



## Indian River Head Start February, 2018



### Happy February!

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. There are a lot of colds and the flu going around and 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.

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



**Congratulations to the following  
students for having Perfect  
Attendance for the month of  
January!!!**

**LIAM ARENT  
DANIEL AUD  
EVAN BROUGHMAN  
OLIVIA FELTON**



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### Important Dates:

- 2/1 Home Visits Begin!!
- 2/2 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School
- 2/9 Winter Carnival 1-2 PM
- 2/12 **Happy Birthday Arkin & Acacia!**
- 2/14 Valentine's Day
- 2/19 No School – President's Day
- 2/20 Parent Meeting 2:15 PM in the classroom
- 2/23 **Happy Birthday Skyleigh!**
- 2/27 **Happy Birthday Aiden!**
- 2/28 **Happy Birthday Willie!**

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.

It is the time of year for our second round of home visits. All parents should have signed up for a time for us to come to your homes and discuss your child's progress in the classroom. If you have not done so, please see us as soon as possible. If you need a reminder of your appointment, please check in with us.

February 9<sup>th</sup> is our Winter Carnival. Several parents have graciously volunteered to run carnival booths in our classroom. If you are an approved volunteer with Head Start and Volusia County Schools, we encourage you to come and have fun playing carnival games!!!

There have been a lot of illnesses going around the classroom and the school. We sent home a letter recently regarding how to prevent the flu. Please take the time to follow the measures in this helpful letter.

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



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### FA Corner:

Hello, I would like to welcome you all again to a wonderful new year here at Indian River. I would like to briefly discuss a few things which I hope can be beneficial to you and your families. First off, here is some information on signing up for the first time home buyer program. As many of you have mentioned earlier to me as to one of your goals being able to purchase your own home. Here is a step closer and the information you will need. Please contact Patti Young at 386-257-6012 or email her at [pyoung@volusia.org](mailto:pyoung@volusia.org); the first time home buyer program assist also with closing cost. Secondly, I would like to discuss, minimizing the cost of your car repairs by taking care of your vehicles ahead of time: oil changes, tune ups, keeping car filled with gas, etc., and lastly beware of predatory lending. Predatory lending is the unfair, deceptive, or fraudulent practices of some lenders during the origination process.

\*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 or

Ms. Karen/Amanda at 386-681-7618, 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!!

\*Please remember to give your Family Advocate your child's immunizations, physical exam, 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.

Ms. Kishmar Petersen- Family Advocate



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## Parent Meeting MINUTES

### January

Jennifer T greeted everyone and wished everyone a Happy New Year and welcomed everyone back to the new school year at Indian River Head Start.

Karen Hurley discussed the upcoming Winter Festival which will be held on Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup> from 1-2 PM. There will be five stations which will be led by 1 or 2 parents. All stations have been assigned.

Jennifer T discussed any issues or concerns with the new uniform policy that was implemented on the 8<sup>th</sup> of January.

Jennifer T also stated that FA K. Petersen was at a meeting in Deland and could not make it. However, she plans to meet with the parents at a later day and time.

Jennifer T informed parents the next Parent Meeting will be held on 2/20/18.

Jennifer T ended the meeting.



## Policy Council Update – January 2018

The January Policy Council Meeting was held on Thursday, Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> at Lake Sumter State College in Leesburg. Twelve policy council members, including MFCS Board Liaison, Evone Jackson, were present. Eight staff members were present.

Heidi Rand, Director of Early Learning Programs, stated that the Head Start budget information indicates no concerns.

Jeff Heyne, Quality Assurance Manager reported the overall attendance percentage for last month was 84.91%.

The following reports were approved: *Budget, Credit Cards, Enrollment/Attendance, Meals and Snacks, Service Areas and Centers. Parent Activity requests* for Brooksville/Hernando and Coleman were approved. New hires for the following positions were approved:

Hernando: Teacher in Brooksville/Hernando ;  
Hernando: Substitute Teacher ; Hernando:  
Teacher in Spring Hill; Volusia: Extended day  
staff at Oakridge center ; Volusia: Substitute at  
Jo Sheppard ; Volusia: EHS Teacher at Malloy;  
Volusia: Family Advocate at Port Orange center  
; Volusia: Center Aide in Volusia County ;



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Volusia: Teacher Assistant at EVEC ; Volusia: Teacher Assistant at Blue Lake ; Volusia: Nutrition Services Coordinator in Volusia County.

Amy Thomas, Deputy Director of Children's Services, presented the Disability Services Policy and Procedures which were amended to reference the Early Head Start children. Jeff Heyne led a review of the new Selection Policy and Procedures and spoke about the Project Spotlight Policy and Procedures. A project spotlight ensures that all identified needs are met before a child is placed in a classroom. Every department signs off stating that the child is ready to start. Lastly, Heidi Rand presented the Impasse Procedure. The procedure is established to resolve any internal disputes.

Amy Thomas presented the updated School Readiness Goals. The updates include the addition of Language and Literacy Development, to support our ESL (English as a second language) children. A Spanish version of the goal sheet is available.

Amy Thomas conducted training on the Second Step Curriculum. This curriculum teaches children how to explain their emotions, control their behavior, listen, pay attention and get along with others. One of our classrooms is featured in the Second Step marketing video. Our Head Start classrooms have a weekly lesson from Second Step.

Heidi Rand facilitated eligibility training. The training included a review of eligibility types, the eligibility verification process, being sensitive to families and disciplinary action for unacceptable conduct from staff.

Carol Coffie, Deputy Director of Program Services, presented a PowerPoint on the Community Wide Strategic Plan and Needs Assessment. The review included the purpose of and process for conducting the assessment, assessment highlights and a summary of the assessment recommendations.

The top 3 needs identified by parents are Child Care, Employment and Housing. The top 3 needs of families identified by community partners are Housing, Employment and Medical Care.

The grant application for Early Head Start funding was reviewed by the council.

New EHS Classrooms will be opening soon at the Malloy site in DeLeon Springs, Hernando site in Brooksville and Chisholm site in New Smyrna.

The federal review is scheduled for the week of February 12th. Several guests will be visiting sites during this week.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 22nd at 10am and will be conducted via video conference. Members will meet in the conference room at the administrative office in their county.