



# Preschool News

## Horizon Head Start



2017

April was a very busy month! Thank you to all who participate in parent-teacher conferences. Time to say farewell to those showers and welcome the May flowers! May is a very busy and exciting month here at Horizon. Our theme this month is "Ready for Kindergarten". We will be focusing on: letter recognition, letter sounds, counting objects at least 1-20, number recognition, name writing, shapes, colors, rhymes, opposites, positional words and Kindergarten expectations. We would also like to thank parents for coming to our parent meeting: it is a great way to get into the habit of going to them as your child progresses in school. We also like to thank our parents for your continue cooperation and your support!



### March Perfect Attendance



Mackenzie Dann

Jaelynn Delgado-Filpo

Lukas Garner

Arielle-Jane Loven

### Happy Birthday

May/June- None

July- Abriella 19<sup>th</sup>

Mrs. Jeamary 9<sup>th</sup>

August- Lukas 9<sup>th</sup>



### Important Dates:

May 1<sup>st</sup> @1:30 Parent Activity

@2:00 Parent Meeting

May 3<sup>rd</sup> Kindergarten Visit (Only for students!)

May 16 @ 2:00 "Kindergarten Transition Meeting" (Only for students going to Kindergarten)

May 17, 24 EARLY RELEASE

May 19<sup>th</sup> Field Trip to James St. Park

May 26 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

"Festival" 9:30





## **Going to Kindergarten**



**By Crystal Hill  
Child Development Specialist**

It is hard to believe that this is our last newsletter. Our preschool year is winding down and many of our preschoolers will be off to kindergarten in the fall. Remember, going to school is a natural progression for children and most will be very ready to go. To help your child look forward to a new school, be sure to talk positively about attending kindergarten. Talk often about making new friends, learning new things, growing up, and becoming a “big boy or girl.” Plan to attend your school’s orientation with your child, visit your public library and read, read, read to your child over the summer months. Head Start “transition bags” contain some terrific ideas for learning new things and having big fun.

We thank you for entrusting your child to us this year. We have enjoyed working with all of the children in our care and have seen growth, development and skill acquisition in all of the boys and girls. We have also witnessed how the children have grown in the way they deal with frustration and the care and concern they express for one another.

Thank you for being your child’s first and most important teacher and working with us on behalf of your child. We thank you for your support throughout the year. We feel a close partnership with our parents and send you our best wishes.

Hoorah for preschoolers!!! We appreciate your support. Have a wonderful and safe summer!



## Policy Council update for April 2017

The April Policy Council meeting was held on Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am. It was a face to face meeting at the Holiday Inn Express in Leesburg, Florida. Eleven policy council members (9 parents and 2 community partner members) were present.

Fourteen persons were approved for hire.

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

The MFCS Annual Audit was reviewed by Program Director, Heidi Rand. There were no findings. Policy council members were encouraged to review the document and advised that additional copies could be made available upon request.

A review of the Community Wide Strategic Planning and Needs Assessment was led by Carol Coffie, Assistant Director of Early Learning Programs. The review included the process for data collection and a summary of the 828 survey responses. The top five needs identified by parents include Child Care, Transportation, Employment, Dental Care and Housing.

Policy Council members approved the following revisions to the By Laws:

*EHS will have representation on Policy Council*

*Centers with more than 5 classrooms can have an additional representative on Policy Council*

*Policy council to meet at least 10 times per year*

Policy council members were asked about their training needs. Any future training interests or needs should be sent to Heidi Rand.

Heidi Rand provided the following update about the Early Head Start (EHS) Expansion:

*Classrooms at the Jo Sheppard site and the Hernando Head Start site are being renovated and are expected to be completed by mid-June*

*Additional EHS Classrooms will be renovated and opened later in the program year*

*EHS training for managers has been scheduled for early May*

*Training for teachers, family service and health service members is being coordinated for early June.*

*Attempts are being made to coordinate CDA credential training for anyone interested in being an Early Head Start teacher*

*All classrooms at Pathways Port Orange location will become Head Start/ Early Head Start classrooms as of 2017-18 program years*

The following announcements were made:

*Applications for Early Head Start and Head Start for 2017-18 program years are being accepted*

*Week of May 1<sup>st</sup> is Teacher Appreciation Week*

*Note of thanks was given to Juan Echezebal, Rocia Renteria and Adelani Adekunle for being a part of interview teams for Early Head Start/Head Start positions*

The next Policy Council meeting date will be announced.

### Names and location of new hires:

#### *Hernando:*

Rachel Mackey – EHS Teacher

Elsie Burnett – EHS Teacher

Desiree Isnardi – EHS Teachers

Margaret James – EHS Teacher

Jeananne Wright – HS Teacher

#### *Sumter: None*

#### *Volusia:*

Kishmar Peterson-Family Advocate

Michele Ashley – Compliance Specialist

Carlene Morgan – School Readiness Specialist

Melanie Pridmore – Program Substitute

Lorri Tipper – Teacher Assistant

Caitlyn Festari – Full Time Extended Day Teacher

Angela Merriweather - Teacher

Maribel Maneilla – EHS Teacher

Ashley Shaffer – Disability Services Specialist



### **Minutes from last Parent Meeting**

Mr. Adekunle opened the meeting by reading the Policy Council Report.: He explained to the parents about the importance of In-kind and how it generates dollars for the classroom. He also spoke about the new site that is coming which is going to be Early Head Start along with Head Start. He states that although this is a very new adventure everyone is excited about it. He spoke about the upcoming Kindergarten registration. Some parents were asking about how to go about getting Variances. Yvette did explain that they needed to do the paperwork at the homeschool first and then they could apply for a variance. I did let them know that I was not sure how long it would take. We thanked the parents for coming out to our Parent Activity. It was a great success. Also talked about was the weather changes and to please switch out children's clothing. Mrs. Jeamary spoke about the no early release dates which are going to be on April 12, 19, 26 May 3rd May 10. May 16 is when early release starts again. Mrs. Crystal CDS spoke about the Kindergarten transition meeting. She states children will be performing and the Kindergarten teacher will be present for this meeting. Mrs. Jeamary also spoke about Illness in the classroom. She states children are coming to school while being sick. She asked parents to please be mindful of children's illnesses. She asked to please update address and phone numbers once again. She reminded parents of Drop off and Pick up procedures. How anyone who picks up a child will need an ID, a password, and hopefully on the Pick-up list. She stated that if they were not on the pick-up list she asked parents to please add them ASAP. She spoke about upcoming parent conferences. The theme is Let's Move. Letters H I J. Mr. Michael Next parent activity will be on May 1st. And our next parent Meeting will be on May 1st as well.

### **From the Desk of: Yvette Family Advocate.**

**Dear parents.**

As the year comes to a close we would like to thank everyone for their continued participation in our Head Start Program. It has been our pleasure to serve you. We hope that you have enjoyed your time with us as much as we have enjoyed it. Some Items to remember. Please register your child for Kindergarten starting this month. You will need to register at your home school and if you would like a variance, you would need to get one and take it to the school you are requesting. Roll over children will be getting paperwork done shortly. We are also now enrolling for Early Head Start as we are hoping to have it up and running by August. The ages that we will be accepting are six weeks old to just under three. When children turn 3 they can apply to transition into regular Head Start. Enjoy your summer. School will start back for all children coming to Head Start and those going to Kindergarten on August 14, 2017.

