



# Westside Head Start Newsletter

## March 2017



The temperatures are slowly rising and there are patches of green grass on the playground. Spring is just around the corner. During the month of March, we will be exploring lots of fun activities, such as “Counting, Getting Ready for Kindergarten and a USDS Nutrition’s Activity.” Our children will become aware of many changes that will take place during this season.



### At Home

Parents a way to foster the concept of “spring” at home, save seeds from fruits. Assist your child in planting the seeds. Your child can sort the seeds by colors, sizes and counting. Then in time you will have a garden at home to share with your family.



### Important Dates:

- No School Teacher’s Duty Day – March 10<sup>th</sup>
- No school Spring Break – March 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>
- Parent Involvement Activity - March 8<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 p.m.
- Parent Meeting – March 8<sup>th</sup> - at 1:00 p.m.
- Transition Meeting- March 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 1:30pm



### From FA’s Desk

1. The children who are going to attend Summer VPK, we need that the parents get the Voucher from ELC as soon as possible.
2. Registration for the new school year 2017-18 will begin soon, please contact your Family Advocate for more information.

Ms. Tiwanda (386) 238-8455 and Ms. Betsy (386) 238-8815

### Perfect Attendance for February

\*Toquya Brown

\* Latraile Collins II

\*Treasure Larmond



## Parent Meeting Minutes

Day: 08 Month: 02 Year: 2017.

- Parent Meeting started at 1:00pm.
- Parents were greeted by: Teachers.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was lead by: N/A.
- Minutes from last Parents Meeting were given by: Eleonore.
- Policy Council Representative, reported Policy Council Minutes:  
Yes: X No:       .

• **Parents were notified of coming Important Dates:**

- Field trip to Michaels and Rainbow Park February 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Early release days on February 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- No School on February 20<sup>th</sup> Holiday President's day
- CPR Training on March 26 at 12pm (Parent Activity)
- Next Transition Meeting on March 22<sup>nd</sup>
- March Week of 20<sup>th</sup> Gun/Video Eagle presentation
- FA Spoke about Summer VPK Vouchers
- Ms. Sara from Volusia Health, her vision is that all Head Start has a garden in 3 years
- March 1<sup>st</sup> Deland Farmer Market Activity, Transportation will be provide, also the parents Will received a \$5.00 voucher to buy some vegetables and fruit in the farmer market.

Ms. Cynthia and Ms. Sue are very happy with the turnout at the transition meeting. Meeting adjourned at: 1:40 pm



## Policy Council update for February 2017

The February Policy Council meeting was held on Thursday, February 23rd at 10:00 am. It was a video conference meeting. Policy Council members from Volusia County met at the Volusia Administration Conference Room in Deland. Policy Council members from Hernando and Sumter counties met at the Hernando Head Start Conference Room in Brooksville. Thirteen policy council members (11 parents and 2 community partner members) were present.

The following person was approved for hire: *Kari Thornsbury, Dietary Aide (Hernando County)*

The following reports were approved/accepted: December 2016 Budget and Credit Cards, Enrollment/Attendance, Meals and Snacks, Service Area and Center. Heidi Rand- Director, expressed concern regarding the amount of classrooms (more than 25%) with attendance rates below 85%. Parents are encouraged to be mindful of the attendance policy and remind other parents as well.

An overview of the *High Scope Curriculum, Houghton Mifflin Curriculum and Galileo Assessment/Curriculum* was provided by Heidi Rand. A detailed review of the Second Step Curriculum will be presented next month.

Our Quality Assurance Manager - Jeff Heyne, led training on Head Start program eligibility. He explained the four eligibility categories, provided examples of funds that are considered to be income and described the consequences a staff member would face if it is determined that the staff member did not accurately process income information in an effort to ensure that the family is determined to be eligible.

Policy Council members were advised that our program has been asked to submit a grant proposal for Volusia/Flagler United Way. The grant proposals will request funding to support kindergarten readiness and promote healthy lifestyles in Volusia County.

The next Policy Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10 am. It will be a video conference meeting.



### **From the Desk of Crystal Hill, CDS**

Can't believe March is already upon us. It seems like the months are flying by much too quickly. February was a flash and I am sure summer will be here in the blink of an eye. We had lots of exciting events that occurred in February and have much more to come in March.

We are delighted with the progress of all our children at this point of the school year. All have totally excelled in all their preschool activities. Our staff feels so fortunate to have such delightful, bright and beautiful children.

We also appreciate all of our parents' efforts in our behalf. Your participation and communication makes our job so much easier. Thank you for taking the time to allow the Teachers to come into your homes for the home visits. It's great to see the children in their natural environments. It helps the teachers learn so much about them.

March presents another fun filled and busy month in our center. We will continue to fill the student's days with a combination of fun activities, educational games and many other events.

**Don't forget Daylight Savings Time starts on March 12, 2017.  
Set those clocks ahead one hour.**

**Our Second Transition into Kindergarten Meeting will be this month.  
Please see you child's teacher to ask when this meeting will be and we  
hope to see you there. Remember there is a Party for the winning class at  
the end of the year.**

**Come in to Volunteer in Your Child's Classroom!!**

