



Port Orange

Head Start/Early Head Start

## FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

“Let us always meet each other with a smile, for the smile is the beginning of Love”-Mother Teresa

### Parent Reminders: Important Dates:

February 16<sup>th</sup> : HS Parent Activity @ 1:45

Parent Meeting @2:15pm

EHS Parent Activity @2:45pm

February 19<sup>th</sup>: President's Day...NO SCHOOL





# PERFECT ATTENDANCE FOR JANUARY



CLASSROOM 1:

CLASSROOM 2:

CLASSROOM 3:

CLASSROOM 4:

CLASSROOM 5:

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT PO HEAD START

MS. KATHY AND MS. ELAINE CLASSROOM 1:

It's hard to believe, but its February and the school year is half over! Your children are changing and growing every day! It's really exciting to see them form relationships with each other, make learning connections, apply their learning and begin to play cooperatively.

This month we'll celebrate Valentine's Day, Groundhog Day, and President's Day. We will focus on sharing, caring, love and friendship. We'll talk about families and friendships and discuss ways to be a good friend.

**CAUTION:** February is a short month, but we will be busy with our monthly theme- **CONSTRUCTION ZONE- "HONK-HONK!"** Strap on your tool belt and put on

your hard hat as we step into Classroom 1's busy construction site! We will explore making and building things. We will work together to solve a problem and plan together to accomplish a BIG job. We will learn all about the big machines and people that use them every day. Then, we will use what we learn to construct some creations to take home with us. "Beep, Beep, Beep!" Proceed to our nutrition theme- **SPINACH LANE**- This is where we will also learn about spinach and healthy eating. In our class, February will be another month of discovery and fun through learning!



### **MRS. BRANDI AND MRS. SUE CLASSROOM 2:**

It's been a great beginning so far this year! January was a hit. This month in February we have fun themes to talk about such as "Homes we build, Down on the farm, Nutrition-Spinach, and All shapes and sizes."

This month we will be scheduling home visits. If your work schedule prevents you from meeting with us please let us know so that we can work something out at a better time. The home visits are our time to sit down and share your child's developmental progress in class so we really look forward to meeting with each and every one of you. Always remember you are your child's first teacher and we are a team.

Remember that the days are getting cooler, remember to dress your child appropriately. Please put your child's name in his/her jacket or sweater. Please dress your child in easy to put on and comfortable clothes. We do go outside every day unless it is raining or freezing.



## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT PO EARLY HEAD START

### Ms. Carol and Ms. Lutisha Classroom 3 INFANTS

**LOVE** is in the air in the infant room! Now that we have all turned 1 Year Old, we have been taking our naps on BIG kid cots instead of cribs!! We really **LOVE** cuddling up with our soft blankets from home!!!

During the month of February, we will continue to work on our language skills. We are beginning to say more words now and also we are expressing our emotions to show our needs and wants. We **LOVE** singing our ABC's, counting and stacking our blocks together. Of course our FAVORITE part is knocking the blocks over and stacking them again LOL! We will be working on a VERY special project for Valentine's Day, so be on the lookout. You're going to **LOVE** it!



### MS. GE'QUITA AND MRS. JENNIFER CLASSROOM 4 OWLS

We will be continuing to work on our fine motor skills and language, learning and pasting our shapes and colors. Also we will be working on understanding our emotions and saying "**I LOVE YOU**"



### MRS. YOMARA AND MRS MARIA CLASSROOM 5 BUTTERFLIES

In the month of February we will be learning about "Colors of winter, Eating healthy, Feelings, Clothes for my body, Friendships, Groundhog Day, and Valentine's Day." Books, Arts and Crafts will be related to each theme.

## POLICY COUNCIL REPORT

The January Policy Council Meeting was held on Thursday, Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> at Lake Sumter State College in Leesburg. Twelve policy council members, including MFCS Board Liaison, Evone Jackson, were present. Eight staff members were present.

Heidi Rand, Director of Early Learning Programs, stated that the Head Start budget information indicates no concerns.

Jeff Heyne, Quality Assurance Manager reported the overall attendance percentage for last month was 84.91%.

The following reports were approved: *Budget, Credit Cards, Enrollment/Attendance, Meals and Snacks, Service Areas and Centers. Parent Activity requests* for Brooksville/Hernando and Coleman were approved. New hires for the following positions were approved:

Hernando: Teacher in Brooksville/Hernando ; Hernando: Substitute Teacher ;  
Hernando: Teacher in Spring Hill; Volusia: Extended day staff at Oakridge center  
; Volusia: Substitute at Jo Sheppard ;  
Volusia: EHS Teacher at Malloy; Volusia: Family Advocate at Port Orange center  
; Volusia: Center Aide in Volusia County ; Volusia: Teacher Assistant at EVEC ;  
Volusia: Teacher Assistant at Blue Lake ;  
Volusia: Nutrition Services Coordinator in Volusia County

Amy Thomas, Deputy Director of Children's Services, presented the Disability Services Policy and Procedures which were amended to reference the Early Head Start children. Jeff Heyne led a review of the new Selection Policy and Procedures and spoke about the Project Spotlight Policy and Procedures. A project spotlight ensures that all identified needs are met before a child is placed in a classroom. Every department signs off stating that the child is ready to start. Lastly, Heidi Rand presented the Impasse Procedure. The procedure is established to resolve any internal disputes.

Amy Thomas presented the updated School Readiness Goals. The updates include the addition of Language and Literacy Development, to support our ESL (English as a second language) children. A Spanish version of the goal sheet is available.

Amy Thomas conducted training on the Second Step Curriculum. This curriculum teaches children how to explain their emotions, control their behavior, listen, pay attention and get along with others. One of our classrooms is featured in the Second Step marketing video. Our Head Start classrooms have a weekly lesson from Second Step.

Heidi Rand facilitated eligibility training. The training included a review of eligibility types, the eligibility verification process, being sensitive to families and disciplinary action for unacceptable conduct from staff.

Carol Coffie, Deputy Director of Program Services, presented a PowerPoint on the Community Wide Strategic Plan and Needs Assessment. The review included the purpose of and process for conducting the assessment, assessment highlights and a summary of the assessment recommendations.

The top 3 needs identified by parents are Child Care, Employment and Housing. The top 3 needs of families identified by community partners are Housing, Employment and Medical Care.

The grant application for Early Head Start funding was reviewed by the council.

New EHS Classrooms will be opening soon at the Malloy site in DeLeon Springs, Hernando site in Brooksville and Chisholm site in New Smyrna.

The federal review is scheduled for the week of February 12th. Several guests will be visiting sites during this week.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 22nd at 10am and will be conducted via video conference. Members will meet in the conference room at the administrative office in their county.

## **Family Advocate and CDS**

This is one of the coldest months of the year for Florida and FLU season is upon us. Please make sure your children are properly bundled for the weather, this includes jackets, hats, socks and shoes. There is an increase in colds and sickness everywhere so make sure to implement handwashing regularly by taking your children to wash their hands when they enter the classroom! Our staff work hard to clean and sanitize the rooms everyday as well as washing their own hands multiple times a day with your children to instill that good and healthy habit and we appreciate your support in school and at home!

Some quick things to do at home to aid in the fight to stop sickness and promote health in your home are:

- Changing out toothbrushes when your child has a sore throat or bad cold or flu
- Changing your air filter in your conditioner or furnace
- Sanitize your cell phone, remote controls and game controllers. (flu and cold viruses can survive on these for up to three days)
- Sanitize bathroom faucets and other places where multiple hands frequently touch (door knobs, keys, refrigerator handles, computer mouse and keyboards etc.)
- Stuffed animals carry germs as well so laundering them may be a good idea. If it isn't washable place in an air tight bag for three to five days to