



Deltona Lakes Head Start Newsletter

February 2018

Stay Healthy During the Winter Months

With the cold 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. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) suggest following these guidelines for effective hand washing:



- Wet your hands with clean running water and apply soap. Use warm water if it is available.
- Rub hands together to make a lather and scrub all surfaces.
- Continue rubbing hands for 15-20 seconds.
- Rinse hands well under running water.
- Dry your hands using a paper towel or air dryer.

If soap and water aren't available, the CDC suggests using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer to kill germs. However, hand sanitizers should not be used to replace the practice of hand washing. Germs are often spread by touching contaminated surfaces and then transferring the organisms to your mouth, nose or eyes. **So avoid putting your hands in your face.**

Try to keep a sick child out of the kitchen because germs can be spread to eating surfaces when kids cough, sneeze, and rub their hands on them. This can make the rest of the family vulnerable to getting sick.

Reminders

Please make sure that children are coming to school each day with labeled weather appropriate clothing (jacket, hat, mittens, snow pants, and boots). Please note that the classrooms try to go outside each day weather permitting.

Thank You

Classroom teachers would like to thank all families that have graciously donated items to their child's classroom over the past months. Many families have donated classroom materials, extra clothes, went on field trips and volunteered in the classroom. We thank you for your continuous support!



- * **School Closure:**
Monday, 02/19/18, Martin Luther King's Birthday
- ☺ **Parent Meeting:**
Wednesday, 2/28/18 @ 1:00-2:00
- ☺ **Family Engagement Activities:**
Wednesday, 2/28/18 @ 11:45a.m.



Today is your day!
Your classroom is waiting... Get on your way!

Family Advocate News

By Nelly Pagan

Let's welcome February!

Recommendation for the month: Check Sea World website for more details.

Free admission for children 5 years old and younger

<https://seaworld.com/orlando/tickets/preschool-free-admission/>

Limited time offer: Kids 5 and younger can enjoy FREE admission to SeaWorld throughout all of 2018 with the Preschool Card. There's never been a cooler time to be a kid!

Must register online. Not available at the park.

*Does not include taxes, service fees, parking, separately ticketed events or other discounts

*Online registration required

*Valid for Florida residents only

*Must present voucher and valid form of ID at ticket window to receive Preschool Card



About financials....

At this time of the year many people look for loans options to build credit or to cover emergency needs.

But please, be aware of the Predatory lending **Predatory lending** is any **lending** practice that imposes unfair or abusive loan terms on a borrower. It is also any practice that convinces a borrower to accept unfair terms through deceptive, coercive, exploitative or unscrupulous actions for a loan that a borrower doesn't need, doesn't want or can't afford.

Look for information and do some research **before signing or compromise with a loan**. Go to the consumer report to **check if the agency or company is legitimate**.

www.consumerfinance.gov

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau is an agency of the United States government responsible for consumer protection in the financial sector.

*If you would like to received more information about a specific topic, please contact me.

Nelly Pagan

Family Advocate

Inside Story of Classroom 1

By: Ms. Susan, Ms. Sue, Ms. Maria & Ms. Nancy

Dear parents and guardians,

After such a long time away from the classroom we spent most of our January working on relearning our classroom rules and routines. I am happy to report the children are back on track and doing wonderful! This month, we will be talking about what we see in the city and what we see in the country. How is family life the same and different depending on where we live. In academics, we will be focusing on identifying numbers and letters as well as letter sounds. Our children who are going to kindergarten in the fall are doing great at

writing their first names, so we will begin working on our last names this month. In science, we are going to use water and sponges to explore the concepts of absorption, expansion, and shrinkage.

The weather is changing, so please ensure that your child has an extra set of warm clothing. Thanks to all our parents who are attending and participating in the head start meetings and family engagement activities. Every minute you spend actively engaged in your

child's school life, helps support him or her to achieve success in school and in life.

Ms. Susan, Ms. Sue,
Ms. Maria & Ms. Nancy

Policy Council UPDATE for December 2018 Meeting

Policy Council update for January 2018 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 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.



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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.

