



Holly Hill Head Start April Newsletter

From the Desk of Jennifer Tinstman, CDS

Happy April! The months continue to fly by quickly. We are all looking forward to the many activities and events that will be happening in the last few months of our journey through the school year together. Thank you so much for all you do to support your child's learning and education. Your participation and involvement in school events and activities is so important to your child's school success and your efforts are much appreciated.

We will have a date coming up soon when the older children will be going to visit the kindergarten classrooms at the Holly Hill School. We will keep you informed as the plan comes together. It is an exciting time of year for all of the children as we draw closer to the preschool year end and think about all of the wonderful new experiences that lie ahead.

In April, we celebrate Earth Day which falls on April 22nd and we also recognize **National Child Abuse Prevention** month which acknowledges the importance of families and communities working together to prevent child abuse and neglect, and to promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families everywhere.

Wear [Blue](#) on Friday April 7th to recognize this important cause.





From FA's desk

- Registration for the new school year 2017-18 are already open, please contact your Family Advocate Ms. Tiwanda 386-238-8455 Ms. Betsy 386-238-8815
- Summer VPK start soon, please contact you Family Advocate as soon as possible.

Increasing Awareness About The Common Characteristics Of Autism

Whilst no two people with autism will have the same set of symptoms, there are common characteristics found in those with this complex disability. Briefly, these characteristics include:

Social Skills people with autism have problems interacting with others; autistic children do not have adequate playing and talking skills. Mild symptoms on one end of the spectrum may be displayed through clumsy behavior, being out of sync with those around them and inappropriate or offensive comments being made. At the other end of the spectrum an autistic person may not be interested in others.

Empathy empathy is the ability to recognize and understand the feelings of another person. People with autism find it harder to show empathy to others although they can be taught to acknowledge the others feelings.

Physical Contact in some cases, autistic people do not like physical contact such as hugs, tickling or physical play with others.

Sudden Changes To Their Environment a sudden change in the surrounding environment may affect a person with autism. The could be a loud noise, a change in intensity of lighting or even a change in smell.

Speech speech can be affected in people with autism. 'Echolalia' is a typical speech symptom in which the person repeats words and phrases that they hear. The speech tone of an autistic person may be monotonous. Where symptoms are more extreme the person may not speak.

Changes To Behavior and Routine people with autism often display repetitive behavior in which they repeat the same action many times over. For example, a person with autism may repeatedly pace around a room in a certain direction. Any change to their behavior or routine can be unsettling for them. This could be a reordering of daily activities such as when a person brushes their teeth, takes a shower and has breakfast when they get up in the morning.

Have a great day!

Betsabe Glenn
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- ✓ April 5th, 2017 – Last early release
- ✓ April 7, 2017 – Wear Blue- Prevent Child Abuse
- ✓ April 10, 2017 – School Pictures day, start at 8:30
- ✓ April 11, 2017 – Parent Meeting at 2:30
- ✓ April 14, 2017 –Parent Engagement at 1:00 p.m.

Happy
Easter





Teacher Report



Classroom 1

Can you believe it's April already? Are you excited? We are because, April showers will bring us May flowers.

In the month of April we will focus on the following Themes: Water and Rain, Let's Count, Sports and Exercise. We will read many amazing books that will go along with the various themes. We will be dying and decorating eggs along with making predictions as we mix various colors together to create a new color. We will ask open ended questions to help our children make their own predictions before they do the experiment with coloring the eggs. This activity will help with color recognition as well. We will continue to focus on transitioning to kindergarten through the use of our Second step curriculum. The lesson focuses on Learning in Kindergarten which will help children successfully transition into kindergarten.

Practicing the listening rules and Skills at home throughout the day will be a great benefit in their transition to kindergarten.



Thanks,
Mrs. Stephanie/Mrs. Laura



Classroom 2



Welcome back from Spring break!

We are working on the theme *“Let’s move”, Concepts “Move with me”, “Here we go”, and “Follow the leader”*. The child investigates ways to move their bodies, describe their plans and movement, their play and moving together. Review position words, front, back, last, first. Describe different objects and classify. Working on matching capital and small letters. Review the alphabet letters and sounds, counting, identify the shapes and colors. We will be learning literacy skills, listening to stories, retell the story, and the sequence of the story. Introducing new letters **J j, H h, I i**. We would like to say Thanks to all parents for participating in parent engagement.

Reminder!!!!!! Don’t forget check the mail box every day, and be sure your kids have a change of clothes in her/his cubby.

Ms. Ada & Mrs. Wimberly

Classroom 3

This month we will start our Let’s Move theme. We will be talking about the ways people and animals move. We will also be identifying ways to exercise and why exercise is important.

For the month of April we will learn about recycling and will be recycling items. In math we will be reviewing numbers 1-10, shapes, and counting objects. We will also be working on positions such as over, under, and next to. Our Literacy focus this month will be on the letters Jj, Hh, and Ii.

Please work with your child on identifying shapes and number recognition.

We would like to wish Alyssa a Happy Birthday!

Ms. Sheila / Ms. Brooke



Classroom 4

Greetings from classroom 4!! We are two months away from the end of the school year, and our students are excited about their transition to kindergarten

Part of the transition process, means the students will no longer be eating family style lunch/breakfast. We will eat cafeteria style where the children come through the line and pick up their food, milk, utensils, etc. as they will be doing in kindergarten. Instead of taking naps, we will be doing more activities to prepare them for the transition to

Kindergarten. We will start introducing to them basic kindergarten site words and we will continue working on compound and rhyming words. We will also continue working on number recognition, counting objects, patterns, basic addition and writing numbers. Our themes for the month of April are: Water and Rain, Let's Count, Sports and Exercise.

We would like to wish Makayla Frost and Lovella Murray a Happy Birthday

Ms. Keyanna / Ms. Katherine



Classroom 5

The school year is sailing by fast. We are in the last quarter as we prepare our children to transition into Kindergarten. The children have been taking their trays through the line in preparation for Kindergarten. Those children who are going to Kindergarten are not taking naps anymore, so they do not need to bring a blanket.

We will be working on compound words, sight words and more letters and number recognition. Our theme for the month will focus on Water and Rain, Let's Count and Sports and Exercise. Thanks to all of our parents who came out to our Super Hero Day. The next event will be on 5/ 18 /. We look forward to seeing all of our Kindergarten parents there!! Special Birthday Greetings goes out to Messiah 4/16/, Yanxel 4/23 and Fuad 4/24. Thanks again for all your support and being involved in your child's Education.

Ms. Gaynell /Ms. Deborah





Policy Council update for March 2017

The March Policy Council meeting was held on Thursday, March 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 (9 parents and 4 community partner members) were present.

Two persons were approved for hire.

The following reports were approved/accepted: January 2017 Budget and Credit Cards, Enrollment/Attendance, Meals and Snacks, Service Area and Center.

An overview of the *Second Step Curriculum* was provided by Damaris Conner, Education Manager. Parents are encouraged to ask their children about the puppets in their classroom.

Our Quality Assurance Manager - Jeff Heyne, presented the proposed Early Head Start program selection criteria. He explained the additional points available for foster care, homelessness and sibling in Head Start.

Heidi Rand announced that the program has been notified of its selection as an Early Head Start Grant Recipient. The grant will allow us to provide quality child care services to 112 children between birth and 3 years old. This funding will allow for new positions. The first phase of the program expansion will include opening 3 classrooms in Hernando and two classrooms in Volusia.

The next Policy Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 27th at 10 am. It will be a face to face meeting at Holiday Inn Express in Leesburg, Florida.



**Holly Hill Head Start
Parent's Meeting Minutes
Day: 21 Month: 3 Year: 2017**

- Parent Meeting started at: 2:15pm
- Parents were greeted by: Ms. Tiwanda and Ms. Betsy
- The Pledge of Allegiance was leaded by: Mr. Juan
- Minutes for the parent meeting taken by: Betsabe Glenn



• **Parents were notified of upcoming Important Dates:**

- Policy council minutes were given to the parents
- Family engagement activity Wednesday 22 at 12:30pm
- Early release March 22nd and March 29th April 5th at 1:00pm
- Next parent meeting April 11th at 2:15pm
- Transition meeting March 23th at 2:00-3:00pm
- Last transition meeting May 18th at 2:00-3:00pm

Notes:

-CDS: The CDS showed to the parent the video Eddie Eagle, the video show them what to do if a child finds a gun.

-FA: Spoke about Summer VPK Voucher and New applications for the school year 2017-18

-Ms. Stephanie for classroom 1 spoke for all classrooms

Classroom 1, 4 and 5 those classrooms are working with Dr. Seuss the teacher will be reading many of his amazing books that are filled with lots of learning opportunities for the children. Also those classrooms have the theme of the month "Shades of blue and green" "watch my garden grow" and "spring is here".

Classroom 2 and 3: The theme for the month is "The city/in the country". The children are working on sequence events, new letters Mm, Bb and Rr. They are reinforcing letters sounds, working on counting in sequence, recognizing numbers, shapes and colors.

-Children from classroom 2 and 3 with the song "Sign and move"

**Meeting adjourned at: 2:40pm Present: 12 Parent Committee: 1 Staff: 8
Minutes taken by: Betsabe Glenn**

