



Indian River Head Start January, 2018



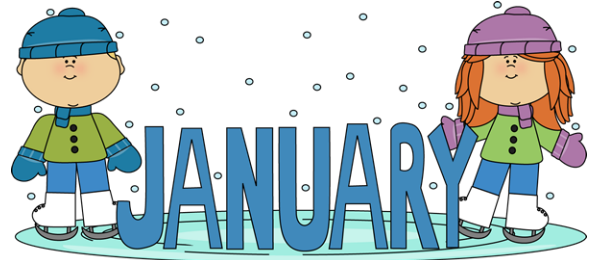
From the Desk of: Jennifer Tinstman, CDS
386-235-4480

Welcome Back & Happy 2018!

From the Desk of: Jennifer Tinstman, CDS

It is amazing how quickly we have reached the New Year! I hope you had a wonderful break!! We are happy to see all your smiling faces back at school. We wish you all a Happy New Year 2018 and look forward to all the exciting events to come throughout the rest of the school year. As studies show it is important for children to stick to a routine so it is important that we all get back to our daily schedule so that the children continue to move forward in their learning. They have made so much progress since the school year began. Thank you in advance for continuing to make school attendance a priority.

As January begins, I wish all of you a happy & healthy year ahead! When thinking about New Year's resolutions, please make school participation and family involvement one of your priorities. Your school family and your child(ren) will be very happy for your involvement and support.



Important Dates:

1/8	Classes Resume
1/15	No School: MLK Birthday
1/16	Family Engagement 1-2
1/16	Parent Meeting 2:00



We hope that you and your family had a fabulous Winter Break. We are so excited to be back with your children!

We are beginning the year learning All About Animals. We will begin with animals that are considered pets. We will move on to animals that live on farms or in zoos. We will conclude with animals in the wild.

Our new alphabet letters will be F, A, and Z. We will learn the beginning letter sounds as well as words that begin with that letter. In math, we will compare and contrast items, sort objects by one or more attributes, classify objects into categories, and as always, count and make sets of objects.

Please remember that your child should be wearing the school uniforms to school starting January 8th. Please refer to the Uniform Policy that was sent home before the break.

Please take the time to check your child's backpack every day for information we send home. Some items need you immediate attention and/or signatures. We are also in our colder months, so your child needs a complete change of clothing appropriate for the colder weather.

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



FA Corner:

I hope everyone enjoyed their Christmas vacation. I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year! I would like to share a few suggestions with you and your family for the new year. Let's start the new year off on the right track, First let's all start by gathering/sorting through all of your important documents so that you can file your taxes on time. Let's not be late because in a blink of an eye, it will be the last day to file your taxes- Tuesday April 17, 2018; try to avoid those penalties and threats. Try to consult with the right Financial advisor someone that is honest but most importantly certified. 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 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.



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Policy Council update for December 2017

The **December Policy Council meeting** was held on Thursday, December 14th at 10am via video conference. A quorum was established. Eleven policy council members were present. Twelve staff members were present.

The **following reports were reviewed and approved:** *Budget, Credit Cards, Enrollment/Attendance, Meals and Snacks, Service Areas and Centers. Parent Activity requests* for Bushnell and Spring Hill were approved.

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

Hernando: Substitute Teacher in
Brooksville/Spring Hill

Hernando: Part-time Early Head Start Teacher

Hernando: Early Head Start Teacher

Hernando: Head Start Teacher III

Hernando: Head Start Teacher V in Spring Hill

Volusia: Floating Early Head Start Teacher at
Oakridge

Volusia: Center Aide Substitute for Volusia
County

Mid Florida Community Services Finance Officer
- Diane Berube, conducted a **budget training**.

The highlights of the training included the various program related budgets (Head Start, Early Head Start, VPK and USDA) that are reviewed monthly, how to read the budget reports and the different budget periods. It was noted that the cost per child expense for Early Head Start is higher than the cost for a Head

Start child. VPK instruction, totaling 3 hours a day, is provided in designated locations. The USDA budget is developed based on the number of meals served in the prior year. Child Development Specialist-Jennifer Fowler, led an **information session on the Galileo Curriculum** which included accessing and navigating Galileo on their computer. Each parent was reminded that a personal Galileo password has been established for them and a magnet was given out earlier in the year for parents to write their personal password on. This magnet can be placed on the refrigerator for quick reference. Parents were encouraged to access Galileo regularly to access their child's profile which includes the following: information about what their child *has learned*, what their child is *ready to learn* and activities parents can do with their children at home to support the development of new skills. Deputy Director of Children's Services - Amy Thomas, presented **the Child Outcomes Analysis Report**. She explained that these reports help identify if children are making developmental gains. The report consists of two different scores: baseline (starting point) and gains (progress). The goal is for each child to have a 50 point increase from the time they started the program to the end of the school year.

Director of Early Learning Programs - Heidi Rand, reported that a **Federal Monitoring Review** will take place the week of **February 12th, 2018**. Parents are encouraged to discuss any program concerns about their center, with their Family Advocate or Child Development



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Specialist before that time. The review will consist of classroom observations using the *CLASS* (Classroom Assessment Scoring System) tool , review of program data records, health and safety checks, interviews of policy council members and staff. Policy Council meetings are held the 4th Thursday of each month, unless rescheduled due to holidays. The **next meeting** will be held on January 25th @ 10am. It will be a face-to-face meeting at Lake-Sumter State College in Leesburg, FL.