



## Indian River Head Start December 2016



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



### Important Dates:

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| <b>12/13</b>     | Christmas at Chisholm Head Start   |
| <b>12/14</b>     | Parent Meeting: <b>9:00 AM</b><br><b>Whistle Stop Park</b> (across the street from school) |
| <b>12/20</b>     | <b>Family Engagement: 12:30</b><br>Movies and Ornaments. Dress in pajamas!!!               |
| <b>12/21-1/3</b> | <b>Winter Break</b>  |
| <b>1/4</b>       | Classes Resume   |



We were so thankful for the amazing turnout for our Thanksgiving lunch last month. The children enjoyed it immensely.

We will begin our month with our nutrition unit. Our vegetable this month is SPINACH!! We will learn how spinach grows and will taste spinach and spinach dip.

In literacy and math we will review the topics we have taught so far this year. We will review our letters, rhyming words, and our names. We will review shapes, numbers, patterns, and more.

We will also learn about different holiday traditions from around the world.

On December 13<sup>th</sup>, we will have the exciting opportunity to visit Chisholm Head Start and participate in a holiday event over there. We will be visited by the big man himself, Santa! A fabulous group of men and women called the Ponce Inlet Group hosts this event and has invited our children to attend. We are blessed. This is for the children only. We will not be able to take chaperones on this visit.

We hope you all have a safe and relaxing holiday with family and friends.

Mrs. Hurley, Ms. Ward, Ms. Fenner, Ms. Seeley



#### **FA CORNER:**

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 would like to wish everyone a Happy and Safe Winter Break and we look forward to the upcoming New Year.

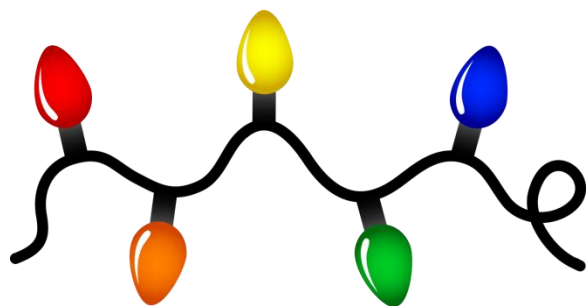
If you have any questions, or concerns please feel free to call me at any time and I will do my best to assist you. Again thank you and enjoy some much needed rest.

Yvette Altman

Family Advocate Pathways Port Orange,  
Horizon, Indian River. 386-492-6680



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### Parent Meeting Minutes for November 16, 2016

The meeting opened at 2:05 PM by Meagan O'Keefe. Items talked about were Upcoming school events.

Ms. Karen spoke about the male engagement activity to have lunch with their kids. Karen worked it out with the Cafeteria, in order to have lunch with the kids the parents can pay \$3.00 per parent and the kids eat free and it would be a Thanksgiving lunch. Kids are going to be making ornaments as well.

Meagan spoke about the Policy council report. School readiness was also talked about and she spoke about the funds for the upcoming Parent Activity and how we need to vote on this shortly. Some discussion was about what type of activity they would like to do for the Parent activity. A swim course was discussed and Mr. Michael explained that the parent activity was for the parents only; he also let the parents know some of the other activities that have been done in the past. We will still need more discussion about this. Meagan stated the Parent Meetings now being moved to the Park but they will still be on the same date.

December 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. at Whistle Stop Park is where the next meeting will be. It is directly

across the street from the school. She spoke about changing clothing out for the upcoming weather. Meagan also spoke about having a private Facebook page so that all parents can stay in touch with each other because everyone is so busy they can look at the Facebook page for information.

Meagan also spoke about the Pickup situation and how the parents want the kids to be picked up within the pickup loop. She said that will have to be still further discussed at Policy Council. She spoke about November 23<sup>rd</sup> is when Thanksgiving Holiday Starts and children will be returning to school on November 28<sup>th</sup> 2016. Items also discussed were how attendance is Key. She spoke about the Performance standards. She stated that the meeting was cut short due to time constraints. Sarah gave great traveling tips. She talked about the best times to buy plane tickets which were 57 days out before travel. She gave ideas on what to pack if you are taking a car trip which was a cooler with drinks and snacks.

Ms. Karen reminded parents about the upcoming lunch with the kids. She said that they were studying about the seasons and weather and what to wear in the hot and cold. She also talked about the garden, and How Meagan and her husband put the garden together and thanked them. She stated that two plants did not make it but 8 did. Talked about Rain Barrel, talked about Mosquitos and Tanya's husband may have a contact to help get some type of bucket or something to help get water to the plants.



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Jennifer CDS talked about Field Trip to Chisholm on December 13<sup>th</sup> for the kids to get presents. The parents also talked about some type of treasure box to share clothing with other families.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:41 PM.

#### Policy Council update for November 2016

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*

*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.