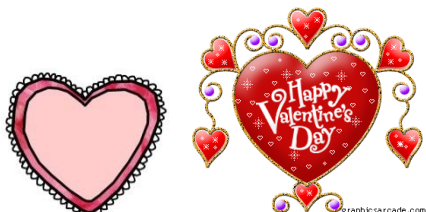




Indian River Head Start February, 2017



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

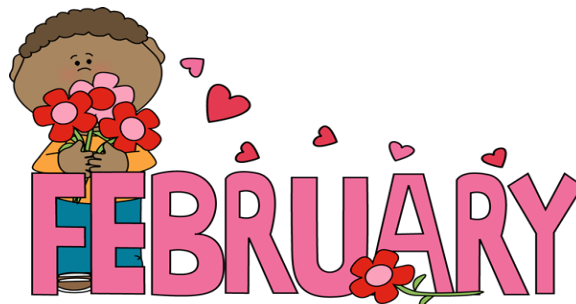
Our new year is off to a great start! Happy February to all of the children and families! This is the month that we associate with Valentine's Day and love and caring. Take some time this month to teach your child to care for other people by expressing kindness through their words, a hug or just taking 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. 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. We will have our first Transition to Kindergarten meeting this month as well for those families with children who will be moving on in August.

Always remember, YOU are your child's first teacher and your involvement makes all the difference in your child's school success!



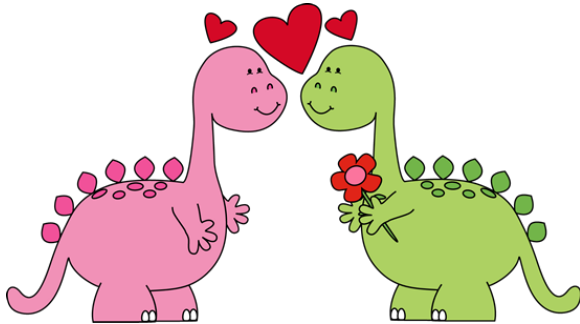
Important Dates:

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 2/1 | Home Visits Begin!! |
| 2/6 | Transition to Kindergarten Meeting 8-9 AM in the classroom |
| 2/14 | Valentine's Day |
| 2/15 | Family Engagement: Kahoot Game Show!! 12-1 PM in the classroom |
| 2/15 | Parent Meeting 1-2 PM in the classroom |
| 2/20 | President's Day: There will be school this day to make up for Hurricane Matthew. |





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We have concluded our unit on animals. We are now turning our classroom into a Construction Zone!! We will teach literacy, mathematics, and science topics all through the theme of tools, building, and construction!! Our new alphabet letters will be B, M, and R. We will learn the beginning letter sounds as well as words that begin with that letter. In math, we will determine the length and height of objects. We will measure using non-standard forms of measurement (such as blocks, shoes, hands, etc.).

It is the time of year for our second round of home visits. All parents have signed up for a time for us to come to your homes and discuss your child's progress in the classroom. If you need a reminder of your appointment, please check in with us as soon as possible.

Our first Transition to Kindergarten meeting will be held on Monday, February 6th from 8 to 9 AM in the classroom. We will focus on reading strategies that you can use with your children to help prepare them for kindergarten. There will be two other meetings in March/April and again in May.

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



FA Corner:

February is finally here! Please remember to join us at our Parent Meeting Wednesday February 15th at 1:00 PM. The parent meeting was changed at 1:00 pm because we will have a special guest. Mrs. Sara Levasseur from the University of Florida, She will be talking about different ways to eat healthy and give us ideas of easy and nutritious recipes.

Also on February 6 from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. we will have the first transition meeting for Kindergarten. It is very important to attend these two meetings because they always provide valuable information regarding the education of your children, activities and announcements. We will be open on President's Day, Monday, February 20th. This is the last make up day from Hurricane Matthew. There will also be a Spring Nutrition Event to learn about healthy eating and gardening with other Head Start Parents. Head Start will provide transportation for you to the Farmer's Market at the Volusia County Fairgrounds on Wednesday March 1st. Please RSVP to (386) 427-8149 or let your Family Advocate know. There will also be flyers up throughout the center for this event.

Please remember to give your Family Advocate your child's immunizations, physical exams, and dental treatments. It is very important to keep these documents up date, first for the health and well-being of your children and because it is a requirement of the school.



Indian River Head Start February, 2017

As always, I can be reached at (386) 427-8149 to report absences, make appointments, and help you in any way possible.

Julyette Santiago



Indian River Head Start

Parent Meeting MINUTES

January 18, 2017

1. Welcome: By Megan O'Keefe at 9:00 am
 2. New business
 - o Reminder of the beginning for the Early Release this year
 - o Holiday (No School) Monday, January 16th, 2017 (Martin Luther King)
 3. Service Area Report
 - o Teacher Report: Mrs. Hurley came and discussed what the children are learning in the classroom. She also discussed the Family Engagement activity to be held on 1/26 (Special Olympics Practice).
- * We discussed the Spring Into Nutrition activity in the Farmer's Market at the Volusia Fairgrounds on Wednesday March 1. Parents must confirm their attendance.
- o CDS: Ms. Jennifer Tinstman mentioned the parents about the Transition to Kindergarten meeting. We have to ask for a classroom in the school to know the day and time to hold the meeting. Also mentioned changing the time of the next parent meeting because we will have a

special guest Ms. Sara Levasseur who will tell parents about nutrition. It was suggested to do the parents' meeting at 1:00 pm so that it would be time for the guest to do her part because she needs space to prepare an easy snack or drink

- o Family Advocate mentioned that we have to vote to do Parent Activity and Spring Fling. Parents have to decide on what month and time they want the activity. Unfortunately there were no parents at the meeting to vote.
- o Ms. O'Keefe mentioned that there was talk of doing for the Parent Activity the CPR training. Ms. O'Keefe will call the fire department to investigate the cost and what dates are available. As soon as she has the information she will give it at the next meeting.

Next meeting- February 15 , 2017
from 1-2 PM in the classroom.





Indian River Head Start February, 2017



Policy Council Report: January, 2017

The January Policy Council meeting was held on Thursday, January 26th at 10:00 am. It was a face to face meeting that was held in Leesburg. Thirteen policy council members (11 parents and 2 community partner members) were present.

The following persons were approved for hire:
 Ivy Sebastian, Family Advocate (Volusia County)
 Tony Broxton, Family Advocate (Volusia County)
 Amanda Phillips, Teacher (Volusia County)
 Ja'kera Peterson, Program Substitute (Volusia County)
 Elizabeth Witt, Child Development Specialist (Volusia County)
 Kaitlin Burton, Teacher's Assistant (Volusia County)
 Lillie Shells, Program Substitute (Sumter County)
 Carlie Nelson, Teacher's Assistant (Sumter County)

The following reports were approved: Budget and Credit Cards, Enrollment/Attendance, Meals and Snacks, Service Area and Center. Parent activity requests for the following sites were

approved: Bushnell, Brooksville, Horizon, Westside, Pathways Port Orange and Malloy.

Policy council members were advised of the update to the program's Selection Criteria which included an increase in the points for the following risk factors: homelessness, foster care and having a family member in the household with a current IFSP or IEP. An updated Head Start Public Relations Plan was reviewed and approved. Materials for an age appropriate home safety program titled "Eddie the Eagle" were distributed following introduction and discussion of the program at a previous policy council meeting.

Our Disability Services Coordinator, Denise Thompson, led a training for policy council attendees. She explained the developmental screening process and how the program works with parents to make referrals to support children.

The next Policy Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 23rd at 10 am. It will be a video conference meeting.