



HOLLY HILL HEAD START DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

2017

*Christmas is the time
of giving and sharing,
it is the time of loving
and forgiving.*

*May the miracle of Christmas
fill your heart
with warmth and love.*

Happy Holidays

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

Holiday time is a lot of fun but can get to be a very busy time. Parents must carefully decide which activities to do with their children and make a priority, so that time is spent enjoying moments together that are meaningful and special. Children love doing things with their parents and family members. It is an exciting time of the year with a lot of holiday events to see and do.

Try to plan 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.

Simple activities make lasting memories. Make a batch of cookies and decorate them, or provide some inexpensive but different art materials to work with together and make some ornaments. You and your child will enjoy a wonderful time just doing things together.

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



IMPORTANT DATES

December 13th at 1:00 - Parent Meeting

December 13th at 12:00 - Family Engagement Activity

December 21st – January 5th , Classes resume on January 8th

Teacher Reports

Classroom 1

It is hard to believe it is already December! For young children, December is probably the most exciting month of the year. It can be the most rewarding time at home and school, if the children are a part in the preparations and celebrations. In December we will focus on Communicating with the world as we embark on various cultures from around the world as they celebrate the month of December. 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 letters, numbers, sounds, colors and shapes as we continue to use our five senses as things change around us. It was good to see you during the Parent Teacher Conferences. Thank you for coming and taking time to discuss your child's progress. However, we are always available to share exciting news or any concerns you might have. We would like to thank each parent that participated in our parent Involvement activity and Parent meeting in November. The children really enjoyed having the parents participated. As we come to the end of December we would like to wish each of our families a **Merry Christmas** and a **Happy New Year!!**

Happy Birthday:
Ne'Riyah 12/12

Mrs. Stephanie/ Ms. Laura





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 feeling 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. We would like to thank our parents that participated in October and November Activity. Today is the Day make a Difference!!

Happy Holidays!!

Ms. Ada / Ms. Stephanie

Classroom 3

Wow! The year has gone by fast. Thanks to all of you who came to our parent meeting and the family engagement activity last month. It is important for us to work together in helping our children develop and grow. This month we will be working on a nutrition activity and different crafts that introduce Christmas around the world. We would like to congratulate Landon's mom on her new baby. As the holiday approaches and we get busy, please remember to bring a change of clothing appropriate for the weather. We would also like to wish you a safe **Holiday** as you spend time with your family and friends. We look forward to seeing you in the New Year 1/8/18.

Mrs. Gaynell & Ms. Deborah





Classroom 4

Season Greetings!! We would like to welcome all our families back and we hope that you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving Break!! 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 The Colors of Fall, Cantaloupe Corner and So Many Trees. 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 have wonderful and safe **Christmas Holiday**.

Happy Birthday

Sarahi 12/2

Dalphanite 12/21

Ms. Keyanna, Mrs. Vicky & Mrs. Katherine



Important Numbers

Classroom 1, 2, 3 and 5

Phones: (386) 238-5333

Classroom 4

Phone: (386) 238-8670

Ms. Ruth Roberts, FA

Phone: (386) 238-8455

(386) 238-8815

From the FA Desk

Dear Parents: It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas and the weather will be changing from day to day and it is very important that we dress our littlest of people according to the weather. Please remember to send your child with a jackets and or sweater as we have outdoor activities.

CHRISTMAS TOYS AND FOOD

- Salvation Army – New Smyrna Beach – First United Methodist Church.
- Salvation Army – Flagler 700 East Moody Blvd.
- Salvation Army- Deland - 1240 South High Street
- Salvation Army- Daytona
- Daytona Beach Fire Department Toy Drive for Flagler & Volusia Families /Early Learning Coalition. 386-323-2400
- Harvest Time International Port Orange Christmas Bag of toys Program 386-256-4736
- Prince of Peace Church Christmas Activities 386-676-1695

Reminders

- Attend school daily and arrive on time ready for each day learning experience.
- Please pick up your children on time at 2:00 pm.
- Very important to attend Parent Meetings and Family Engagement Activities. These are for the benefit of your children and family.





Policy Council update for November 2017

The **November Policy Council meeting training** was held on Thursday, November 16th at 10:00 am via video conference. A quorum was established. Thirteen policy council members were present.

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

The results of the election of officers conducted at the October meeting were reviewed. Council members were advised that the person elected as chairman was not eligible for election to an office as he attended the meeting as an alternate and alternates are not eligible for nomination to an office. The official policy council representative from a center is the only person who can be nominated for or elected to a policy council office. The previously elected vice chairman, Sheila Ramos (Representative from Coleman Center in Volusia) was nominated to now become the chairman. There was a unanimous vote in favor of Ms. Ramos. Ramon Ayala was nominated for the office of vice chairman. There was unanimous vote in favor of Mr. Ayala.

Candidates for the following job vacancies have been approved for hire:

Hernando: Substitute Teacher III

Volusia: Substitute Teacher III, Blue Lake Elementary Blended Classroom
Family Advocate, Jo Sheppard Early Head Start
Family Advocate, Holly Hill Head Start
Teacher Assistant III, Blue Lake Elementary Blended Classroom
Substitute Teacher Assistant
Full Time Extended Day Teacher Assistant, EVEC
Nutrition Coordinator

Budget training is postponed until next month due to the hospitalization of the Mid Florida Community Services, Inc., Chief Financial Officer - Kris Bates.

A maximum of 25% for food expenses was agreed upon per Parent Activity. All parent activities have to be submitted, in advance, to the Family Advocate for forwarding to the Family Engagement Coordinator for approval. The cost of food items that serve as materials to help teach a specific parenting skill during a Parent Activity is not included in the food expense.

The School Readiness Committee update was provided. The committee met on Nov. 15th. Topics of discussion included children arriving late at centers, behavior concerns and curriculum.

The Selection Criteria for 2018 – 19 was approved.

Special appreciation was extended to Robin Bowman from WVEC for her recent participation on the interview panel for Family Advocate interviews.

The Program Specialist from our regional office and an Early Childhood Specialist from our regional office visited several of our sites during the week of Nov. 13th. They complimented the consistency of documents on parent boards and health boards in each classroom they visited and recognized the high level of teamwork among staff.

The following committees are looking for parent volunteers: Community Needs Assessment, ERSEA (Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment and Attendance) and School Readiness. Any parent interested in serving on any of these committees can contact the Family and Community Partnership Manager in their county. Volusia county parents can contact Cindy at 386-736-1325. Hernando/Sumter parents can contact Jaclyn at 352-754-2464.

The December meeting will be held on Thursday, December 14th. The meeting will be conducted via video conference. Participants will meet at the conference room of the administrative office closest to their county.