



Indian River Head Start December, 2017



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Holiday time is a lot of fun but can get to be a very busy time. Parents must carefully decide which activities to do with their children and make a priority, so that time is spent enjoying moments together that are meaningful and special. Children love doing things with their parents and family members. It is an exciting time of the year with a lot of holiday events to see and do.

Try to plan 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.

Simple activities make lasting memories. Make a batch of cookies and decorate them, or provide some inexpensive but different art materials to work with together and make some

ornaments. You and your child will enjoy a wonderful time just doing things together.

We here at Head Start wish Happy Holiday blessings and a very Merry Christmas to each and every one of you. Take some time to truly enjoy this wonderful season of the year with your family and friends!!



Important Dates:

**12/6, 12/13, 12/20 NO EARLY
RELEASE DAYS!!**

12/14 Holiday Celebration at
Chisholm Head Start 9:00-1:00

12/19 Family Engagement 1-2 PM

12/19 Parent Meeting 2:00

12/21-1/7 Winter Break

1/8 Classes Resume



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FA CORNER:

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

We are concluding our unit on weather and the seasons. Our letters will be Y and W. We will introduce the color green and the star for our shape of the month. We will also discuss hot vs. cold. The remainder of the month will be focused on different holiday traditions from around the world.

On December 14th, 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.

Please remember that there will not be any early release days in December. This is to make up for the time we missed during Hurricane Irma.

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

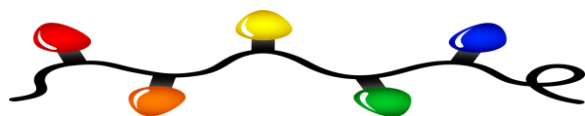
Mrs. Hurley, Ms. Ward, Ms. Fenner, Ms. Seeley

It's soon that time of the year when we are all out looking for the best Christmas tree for our families. I know that it's going to be filled with fun here at Indian River, Head Start during the month of December. Christmas is one of my favorite times of the year. I ask that you start brainstorming ideas for your financial goals/resolutions. Start shopping for fresh foods for your holiday dinner. Also try and contact your local electric company to save on any heating costs/weatherization tips from County of Volusia. Parents are asked to call their child's classroom before 8:00a.m. to report any absence or tardiness for the purpose of meal count and 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 so much for your efforts in this area so far and for bringing your children to school every day. Please remember to give your Family Advocate your child's current immunization, physical exam, and dental treatment. If your child has been referred for further treatment either to go to the child Pediatrician please do follow up. It 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.



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Parent Meeting Minutes for November 21, 2017

FA K. Petersen wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving to everyone and their families.

FA K. Petersen discussed next meeting will be on the 19th of December.

Teacher Karen and families discussed Winter Festival. Aiming for the last Friday in January. Head Start will help with materials.

Jennifer T. discussed the uniform policy for the students. She wanted to get the parents thoughts on it. Also discussed the principal at the school willing to assist purchasing some uniforms for families in need. Set to begin in January.

Jennifer T. discussed Ponce Inlet Christmas at Chisholm on the 14th of December.

Karen discussed 3 weeks and then Winter Break.

Karen discussed Turkey Explorations.

Karen stated they are teaching the students about weather and the seasons.



Policy Council update for November 2017

The **November Policy Council meeting training** was held on Thursday, November 16th at 10:00 am via video conference. A quorum was established. Thirteen policy council members were present.

The following reports were reviewed and approved: *Budget, Credit Cards, Enrollment/Attendance, Meals and Snacks, Service Areas and Centers.*

The results of the election of officers conducted at the October meeting were reviewed. Council members were advised that the person elected as chairman was not eligible for election to an office as he attended the meeting as an alternate and alternates are not eligible for nomination to an office. The official policy council representative from a center is the only person who can be nominated for or elected to a policy council office. The previously elected vice chairman, Sheila Ramos (Representative from Coleman Center in Volusia) was nominated to now become the chairman. There was a unanimous vote in favor of Ms. Ramos. Ramon Ayala was nominated for the office of vice chairman. There was unanimous vote in favor of Mr. Ayala.



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Candidates for the following job vacancies have been approved for hire:

Hernando: Substitute Teacher III

Volusia: Substitute Teacher III, Blue Lake
Elementary Blended Classroom
Family Advocate, Jo Sheppard

Early Head Start
Family Advocate, Holly Hill

Head Start
Teacher Assistant III, Blue Lake
Elementary Blended Classroom
Substitute Teacher Assistant
Full Time Extended Day Teacher

Assistant, EVEC
Nutrition Coordinator

Budget training is postponed until next month due to the hospitalization of the Mid Florida Community Services, Inc., Chief Financial Officer - Kris Bates.

A maximum of 25% for food expenses was agreed upon per Parent Activity. All parent activities have to be submitted, in advance, to the Family Advocate for forwarding to the Family Engagement Coordinator for approval. The cost of food items that serve as materials to help teach a specific parenting skill during a Parent Activity is not included in the food expense.

The School Readiness Committee update was provided. The committee met on Nov. 15th. Topics of discussion included children arriving late at centers, behavior concerns and curriculum.

The Selection Criteria for 2018 – 19 was approved.

Special appreciation was extended to Robin Bowman from WVEC for her recent participation on the interview panel for Family Advocate interviews.

The Program Specialist from our regional office and an Early Childhood Specialist from our regional office visited several of our sites during the week of Nov. 13th. They complimented the consistency of documents on parent boards and health boards in each classroom they visited and recognized the high level of teamwork among staff.

The following committees are looking for parent volunteers: Community Needs Assessment, ERSEA (Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment and Attendance) and School Readiness. Any parent interested in serving on any of these committees can contact the Family and Community Partnership Manager in their county. Volusia county parents can contact Cindy at 386-736-1325. Hernando/Sumter parents can contact Jaclyn at 352-754-2464.

The December meeting will be held on Thursday, December 14th. The meeting will be conducted via video conference. Participants will meet at the conference room of the administrative office closest to their county.