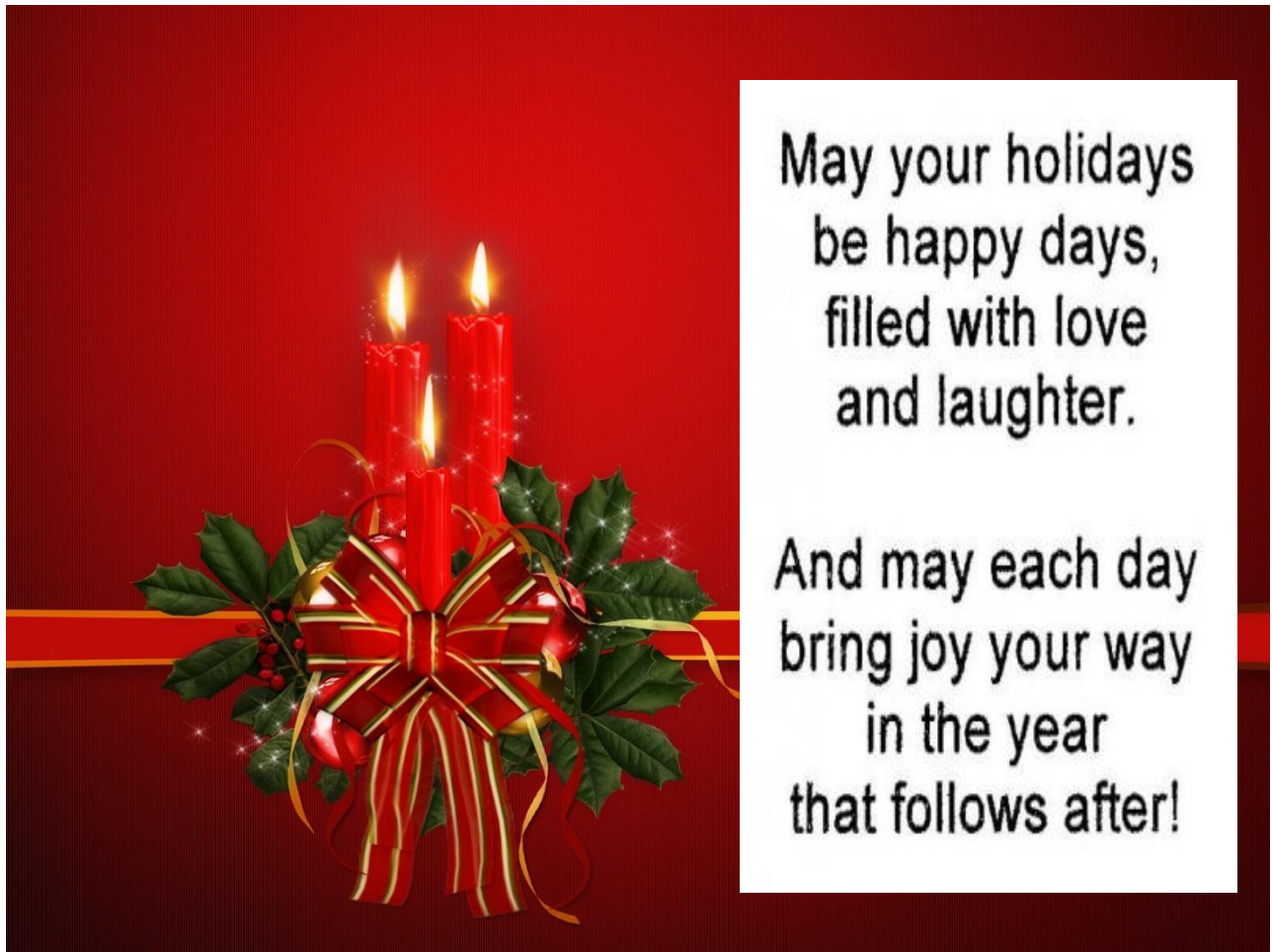




Holly Hill Head Start December Newsletter



May your holidays
be happy days,
filled with love
and laughter.

And may each day
bring joy your way
in the year
that follows after!



Holidays can be a busy time when parents must decide which activities to do with their children and make a priority, and then use this time to enjoy moments together that are meaningful and special. Children love doing things with parents. It is an exciting time of the year with a lot of holiday events to see and do.

Try to arrange 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.

Remember children do not need to be 'entertained' all the time. Give them a few suggestions for an activity, such as making cookies, or provide some inexpensive but different art materials to work with together which may even help them to be creative on their own. Sometimes a child saying "I'm bored" is just another way of saying "I want you to play with me."

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

Remember to login and check your child's progress in Galileo. If you need the password again, see your child's teacher....



From FA's Desk:

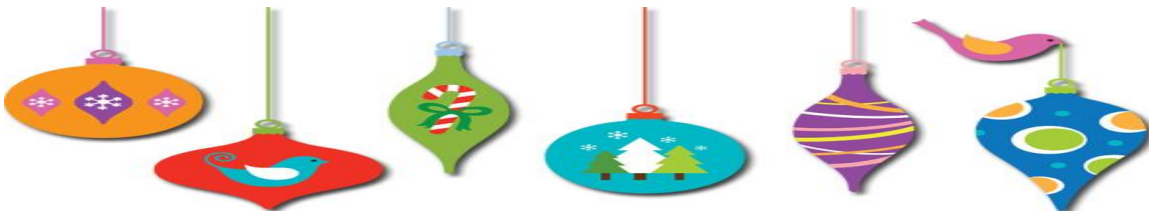
➤ **Understanding the Flu: How Can the 4-Strain Flu Shot Offer Broader Coverage?**

The flu is a specific and serious respiratory "disease," and its complications can keep you and your family from doing the things you love. Here's what you need to know about the flu so you can help protect against it:

What action can I take to help prevent the flu? The CDC recommends a yearly flu vaccine for everyone 6 months of age and older as an important step in helping to protect against flu viruses. But it's also important to understand that you have a choice when it comes to flu vaccines. The 3-strain flu vaccine only covers 3 strains of the influenza virus, but the **4-strain vaccine** covers an additional strain. That means you may get broader coverage against the flu with the 4-strain flu vaccine. **What are symptoms of the flu?** The flu may impact each person differently, but typical symptoms include: high fever, aching muscles, sore throat, dry cough, runny or stuffy nose, headache, vomiting, and diarrhea. For most people, symptoms last a few days. **How does the flu spread?** The flu is a contagious disease and can spread quite easily through coughing, sneezing, and nasal secretions. **When is someone contagious with the flu?** Most healthy adults may be able to infect others beginning: **Who can get the flu?** Anyone can get the flu, but rates of infection are highest among children. **If I do get the flu, are there any medications to treat it?** A doctor can prescribe antiviral medication that reduces flu symptoms and helps you to recover faster. For flu medicine to work, you must get the medicine fast: best results are seen if you get the medicine within the first 2 days of symptoms

- **Please check your child's mailbox**
- **December parent meeting on December 13th at 2:15pm**
- **Bring appropriate clothes for your child, the weather is changing.**
- **Winter Break on December 21st to January 4th classes resume on January 4th.**





Policy Council update for November 2016

The November Policy Council meeting was held on Thursday, November 17th at 10:00 am via video conference. Fifteen policy council members were present. A special welcome was extended to a new community policy council member, Carolyn Casler. Ms. Casler is employed by the Early Learning Coalition of Pasco/Hernando counties.

The following persons were approved for hire:

Jessyal Acevedo, Teacher's Assistant - Hernando Head Start

Megan Golembieski, Program Substitute -Hernando/Sumter counties

Jeamary Garcia, Teacher - Horizon Head Start -Volusia County

Brittany Jackson, Extended Day Teacher - EVEC - Volusia County

Juliette Santiago, Family Advocate - Chisholm Head Start – Volusia County

Budget report training was conducted by Kris Bates, Chief Financial Officer of Mid Florida Community Services, Inc.

The following reports were approved: Budget and Credit Cards, Enrollment/Attendance, Meals and Snacks, Service Area and Center. Staff will be asked to decrease the number of pictures included in center reports and increase the size of any pictures that are included in these reports.

An Information Memorandum recently issued by the Office of Head Start was reviewed. The memorandum highlighted new requirements in the Head Start Performance Standards. As a result of the memorandum, programs are prohibited from expelling or suspending a child due to the child's behavior.

A presentation on the Galileo curriculum was provided Child Development Specialist, Karen Bourbonnais. The twelve learning domains were reviewed. Additionally, information related to how the Galileo data can be easily accessed by parents and utilized by teachers and administrators to support the development of children in the program.

A series of changes to the Policy Council By laws were reviewed and approved during the meeting. The specific areas affected by these changes included:

Family and Community Partnership

Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment & Attendance - ERSEA

Health

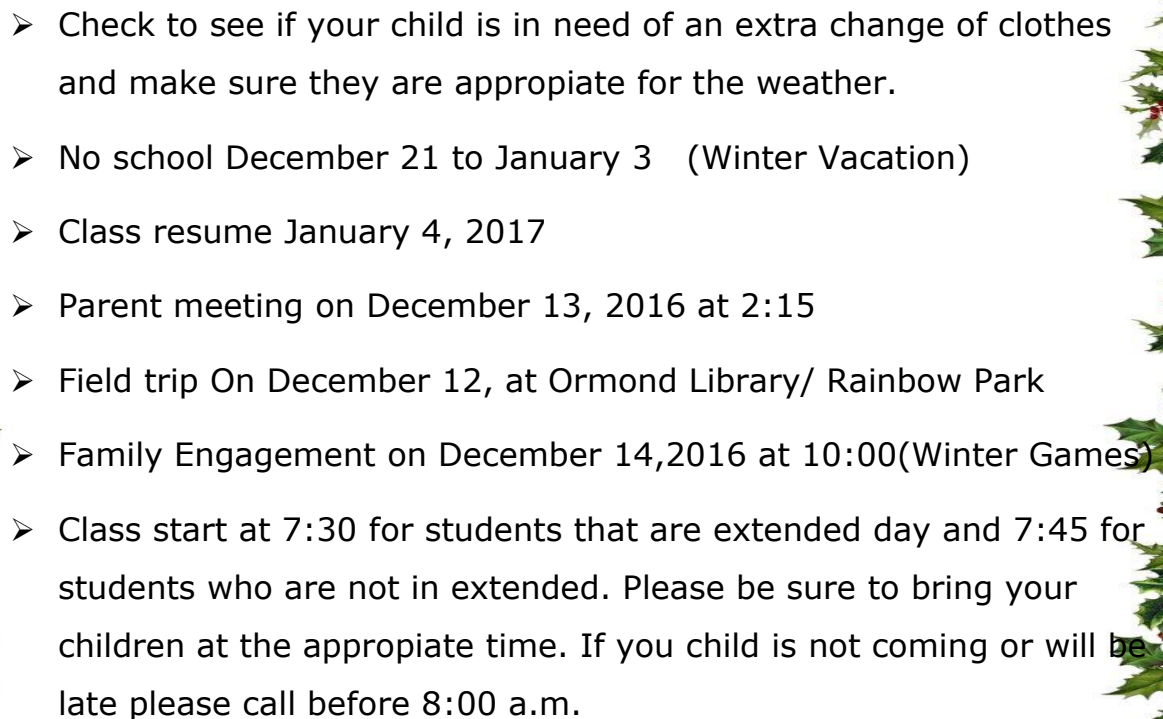
Oral health

The following **announcements** were made:

Mid Florida Community Services, Inc. has purchased a new location at 233 Oakridge Street in Holly Hill, Florida. The goal is to open the location at the beginning of the 2017-18 school year. However, if we are awarded the Early Head Start grant, efforts will be made to open the new location in April 2017.

A large room at the Hernando Head Start building is currently being renovated to become a Training Room for use by Head Start staff and possibly community partners.

Important Reminders

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- Check to see if your child is in need of an extra change of clothes and make sure they are appropriate for the weather.
 - No school December 21 to January 3 (Winter Vacation)
 - Class resume January 4, 2017
 - Parent meeting on December 13, 2016 at 2:15
 - Field trip On December 12, at Ormond Library/ Rainbow Park
 - Family Engagement on December 14, 2016 at 10:00(Winter Games)
 - Class start at 7:30 for students that are extended day and 7:45 for students who are not in extended. Please be sure to bring your children at the appropriate time. If you child is not coming or will be late please call before 8:00 a.m.

Teacher Report



Classroom 1



It is hard to believe that it is already December! For young children, December is probably the most exciting month of the year. It can be a most happy time at school and at home, if we plan ways to include the children in our preparations and celebrations. In December we will focus on Communicating with the world as we embark on various cultures from around the world. We will be working on improving our cutting skills and generating as much fun and exciting crafts as we display our various skills of learning. We will continue to review lesson from our second step Curriculum that we have learned up until now along with letters, numbers, sounds, colors and shapes as we continue to use our five senses as things change around us.

Now that the days are getting cooler, remember to dress your child appropriately. Please dress your child in easy to put on/take off clothing. We do go outside every day unless it is raining or freezing. Make sure you replace summer clothing with winter clothing.

It was good to see you all during the Parent Teacher Conferences. Thank you for coming and taking the time to discuss your child's progress. However, we are always available to share exciting news or any concerns you might have.

As this year comes to an end, we would like to wish you all a prosperous New Year!! See you in 2017.

Stephanie Bell-Patterson/ Laura Menassa



Happy Birthday

Rian 12/7

Diana 12/12

Calins 12/14

Sky 12/22



Classroom 2

Seasons, Seasons, There are reasons for our Seasons. Now it's Fall. We are learning about the seasons and how they change. Our theme is "Seasons all Around". We'll be discussing each season and what it brings. In addition to listening to stories about how our weather changes, you can help your child learn more by talking with him/her about seasons. Our letters that we'll introduce this month are Uu – Yy- Ww. We will continue to work on numbers, counting, same or different. We're working on identifying parts of the book, and what the Illustrator and author does. Our Second Step lesson includes the way we feel feelings in our body. The children will be able to identify worry as an uncomfortable feeling and identify a grown – up to talk to when they feel worried.

Classes resume on January 4, 2017.

We would like to thank our parents that participated in October and November Activity. Parents you can make a "Difference"

Happy Holiday's!!!

Ms. Ada / Ms. Wimberly



Classroom 3

Wow 2016 is almost over! It has been a wonderful start to the school year. For the month of December we will be reviewing the letters and sounds for S, P, T, O, U, X, Y and W. We will learn about and make crafts for the different holidays around the world. In math we will review patterns, continue counting objects to 5, and work on number recognition. Over the winter break I would like to encourage each of you to review the letters learned and have your child continue to practice writing his/her name.

As the temperature starts to change, please make sure to check your child's cubby to ensure he/she has a warm change of clothes. We would like to wish a Happy Birthday to Avery and Dalphanite!

Ms. Sheila /Ms. Brooke



Classroom 4

Season Greetings!! Mrs. Katherine and I hope that you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving!! In the month of December we will be discussing the four seasons' winter, summer, spring and fall. Our themes for the month of December are Communicate with the world, and Winter Carnival. We will also talk about Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa. We will learn a little more about the season winter and what you should wear in the winter months. We ask that as the weather changes to please dress your child according to the weather. Please continue to review the letters and letter sounds as well as the numbers, shapes, and colors with your kids over the break. Please wonderful and safe Christmas Holiday.

Ms. Keyanna & Mrs. Katherine



Classroom 5

Wow! Time has passed and we are at the end of the year. This month we are working on **The colors of fall**, **How To Communicate with the World**, **Winter Carnival** and **How to deal with different feelings in Second Step**. We will continue to work on writing our names and learning new letters and numbers. Special greetings go out to Corvette who is celebrating his birthday on 12/14. Our winter holiday will begin on 12/22/16 – 1/3/16. Class resume on January 4, 2017. Special thanks to our parents who came out for our November activity. The class enjoyed making those pine cone turkeys. It was fun!! We appreciate your support and taking time to be a part of your child's education. Thanks for all you do to help make this school year a success. We would like to wish you a safe and joyous Holiday and a prosperous new year.

Mrs. Gaynell & Ms. Deborah



Mid Florida Community Services, Incorporated

Head Start



Holly Hill Head Start
Parent Meeting Minutes
November 15, 2016

- Parent Meeting started at: 2:25pm
- Parents were greeted by: Michael and FA's and CDS
- The Pledge of Allegiance was led by: Mr. Juan
- Minutes from last Parents Meeting were given by: Mr. Juan
- Policy Council Representative, reported Policy Council Minutes:
Yes: X No:
- Parents were informed about important dates:
 - . That Head Start won't have early release until January 4th 2017.
 - . Health thing November 16th at Volusia Health Department Daytona Beach.
 - . Family Engagement activity that will be on Tuesday 22nd at 12:00noon and also the parents were informed that the children will be doing fall crafts.
 - . No School on November 23th, 24th and 25th. The classes resume on Monday November 28th.

Family Advocate:

. FA's spoke to the parents to fill up the blue card survey and the parents completed the survey at the parent meeting.

Parent Engagement Coordinator:

. Mr. Michael spoke about the secretary position that the center need a new secretary for the parent committee. Mr. Michael explained to the parents about the position and what the secretary has to do in the meeting. The parents voted for Ms. Tesla Velasquez, Ms. Tesla Velasquez will be the new secretary for our parent committee.

CDS: Ms. Jennifer shared that there will be a lot of activities going on throughout the holiday season for the children, a library field trip coming up soon, and opportunities for parents to help the children with our garden project which our speaker will be talking about. She also acknowledged the recent changes happening politically and gave information in both Spanish and English on a flyer about the webinar for parents that they could participate in online to hear how changes may impact our Head Start program.

Guest speaker: Ms. Sarah Levasseur from U/F Extension Family Nutrition program. The guest speaker spoke about nutrition and healthy food also she spoke about who they are, who they serve and what they offer. Also Ms. Sarah showed a food presentation with a veggie burrito, and the parents had the opportunity to taste the veggie burrito, also the guest speaker spoke about the garden at our center that the children will be growing, she explained that the children will be growing strawberries and veggies.

Ms. Sarah gave away cutting boards to cut vegetables and fruits to the parents, and invited the parents for the next activity on March 2017 at the farmer markets facility. The parent will have the opportunity to know more about farmers and healthy food and also the parents will have the opportunity to buy fruit and vegetables at the farmers market, Head Start will be giving to the parents \$5.00 to buy some healthy food at the farmer market.

Meeting adjourned at: 3:00pm Presents: 17 Parent Committee: 2 Staff: 9
Minutes taken by: Tesla Velasquez

