



Indian River Head Start March, 2017



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

Can't believe March is already upon us! It seems like the months are flying by much too quickly. February was a flash and surely summer will be here in the blink of an eye. There were lots of exciting events that occurred in February and will be more to come in March.

We are delighted with the progress of the children at this point in the school year. All are doing well with their preschool skills and our staff feels so fortunate to have such delightful, bright and beautiful children. Teachers have had a recent review of morning health check procedures for the children; thank you for your patience as they complete this important process with your child upon arrival each morning.

We also appreciate all of your efforts on our behalf. Parent and family participation and communication makes our job so much easier. March presents another fun filled and busy month in the classroom. We will continue to fill the children's school days with a combination of fun activities, educational games and many other events. We want to thank parents for helping the teachers to get the home visits completed. We hope that all of you can enjoy a restful and relaxing Spring Break this month and can share some quality family time together.

**Don't forget Daylight Savings Time starts on
March 12, 2017 at 2am.
Set those clocks ahead one hour.**



Important Dates:

- 3/1** Spring Into Nutrition at Volusia County Fairgrounds
- 3/10** No school for students: Teacher Workday
- 3/13-3/17** SPRING BREAK
- 3/20** First Day back to School
- 3/22** Family Engagement: Soccer Game
10:15-11:00
- 3/22** Parent Meeting 11:05-11:45
- 3/27** Transition to Kindergarten Meeting
8-9 AM



We have concluded our unit on construction and country and city living. We are now going to learn how our bodies move! We will teach literacy, mathematics, and science topics all through the theme of moving our bodies and exercising. Our new alphabet letters will be J, H, and I. We will learn the beginning letter sounds as well as words that begin with that letter. In math, we will focus on position words, reviewing shapes and numbers. We will also learn about capacity, weight and ordinal numbers.

We cannot believe that it is already March and that means Spring Break. The children will begin their Spring Break on Friday, March 10th. It is a teacher workday. They will come back on Monday, March 20th.

Our next Transition to Kindergarten meeting will be held on Monday, March 27th from 8 to 9 AM in the classroom. We will focus on strategies that you can use with your children to help prepare them for kindergarten. There will be one other meeting in May.

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



FA Corner:

Please don't forget our March Parent Meeting which will be held on March 22th at 11:00 AM. Remember that Spring Week begins March 10 until the 17th, classes resume again on March 20th. Transition Meeting for kindergarten is March 27 from 8:00- 9:00 am. Please don't forget to turn your clocks ahead on March 12 for Daylight Savings Time. This means More Sunshine and longer days.

*Attendance and punctuality of every child is extremely important. Please ensure that your child attends school daily during the full instruction time so that he/she can benefit from the full learning experience!

*Parents are asked to call their child's classroom before 8:00 am to report an absence or tardiness for the purpose of meal count. As always I can be reached at (386) 427-8149, with any concerns or comments. I also encourage all to call with absences, running late, etc., as it helps so much with recording attendance. Thank you all so much for your efforts in this area so far and for bringing your children to school every day. Our attendance has been great!!

I hope you enjoy this beautiful spring with your family.

Ms. Julyette Santiago.



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Parent Meeting Minutes

February 15 ,2017. @ 1:00 pm

Minutes from last minutes were read by Megan.

Policy Council report was read from January 26th meeting.

Spring Break if from March 13-17th.

Transition Meeting is Monday, March 27th
from: 8:00-9:00am.

Teacher Report- Working on new letters, compound words, syllables, construction (measuring, building). Reassessments are being done and home visit will be made. Also please call the teacher if you child is late or absent. Please bring a change of clothes and homework folders.

Spring Nutrition activity at the Farmer's Market Fairground is scheduled for March 1 from 9-12. There will be a sign-up sheet in each classroom to sign up if you need a ride.

Ms. Levasseur, Sara from the University of Florida came and talked about nutrition and how to eat healthier. Also distributed fruit salad to the

parents. She explain how it will be the activity of March 1 and that she will be giving a workshop that day.

Field trip scheduled for march 7th , going the Museum of Arts & Sciences in Daytona Beach. Parents who wants to take the bus need to complete the Chaperone training with Family Advocate.

Parents want the Spring Fling in April and need to think about ideas for what they want for the activity.

Approval for the parent activity, CPR training , still needs to be approved by the policy council .

Next Meeting is scheduled for March22 @ 11:05 am. We will have a viewing of the film Eddie Eagle Gun Safety video. Parents can decide if they want the child to see this film when they show it in their classroom.





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Policy Council Report: February, 2017

The February Policy Council meeting was held on Thursday, February 23rd at 10:00 am. It was a video conference meeting. Policy Council members from Volusia County met at the Volusia Administration Conference Room in Deland. Policy Council members from Hernando and Sumter counties met at the Hernando Head Start Conference Room in Brooksville. Thirteen policy council members (11 parents and 2 community partner members) were present.

The following person was approved for hire:
Kari Thornsbury, Dietary Aide (Hernando County)

The following reports were approved/accepted: December 2016 Budget and Credit Cards, Enrollment/Attendance, Meals and Snacks, Service Area and Center. Heidi Rand- Director, expressed concern regarding the amount of classrooms (more than 25%) with attendance rates below 85%. Parents are encouraged to be mindful of the attendance policy and remind other parents as well.

An overview of the High Scope Curriculum, Houghton Mifflin Curriculum and Galileo Assessment/Curriculum was provided by Heidi

Rand. A detailed review of the Second Step Curriculum will be presented next month.

Our Quality Assurance Manager - Jeff Heyne, led a training on Head Start program eligibility. He explained the four eligibility categories, provided examples of funds that are considered to be income and described the consequences a staff member would face if it is determined that the staff member did not accurately process income information in an effort to ensure that the family is determined to be eligible.

Policy Council members were advised that our program has been asked to submit a grant proposal for Volusia/Flagler United Way. The grant proposals will request funding to support kindergarten readiness and promote healthy lifestyles in Volusia County.

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

