



# Osteen Head Start Newsletter

December 2016

## From the Desk of Jennifer Fowler,

Child Development Specialist



Holidays can be a time when parents decide that doing things with their children will be a priority. Children love doing things with their parents. Try to arrange some individual time with each child if you can, as well as family time - this helps build good relationships and helps your children's self-esteem. Just one small activity each day will help keep children interested and looking forward to it.

Remember children do not need to be 'entertained' all the

time. Just a change of place or a few suggestions that you give them for an activity can help them to be creative on their own. Sometimes a child saying "I'm bored" is another way of saying "I want you to play with me", and sometimes the child has not even started to try to think of what to do by themselves.

**Happy Holidays to everyone & please take time to enjoy this wonderful time of the year with your family!!**

**Remember to login and check your child's progress in Galileo. If you need the password again, see your child's teacher....**



## Family Advocates News By. Annette Gregory

I will be calling this month and talking with parents to get an update on goals. If you're at the school dropping off or picking up feel free to stop in the office and we can do the update in person!

### Special events

- \* **Parent Meeting**  
12/13/2016 @ 2:30 pm
- \* **Family Engagement Activities**  
12/20/2016 @ 10:00 AM
- \* **Winter break**  
12/21/2016- 1/03/2016
- \* **Back to School on:**  
01/04/2017

## Policy Council Report

### Policy Council update for November 2016

The November Policy Council meeting was held on Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am via video conference. Fifteen policy council members were present. A special welcome was extended to a new community policy council member, Carolyn Casler. Ms. Casler is employed by the Early Learning Coalition of Pasco/Hernando counties. The following persons were approved for hire:

**Jessyal Acevedo**, Teacher's Assistant - Hernando Head Start

**Megan Golembieski**, Program Substitute - Hernando/Sumter counties

**Jeamary Garcia**, Teacher - Horizon Head Start -Volusia County

**Brittany Jackson**, Extended Day Teacher - EVEC - Volusia County

**Juliette Santiago**, Family Advocate -

Chisholm Head Start - Volusia County

Budget report training was conducted by Kris Bates, Chief Financial Officer of Mid Florida Community Services, Inc.

The following reports were approved: Budget and Credit Cards, Enrollment/ Attendance, Meals and Snacks, Service Area and Center. Staff will be asked to decrease the number of pictures included in center reports and increase the size of any pictures that are included in these reports.

An Information Memorandum recently issued by the Office of Head Start was reviewed. The memorandum highlighted new requirements in the Head Start Performance Standards. As a result of the memorandum, programs are prohibited from expelling or suspending a child due to the child's behavior.

A presentation on the Galileo curriculum was provided Child Development Specialist, Karen Bourbonnais. The twelve learning domains were reviewed. Additionally, information related to how the Galileo data can be easily accessed by parents and utilized by teachers and administra-

tors to support the development of children in the program.

A series of changes to the Policy Council By laws were reviewed and approved during the meeting. The specific areas affected by these changes included: *Family and Community Partnership Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment & Attendance - ERSEA Health*

*Oral health*

The following **announcements** were made:

Mid Florida Community Services, Inc. has purchased a new location at 233 Oakridge Street in Holly Hill, Florida. The goal is to open the location at the beginning of the 2017-18 school year. However, if we are awarded the Early Head Start grant, efforts will be made to open the new location in April 2017.



## Inside Story Classroom 1

By Ms. Adela and Ms. Linnette



### What We Will Be Doing in December

We are welcoming the new month with excitement! Teaching young children about all the different holidays celebrated during the winter months is not only im-

portant for teaching diversity, but to work as a stepping stone into understanding that everyone is unique. Whether a family celebrates Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, Las Posadas or Christmas, this December lesson plan opens the door

to our classroom on the special days celebrated around the world. We will be learning about the unique traditions, celebrations, and holidays that occur around the world. As always, we enjoy you volunteering your time. Thank you

## Inside Story Classroom 2

Ms. Lorraine and Ms. Lee Ann

Hello Parent/Guardian,  
In the month of December the children will learn about different countries and how they celebrate the holiday season. The children will create different art projects that represent that countries holiday tradition. We will read different books to help them understand more about the tradition. We will try to learn holiday words from the that country along with some songs.

We want to thank all of you for all you do. This year is going by fast. We look forward to have a great New Year with all the children. Please have a safe and blessed Holiday Season!

Ms. Lorraine and Ms. Lee Ann

The children will be learning to identify their own and manage strong feelings.

### Parent Corner

Parents please check your child's cubbies and make sure they have a change of clothing according to the weather. Also please bring in a jacket for your child in case it gets cold out.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



## Inside Story Classroom 3

By Ms. Bonita & Mrs. Delly



During the month of December we will talk about Christmas around the world. We learn how different countries in the world celebrate Christmas. We will focus on reviewing letter recognition, letter sounds, recognizing

numbers and beginning sounds of consonants in a word. Through Second Step we will review skills to increase our ability to identify our own feelings, feelings of others, understand the complexity of feelings, and learn

all our parents who have made this year so far a big success. We could not do what we do without your support. We wish you and your family a safe and fun holiday season.

