

# Holly Hill Head Start

## February 2018 Newsletter

**From the desk of: Jennifer Tinstman, CDS**

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386-235-4480

Our new year is off to a great start! Happy February to all of the children and families! This is the month that we associate with Valentine's Day and love and caring. Take some time this month to teach your child to care for other people by expressing kindness through their words, a hug or just taking time to visit or play with friends and family members. The teachers spend a lot of time each day teaching the children social skills and ways to show caring for one another. During this Valentine's month of February would be an excellent time to reinforce at home, ways to help and care for others.

With the cooler 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. There are a lot of colds and the flu going around and if your child is ill and cannot attend school, please let your teacher or family advocate know that they will be out for the day. We appreciate your help keeping us informed.

Please make sure that children are coming to school each day with weather appropriate clothing and note that the classrooms still go outside each day weather permitting.

Thank you for your participation in classroom events, parent meetings, and activities with your child. Always remember, YOU are your child's first teacher and your involvement makes all the difference in your child's school success!



### IMPORTANT DATES

February 9<sup>th</sup> @ 2:15 – Parent Meeting

February 19 – Holiday President's Day



## Teacher Report

### Classroom 1

We have been busy this month focusing on our theme “Animals Everywhere”. We were building background language and vocabulary through the reading of “The Greedy Cat,” “Animal Babies” We added new words to our vocabulary from the story. Our words were Gulp, Greedy, swishing, calf, cups, joey, foal, cygnet and rumbling just to name a few from the stories. We sorted and graphed animals according to where they live and the way they move. We focused on the letter Ff, Hh and Zz. Our theme song was I Love Animals. We also found animals in magazines to make collages. The children enjoyed discussing and sharing about the animals they see in their neighborhood and throughout the city. We had an awesome experience with this theme. It appears we have a class of animal lovers. We will be moving into our next Theme which will be “Construction Zone.” We will learn about building things, solving problems and how children can plan together to get the job done. Our letters during this theme will be Bb, Mm, and Rr. We will also spread the love through making Valentines cards for our love ones and focusing on the letter Ll-love, Vv-Valentines.



We will share photos of famous African American for Black History month.

We would like to encourage our families to please read to your child daily and discussed what is being read and allow them to turn the pages and read the book back to you. If you need books, please feel free to let myself are Mrs. Laura know and we will provide you with some reading materials for your child.

Happy birthday Daysia 2/9, Irie 2/10, Lilly 2/10, Kaitlyn 2/14, Steven 2/25. Always remember you are your child’s first teacher.

Mrs. Stephanie / Mrs. Laura

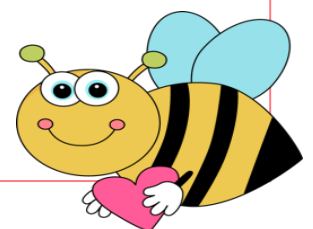
### Classroom 2

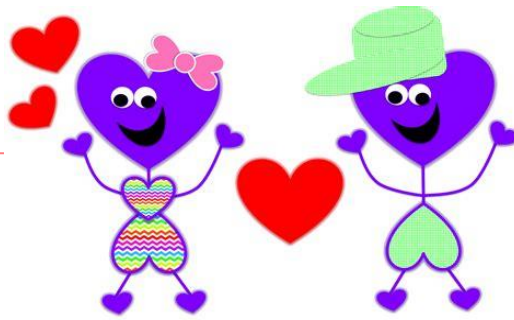
We work on Theme “Animals everywhere”. Child work on classify land or water animals. Animals they know, and can be a pet. Also working on farm animals or wild animals. Recognize which animals can be flying and which can run. Continues reinforce color, shapes, and letter sounds.

We work on counting to 10 and match the numeral with the concrete object. Second Step we are working on managing anger and waiting in line, and taking turns. Reinforce classroom and playground rules. Child started learning about spinach and how this vegetable looks, feel, taste, and smell, them. Where does spinach grow? We are going to make a Spinach- Strawberry-Cantaloupe Salads.

We want to say “Thanks” to our parents for participating in our Parent Engagement. Please check your mail box every day, don’t forget bring extra clothes. Happy San Valentin everyone!

Ms. Ada / Ms. Stephanie





### Classroom 3

Thanks to those parents who came out to our family Engagement Activity. We had a great time making snow men puppets. This month we will be working on Construction Zone as well as focusing on our letter recognition and sounds. In Second Step we are discussing fair ways to play and Having Fun With friends. We will also be working on Valentine crafts and exploring more nutrition activities. We would like to remind you to bring a change of clothing appropriate for the weather. It is starting to get colder and we want to keep our children warm so that they do not get sick. Thanks for working with us and being involved in your child learning experience. We look forward to seeing you to our next parent meeting. Please come and join us and be informed about important information concerning your child's learning experience. Thanks for all you do to help make this the best year for your child's beginning education.

Mrs. Gaynell & Ms. Deborah

### Classroom 4

In the month of January, Classroom 4 was busy getting back into the swing of our daily routine and our classroom rules. Our main focus was classroom management and making sure the students remember what is expected of them in the classroom. Our Second Step lessons have been teaching us about managing our feelings and ways to calm down our body down, when we are angry or excited. In the month of February our themes will be The Homes We Build, Down on the Farm, and All Shapes and Sizes. We will be celebrating Black History Month and the students will learn about different African American Leaders. We will also start introducing the students to site words, rhyming words and compound words. Parents please continue to work with your child on alphabets/alphabet sounds, number/color/shape recognition, counting and social/emotional skills.

We would like to wish Emely Romero a very Happy Birthday!!!

Ms. Keyanna / Mrs. Katherine





## **From FA's Desk**

The Florida Department of Health reports that influenza, or “flu”, activity levels increased sharply over the last several weeks. Flu is a contagious respiratory disease. Serious outcomes of flu infection can result in hospitalization or death. Some people, such as young children, the elderly, and people with certain health conditions are at risk for serious complications from flu.

Vaccination is the best way to protect against the flu and severe complications from the flu. The flu vaccine is offered in many locations including pharmacies, clinics, employers, and schools. Contact your health care provider, county health department or visit <http://floridahealth.gov/findaflushot> to find a flu vaccine center near you.

### **IMPORTANT NUMBERS**

**Family Advocate: Ms. Ruth & Ms. Isabel**

Phone Number: (386) 238-8455 / (386) 238-8815

**Classroom 1, 2, 3 and 5**

Phones: (386) 238-5333

**Classroom 4**

Phone: (386) 238-8670

## **Parent Meeting**

**January 12, 2018**

**Parents Attendance: 8**

### **Summary:**

The parents of Holly Hill Head Start gather to discuss monthly topics. The Family Advocate discusses information in regards to financial management. Examples were prioritizing ourselves, check you credit and form a budget. Next we discuss the Spring-Fling Event which is to take place in April, no exact date at this time. The parents presented ideas for activities examples: Tie-dye station, bounce houses, face painting, sack racing, nutritional table, snow cone machine, more parents volunteer etc. Also and update of every child immunization, dental and health physicals is requested by the Family Advocate. No school on Monday 1/15/2018 for Martin Luther King day.

A change of clothes for each child required due to change of weather season. Donated clothes are accepted for accidents. The president requests a family activity for the parents per Policy Council requirements. The parents agree on a Food activity "Healthy way to Eat" to join the parents together for the activity. Lastly the Family Advocate ask for ideas to draw more parents to meeting, pot luck was suggested. The parents agreed that the food and drinks will draw more parents to meetings.

Meeting adjourned until next month.

## Policy Council Update – January 2018

The January Policy Council Meeting was held on Thursday, Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> 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.

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.