

# Osteen Head Start Newsletter



## Welcome Back

From the Desk of: Marcy Guddemi, CDS



### THE HEALING POWER OF PRETEND PLAY

Play is a very hard concept to define for researchers and scholars who study child development and learning. While a parent might simply say that play is the activity that young children do with their toys, that is only a small part of definition. In fact, there are many types of play that infants, toddlers, and young and older children engage in. One of the most important types of play for young children is pretend play because of its therapeutic and healing powers. Just as adults tell their friends over and over the traumatic events that happened in the past (like a speeding ticket or an injustice at work), and “heals” by talking through what has occurred, the child “tells” us what causes him/her pain and “heals” by playing out the event over and over. When a child is denied opportunities to engage in pretend play, a child is denied his/her natural coping and healing strategies for pain, stress, and anxiety.

Pretend play with others, or socio-dramatic as some scholars call it, along with its healing properties, is a very important and specialized type of play. It involves both “acting out” or “pretending” a role, character, or personality of some sort; using pretend elements; and also involves interacting with other children—hence the “socio” part of the word socio-dramatic. It is the highest, most complex form of play.

## Special Events

- \* Parent Meeting  
01/10/2017 @ 2:30pm
- \* Holiday—MLK  
01/16/2017
- \* Pictures Days  
01/25/2017 @8:30am



## December Policy Council Update

The December Policy Council meeting was held on Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am via video conference. Fourteen policy council members ( 12 parents and 2 community partner members) were present.

The following persons were approved for hire:  
**Dawnelle Noles**, Program Substitute – Volusia (east side)

**Yeymary Gordian**, Center Aide – Coleman Center, Volusia

The following reports were approved: Budget and Credit Cards, Enrollment/Attendance, Meals and Snacks, Service Area and Center. Three parent activity requests were approved.

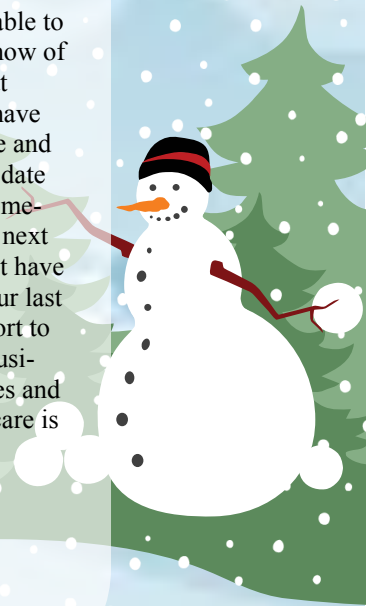
The Galileo Outcomes Analysis Report and six new educational procedures were reviewed.

The next Policy Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 26, 2017 at 10 am. It will be a face to face meeting in Leesburg.

## Family Advocates News

By. Annette Gregory

Happy New Year!! We are now able to send out mass emails to let you know of things that are taking place at school! Please make sure you have given permission to receive these and that your teacher has your up to date phone number. We also have some things we need to vote on at our next parent meeting because we did not have enough parents in attendance at our last meeting. Please make every effort to attend so we can take care of business. Without your input activities and voting cannot take place. Child care is provided.



# Inside Story Classroom 1

By Mrs. Adela and Mrs. Linnette

## What We Will Be Doing in January:

When we return from our vacation, we will start our themes related to Homes we Build, Building in our City and Let's Go for a Ride. Since everyone's home is unique we will be discussing how homes differ. In addition, this unit has wonderful information about construction workers, and other interesting facts. We have found this to be very helpful for sparking those after school conversations of "what did you do in school today," as the children love to talk about construction and buildings.

A friendly reminder: Now that the days are getting cooler, remember to dress your child appropriately. Please dress your child in easy to put on comfortable clothes. We go outside everyday unless it is raining or freezing.

# Inside Story Classroom 2

By Mrs. Lorraine and Mrs. Lee Ann

We will be doing Animals Everywhere. We will learn about all types of animals. We will talk about land and water animals. Where do the animals live? what types of food they eat? Review the letters, shapes, numbers we have learned. We will focus on Ff, Aa, Zz. Talk about the Holiday break and what we did. Hope everyone had a great Holiday Season. We are looking forward to a great New Year

# Inside Story Classroom 3

By Ms. Bonita and Mrs. Delly

Welcome back from our Winter Break and Happy New Year to all of you.

During the month January we will be focusing on the themes; Animals Everywhere, and Nutrition. The children will

learn about different kinds of animals, their habitats, and what they eat. We will learn songs, finger plays, and stories related to the theme. Through Second Step we continue to work on Unit 3

Emotion Management, the goal of this unit is to help children recognize how they are feeling and calm down.

# Parent Meeting Minutes

December , 2016

