



## *Horizon Head Start Newsletter*

Parents and Families,

Welcome to December. Bur... we have had some cold days! We will be learning about **Animals Everywhere** this month. The children will share what they like about animals. We will see & discuss familiar animals. We will also learn about animals in the wild! In **Second Step** we are learning about how we feel feelings in our body, as well as strong feelings. Putting your hand on your belly & saying stop & taking a belly breath are ways to help us calm down. You can also discuss with your child ways to help calm down. We will all have strong feelings from time & we need to learn how to cope & deal with them. This month our letter focus will be to review letters Uu, Yy, & Ww. In our **Nutrition** unit, will learn letters Ff, Aa, & Zz. You can have your child practice writing these letters at home as well. Your child will also learn about Spinach. We will make & taste a yummy Spinach Strawberry Salad! As always, if you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask!

*Mrs. Teresa, Ms. Elaine, Ms. Whiston and Mrs. Alice*

### **December Birthdays**

MacKenzie 12/3

Kaede 12/14

Beckham 12/26



### **November Perfect Attendance**

Jaelynn Delgado-Flipo

Marayla Edwards

Kaede Jones-Allen

Abriella Oley

### **Parent News**

#### **Family Engagement Activity**

Monday, 12/5 @ 1:30 pm - Christmas Light  
Thumb Prints

#### **Parent Meeting**

Monday, 12/5 @ 2pm

#### **Winter Break**

December 21<sup>st</sup> - January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Classes resume January 4<sup>th</sup>: Early Release



Holidays can be a time when parents decide that doing things with their children will be a priority and they will use the time to get to know each other and enjoy each other's company. Children love doing things with parents.

Try to arrange some individual time with each child if you can, as well as family time - this helps build good relationships and helps your children's self-esteem.

Just one different activity each day will help keep children interested and looking forward to it.

Remember children do not need to be 'entertained' all the time. Just a change of place or a few suggestions can help them to be very creative on their own.

Sometimes saying "I'm bored" is another way of saying "I want you to play with me", and sometimes the child has not even started to try to think of what to do by themselves.

Happy Holidays to everyone & enjoy this time with your family!!

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

# Happy New Year



## Policy Council Minutes

The November Policy Council meeting was held on Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup> 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; and 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.



As the months are flying by, we would like to thank you for your continued participation in the Head Start Program. We have had some challenges this year, but have managed to overcome them and I just wanted to say thank you for your time and patience. I'd like to wish everyone a Happy and Safe Winter Break and we look forward to the upcoming New Year. If you have any questions, or concerns please feel free to call me at any time and I will do my best to assist you. Again thank you and enjoy some much needed rest.

Yvette Altman Family Advocate Pathways Port Orange, Horizon, Indian River

### November Parent Meeting Minutes



Meeting opened at 2:05 PM. Items discussed were changing of the Parent involvement meeting time it is now from 1:00 to 1:30. Ms. Crystal let parents know that Mrs. Nikki was going to be out for a few weeks due to some Health Issues. She informed the parents that Mrs. Teresa will be stepping in for as long as needed. Also spoke to the parents about Siblings needing to be with the parents during our meeting times. Policy council minutes were read, and minutes from last parent meeting were also read. Reading Pals also was at our meeting. They read a book to the children and spoke to the parents about the importance of reading to their children. They also gave each child a book to take home with them. Talked about Possible upcoming field trips will get more information on that. Pick up and drop off times were also discussed children need to be in school by 7:50 and the bell rings at 8:00 AM. If you are here after the bell rings you will have to go to the Main office and sign in there and then bring your child to the classroom. FA spoke about upcoming shots and physicals, and if you have changed your phone numbers, or address to please let us know. Mr. Michael thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and the meeting was adjourned.