to respect others and their feelings and how to manage our emotions. This program will not only give them a head start in school, but also in life. Our children had the privilege to meet some awesome nursing students from Daytona State College. The children participated in height and weight measurements with the nurses and hand washing techniques. We were super excited to learn the growing process of a strawberry but were even ecstatic to taste them. Our children know the safety of fires, when to stop, drop and roll and also when to call "911". Classroom 1 supported all the women, men, boys and girls who are suffering with cancer by wearing PINK. I would like to encourage all of our parents to read to your children daily. This will provide an interest of early reading, while expanding their vocabulary and exploring new sounds. Children feel so special when their parents read to them. Allow your children to ask questions about the stories you've read to them. This will enhance their comprehension development and engaging in meaningful conversation. Classroom 1 will continue to explore all areas of language, literacy, mathematics, science, arts, physical and social and emotional development. We encourage all of our parents to continue exploring at home and utilize the Galileo program online. Remember parents, you are your child's first teacher.

## From Classroom 2: Ms. Lynn & Ms. Carmen

We have been working on reviewing shapes and colors. The children have been writing their name, working on identifying the letters in their name and what letters have straight and curved lines. The children have been really excited learning about their five senses, touch, taste, hear, see, and smell. Ask them to identify them for you. We have been also doing nutrition activities and learning about healthy food and habits. We have been talking about the lifecycle of plants and where fruits and vegetables come from, also being able to identify fruits and vegetables. This is a great time of year because it's fall so the children have been learning about seasons and we have been doing a lot of different fun activities for fall. We would like to thank our parents and friends who came in and joined us for parent involvement with the pumpkin, the kids seemed to really enjoy that activity and learning and using their senses when it came to the pumpkin. We would like to also thank our families and friends for the turn out we had for open house; we had a successful turnout. Remember, we are always here if you have any questions or concerns.

## Extended Day: Ms. Melanie & Ms. Amber

We are working on writing our names, colors, shapes, and numbers. We continue the curriculum through the extended day program from what they do during the day. We are also working on doing Thanksgiving Projects as well as talking about what we are Thankful for.

## Family Advocate: Kishmar Petersen

Here we go.....it's coming soon one of the busiest seasons of the year. I know that it's going to be filled with fun here at Chisholm, Head Start. Christmas is one of my favorite times of the year. I ask that you plan smart and start budgeting wisely. Have fun during the year, shop wisely families. As Thanksgiving rolls in during the fourth week of November I want to remind you to start your shopping early. Friendly reminder, school will be closed on November 23rd and the 24th Thanksgiving Holiday. 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. 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 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. It 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.

## Policy Council update for October 2017

A mandatory **Policy Council training** was held on Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am at Lake Sumter State College in Leesburg. The **October Policy Council meeting** started at noon on this date immediately after the mandatory training. Eighteen 2017-18 policy council members were present. Two of the eighteen members in attendance were alternate policy council members. Voting during this meeting was limited to official policy council representatives and alternates from sites that were not represented at the meeting.

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

Policy Council officers for 2017-18 were elected. The new officers are Chairperson - Jonathan Martinez (*Volusia*); Vice-Chairperson- Sheila Ramos (*Volusia*); Secretary - Pat Nohr (*Volusia*); Policy Council Liaison- Jacob Raby (*Hernando*).

Candidates for the following vacancies have been approved for hire: Early Head Start Teacher at Oak Ridge Site (*Volusia*); Teacher Assistants at Coleman (*Volusia*), Port Orange-2 (*Volusia*), Blue Lake Elementary (*Volusia*); Child Development Specialist (*Hernando*) ; Education Manager ( *Hernando*, *Sumter* and *Volusia* counties).

Heidi Rand, Director of Early Learning Programs, advised the Policy Council of a recent Information Memorandum from the Office of Head Start that provided guidance for opportunities for programs to respond to the needs of recent hurricane victims. She also reminded the Policy Council of the Parent Activity Fund amount of \$5 per child and discussed the details of the permitted use of the funds.

Budget training will be conducted during the November Policy Council meeting by the Chief Financial Officer of Mid Florida Community Services, Kris Bates.

The School Readiness Committee will meet on Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>.

Due to the holidays, the November and December Policy Council meetings will be earlier than the regularly scheduled meeting date. The November meeting will be held on November 16<sup>th</sup>. The December meeting will be held on December 14<sup>th</sup>. Each of these meetings will be conducted via video conference. Participants will meet at the conference room of the administrative office closest to their county.

The program specialist from the Head Start Region IV Office will be visiting our program in November 14<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>.



**Classroom 2**  
Ms. Lynn 11/25  
Ja’Nya 11/28

**Classroom 4**  
Amari 11/10  
Ezrah 11/14  
Ahmonnie 11/28

## **Parent meeting notes**

- Reviewed Activities for Spirit Week
- Informed families of the free Thanksgiving Dinner at the United Methodist Church on Palmetto Street.
- Discussed moving Classroom 1 to the Classroom 4 location and asked for volunteers to help with doing so.
- Reminded everyone of cut off date for signing your child up for assistance with Christmas.
- Encouraged everyone to come and participate for Parent Engagement.
- Everyone was asked to think of some ideas for Parent Engagement.
- Classroom 1 entertained with a song.