



## Indian River Head Start November, 2017



**From the desk of: Jennifer Tinstman, CDS**  
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Happy November and Happy Thanksgiving to all of our children and families! Thank you for your participation in parent meetings and classroom events. You are all doing a great job having your children prepared for school each day and we appreciate your efforts in arriving on time and picking up promptly as the school day ends. We look forward to the cooler days now and are grateful for the time we get to spend with all of you.

I want to share just a few thoughts on 'play' and its importance for your child's development.

It is generally through play that a preschool child learns about the world around them. It is very important that we give children time for a variety of play including dramatic play and make-believe, as well as allowing them creative building, counting and problem solving opportunities. Children are learning so much while they play even though it may not appear to be a structured academic setting that we have learned to associate with the learning process.

Because young children enjoy play, it becomes a very natural way for them to learn about themselves and about the world in which they live. Since, children learn through play, they must be given enough time to do so at home and at school. When you see your child actively involved in play you can be assured that they are also doing a

lot of important learning and enjoying the learning process too!

We look forward to sharing another fun month with your children and encourage you to continue to participate in classroom activities and events when you can, including the home activities sent home by

your child's teacher. This shows your child that school is very important and that you value it. Please remember to ask your child each day about what they have been learning as they play

and work together with their friends at school.



### Important Dates:

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>11/2</b>        | Parent Conferences Begin:<br>Sign up with the teachers |
| <b>11/6-9</b>      | Community Helpers Visits                               |
| <b>11/10</b>       | No School- Veteran's Day                               |
| <b>11/12</b>       | Happy birthday Kiersten!!!                             |
| <b>11/13-17</b>    | School Helpers Visits                                  |
| <b>11/16</b>       | Family Engagement 11:00-<br>11:45                      |
| <b>11/21</b>       | Parent Meeting 2:15                                    |
| <b>11/22-11/24</b> | No School – Thanksgiving                               |



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We are wrapping up our unit on the Five Senses. We are going to explore nature and all of its beautiful patterns.

We will also focus on the next part of our nutrition unit. We will be observing, exploring, and tasting Crookneck Squash.

The next units of study will focus on the weather. Finally we will learn about the meaning of Thanksgiving and give thanks for all that we have.

We will be having some visitors come to see us in the classroom the week of November 6-9. We will have firefighters, a baker, a nurse come to talk about what they do. The week of November 13<sup>th</sup>, some of the people who work in our school will talk about their jobs. The school principal, the nurse, and the cafeteria manager are some of our guests that week.

We hope to see you at our next Family Involvement Day on Thursday, November 16 from 11-11:45. We will be hosting a Thanksgiving feast in the classroom. The November Parent meeting will be held on November 21 at 2:15.

Please sign up for an in-school parent conference. They will begin November 2<sup>nd</sup> and last until November 28.

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




### FA CORNER:

FA Corner

Dear Parents and Students,

Here we go.....it's coming soon one of the busiest seasons of the year. I know that it's going to filled with fun here at Indian River

Head Start. Christmas  is one of my favorite times of the year. I ask that you plan smart and start budget wisely. Also try to remember to sign up of all those toys for tots places; for example, Salvation Army. I handed out the deadlines and the dates at the last Parent Meetings. Have fun during the year, shop wisely families.



As Thanksgiving rolls in during the fourth week of November I want to remind you to start your shopping early. The most important thing to remember is to plan ahead. If you start your Thanksgiving planning a week in advance you will have more than enough time to have a clear head and a fully stocked refrigerator come Turkey day. It's also important to realize that you don't need to go overboard. Nobody is going to panic if there is NO deviled eggs. Thanksgiving should be a time to sit down with loved ones over a bountiful dinner and give thanks for all the good things in

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our lives. And even if you're hosting, you should be able to enjoy the day and meal just as much as your guests. So plan ahead ! Start by shopping at the local farmers markets, sticking to your budget, checking off items off of your list as you buy them and go Generic.

Friendly reminder, school will be closed



on November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> for the Thanksgiving Holiday. While we are closed you can continue to stock up on canned goods. Start to use your coupons, buy one get one free. Sign up for a coupon classes their terrific.

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. 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 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.

Thank you all-

Family Advocate- Ms. Kishmar Petersen



### Parent Meeting Minutes for October 17, 2017

FA: Fall approaching start purchasing winter clothing such as winter jackets and long sleeve clothing. Also please remember to switch out the clothing in child's cubicle.

FA- Fourth Meeting will be on November 21st, 2017 at 2:00p.m.

FA- start purchasing extra medications for children: Tylenol, children with Asthma: Albuterol, etc....

Medicaid allows you to spend 25.00 on over the counter prescription.

Don't forget to sign up for toys for tots the deadline is approaching very soon.

Karen- The children has concluded their units on school and Family and Community. They are beginning their next unit, the five senses next week. The children have learned the letters S and P. Karen stated that the letters T, O, and X. In the second step, we are learning how to identify feelings in ourselves and others (happy, sad, surprised, scared, and angry/mad). Please take some time today and fill out the interest form to help us guide future parent meetings. Karen said that they want to make the meeting interesting and pertinent to your needs. One of the things Head Start does is to hold a winter or Spring Festival. This is a parent run activity. We would like it to be in the winter this year since the spring is filled with state and district testing in the school. We will need you as parents to start working together to come up with ideas for the festival (theme, dates, arts and crafts,



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games, prizes, etc...) October 31st, will be our next family engagement day. We are working with the part time PreK class and the VPK classroom to do pumpkin exploration centers. Each classroom will have 2 stations for the children to visit. Please make sure you are a cleared volunteer with both Head start and Indian River Elementary so that you can participate.

CDS- Jennifer T.- was out of town in Lake County- Training

Karen- Next Topics- Winter Carnival Theme

Michael- Ended the meeting.



### Policy Council update for October 2017

A mandatory **Policy Council training** was held on Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am at Lake Sumter State College in Leesburg. The **October Policy Council meeting** started at noon on this date immediately after the mandatory training. Eighteen 2017-18 policy council members were present. Two of the eighteen members in attendance were alternate policy council members. Voting during this meeting was limited to official policy council representatives

and alternates from sites that were not represented at the meeting.

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

Policy Council officers for 2017-18 were elected. The new officers are Chairperson - Jonathan Martinez (*Volusia*); Vice-Chairperson- Sheila Ramos (*Volusia*); Secretary - Pat Nohr (*Volusia*); Policy Council Liaison- Jacob Raby (*Hernando*).

Candidates for the following vacancies have been approved for hire: Early Head Start Teacher at Oak Ridge Site (*Volusia*); Teacher Assistants at Coleman (*Volusia*), Port Orange-2 (*Volusia*), Blue Lake Elementary (*Volusia*); Child Development Specialist (*Hernando*) ; Education Manager ( *Hernando*, *Sumter* and *Volusia* counties).

Heidi Rand, Director of Early Learning Programs, advised the Policy Council of a recent Information Memorandum from the Office of Head Start that provided guidance for opportunities for programs to respond to the needs of recent hurricane victims. She also reminded the Policy Council of the Parent Activity Fund amount of \$5 per child and discussed the details of the permitted use of the funds.

Budget training will be conducted during the November Policy Council meeting by the Chief Financial Officer of Mid Florida Community Services, Kris Bates.



The School Readiness Committee will meet on Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>.

Due to the holidays, the November and December Policy Council meetings will be earlier than the regularly scheduled meeting date. The November meeting will be held on November 16<sup>th</sup>. The December meeting will be held on December 14<sup>th</sup>. Each of these meetings will be conducted via video conference. Participants will meet at the conference room of the administrative office closest to their county.

The program specialist from the Head Start Region IV Office will be visiting our program in November 14<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>.





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**Policy Council Update for October, 2017**