



Pathways Head Start Newsletter

April showers have truly brought Pathways Head Start May flowers. It has truly been an amazing journey to see how our small mustard seeds have blossomed since August. Where does the time go? As we prepare to close this year out we will be reviewing our letters and sounds, numbers, shapes, colors and continue to move and learn as we embark on the following themes from our Galileo curriculum. "Sports and Exercise," "Let's Make Music," "Creative Movement and Expressions," and "Healthy Living." For those children that will be moving on to Kindergarten we will focus on theme "Ready for Kindergarten". We will use the topic "Now I know My ABCs," as we prepare to transition from Head Start to Kindergarten. We will be reading various books related to kindergarten and discuss what is expected in Kindergarten to help them be successful. As the parent you can continue to help your child learn more by reading to him/her daily and discussing the story with them.

Always remember you are your child's first teacher.

Special thanks to all the parent's that came out and participated with our Nutrition Parent Activity. The participation was amazing. I must say we have an awesome team of parents and you all have been the best ever! It has been a super year!!!

You make the difference in the lives of your children.

Mrs. Brandi & Mrs. Sue

Kindergarten! ... here I come!



Perfect Attendance

***Ernesto Desantiago Jr.**

***Joshua Lamkin**

***Itzel Lopez**

***Levi Tolbert**

***Miklo Zamora**

Important Dates:

- *Early Release:*
 - 5/17 @1
 - 5/24 @1
- *Parent Meeting*
5/3@ 2:15pm
- *Parent Activity*
5/3@ 1:30pm:
Painting Rocks
- *Field Trip: 5/19*
Sanford Zoo: *bus*
will leave @ 8:30
- *Last Day of School:*
May 26th Festival @
9:30am
- *Transition Meeting:*
Kindergarten
Children May 12th @
2pm



Going to Kindergarten

By Crystal Hill
Child Development Specialist



It is hard to believe that this is our last newsletter. Our preschool year is winding down and many of our preschoolers will be off to kindergarten in the fall. Remember, going to school is a natural progression for children and most will be very ready to go. To help your child look forward to a new school, be sure to talk positively about attending kindergarten. Talk often about making new friends, learning new things, growing up, and becoming a "big boy or girl." Plan to attend your school's orientation with your child, visit your public library and read, read, read to your child over the summer months. Head Start "transition bags" contain some terrific ideas for learning new things and having big fun.

We thank you for entrusting your child to us this year. We have enjoyed working with all of the children in our care and have seen growth, development and skill acquisition in all of the boys and girls. We have also witnessed how the children have grown in the way they deal with frustration and the care and concern they express for one another.

Thank you for being your child's first and most important teacher and working with us on behalf of your child. We thank you for your support throughout the year. We feel a close partnership with our parents and send you our best wishes.

Hoorah for preschoolers!!! We appreciate your support. Have a wonderful and safe summer!



F.A. Corner

Dear parents. As the year comes to a close we would like to thank everyone for their continued participation in our Head Start Program. It has been our pleasure to serve you. We hope that you have enjoyed your time with us as much as we have enjoyed it. Some Items to remember. Please register your child for Kindergarten starting this month. You will need to register at your home school and if you would like a variance, you would need to get one and take it to the school you are requesting. Roll over children will be getting paperwork done shortly. We are also now enrolling for Early Head Start as we are hoping to have it up and running by August. The ages that we will be accepting are six weeks old to just under three. When children turn 3 they can apply to transition into regular Head Start. Enjoy your summer. School will start back for all children coming to Head Start and those going to Kindergarten on August 14, 2017.



Parent Meeting Minutes

Minutes from last month's meeting were read. Items discussed were Kindergarten Registration and how it will be starting in May. You will need to register at your zoned school. If you have moved you will still need to register at your zoned school and then see about getting a variance. Also discussed were summer VPK it will no longer be at Pathways. It will now be at EVEC. Please continue to update shots and Physicals. Please be mindful of weather changes as it is getting warmer once again so change out your child's clothing. Field trip coming Up on April 14th to that One Fun Place. Picture day is on April 12th at 10:00 AM. Teacher Report Parent conference will be starting this month. There will be a signup sheet. Please also sign the Permission slips before children attend the field trip or they will not be able to go. This is Mandatory. CDS spoke about the upcoming transition meeting and how we will have a Kindergarten teacher present. Mr. Michael assisted parents with the activity, and our nutrition Activity will be on April 21st at 9:00 AM. Next Parent Meeting is on May 3rd at 1:15 PM. Thank you for coming and we look forward to seeing you soon.

April Policy Council Update

The April Policy Council meeting was held on Thursday, April 27th at 9:30 am. It was a face to face meeting at the Holiday Inn Express in Leesburg, Florida. Eleven policy council members (9 parents and 2 community partner members) were present.

Fourteen persons were approved for hire.

The following reports were approved/accepted: February 2017 Budget, January - February 2017 Credit Cards, Enrollment/Attendance, Meals and Snacks, Service Area and Center.

The MFCS Annual Audit was reviewed by Program Director, Heidi Rand. There were no findings. Policy council members were encouraged to review the document and advised that additional copies could be made available upon request.

A review of the Community Wide Strategic Planning and Needs Assessment was led by Carol Coffie, Assistant Director of Early Learning Programs. The review included the process for data collection and a summary of the 828 survey responses. The top five needs identified by parents include Child Care, Transportation, Employment, Dental Care and Housing.

Policy Council members approved the following revisions to the By Laws:

EHS will have representation on Policy Council

Centers with more than 5 classrooms can have an additional representative on Policy Council
Policy council to meet at least 10 times per year



Policy council members were asked about their training needs. Any future training interests or needs should be sent to Heidi Rand.

Heidi Rand provided the following update about the Early Head Start (EHS) Expansion:

Classrooms at the Jo Sheppard site and the Hernando Head Start site are being renovated and are expected to be completed by mid-June

Additional EHS Classrooms will be renovated and opened later in the program year

EHS training for managers has been scheduled for early May

Training for teachers, family service and health service members is being coordinated for early June.

Attempts are being made to coordinate CDA credential training for anyone interested in being an Early Head Start teacher

All classrooms at Pathways Port Orange location will become Head Start/ Early Head Start classrooms as of 2017-18 program years

The following announcements were made:

Applications for Early Head Start and Head Start for 2017-18 program years are being accepted

Week of May 1st is Teacher Appreciation Week

Note of thanks was given to Juan Echezebal, Rocio Renteria and Adelani Adekunle for being a part of interview teams for Early Head Start/Head Start positions

The next Policy Council meeting date will be announced.

Names and location of new hires:

Hernando:

Rachel Mackey – EHS Teacher

Elsie Burnett – EHS Teacher

Desiree Isnardi – EHS Teachers

Margaret James – EHS Teacher

Jeananne Wright – HS Teacher

Sumter: None

Volusia:

Kishmar Peterson-Family Advocate

Michele Ashley – Compliance Specialist

Carlene Morgan – School Readiness Specialist

Melanie Pridemore – Program Substitute

Lorri Tipper – Teacher Assistant

Caitlyn Festari – Full Time Extended Day Teacher

Angela Merriweather - Teacher

Maribel Maneilla – EHS Teacher

Ashley Shaffer – Disability Services Specialist



Reading with your child

Twenty minutes a day is all it takes to build key reading skills. Here are seven ways to build a better reader from birth to age five!

1. Create reading rituals and read together every day
2. Snuggle up close with a book
3. Talk about the pictures and ask questions
4. Share different kinds of books
5. Read with expression
6. Read favourite books again and again
7. Record yourself reading and play it on car trips or as an alternative to television



'good readers are made
on the lap of a parent'