

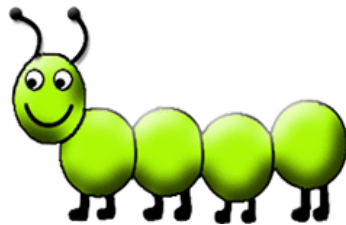
Westside Head Start Newsletter

We are now fast approaching the final stretch of our school year, but we still have a number of exciting fun activities. Our learning activities will include: "I Know MY ABC, Let's Count, Off to Kindergarten", Follow the Leader, and USDA Nutrition Activity." Parents, over the summer share some special moments through the great adventures of reading with your child. Thank you again, for a great year. We have enjoyed working with all you. Have a fun and safe summer.



Up Coming Events:

- May 10th – Parent Meeting: 2:00p.m.
- May 10th – Parent Involvement Activity: 1:30 p.m.
- May 17th 2:00 – VPK Transitioning to Kindergarten
- May 24th– Field Trip: One Fun Place
- May 26th 10:30 a.m. - End of the Year Celebration



Perfect Attendance for March

*Toquya Brown	*Latraile Collins II	*Ma'Kya Delisle	*Treasure Larmond
*Na'Riayah Means	*Ny'Keem Means	*Idris Muhammad	*Ahnaztazya Owen
*Iva Poole	*Niah Poole		



5 Tips to Repair Your Credit

If you've had credit problems in the past, you may be ready to work to repair your past mistakes. You want to rebuild your credit, but you aren't sure what to do first. Here are five tips to help you start making a positive impact.

Make Sure Everything is Accurate

Before you do anything else, check your credit report. Make sure all of the information is accurate or else dispute it to have it corrected. **You can't improve your credit if everything reported is not correct. However, fixing errors can have a positive result on your credit score.**

Start Building Good Credit

Even if you have to get a secured credit card, you need to find a way to build up new credit. The only way to reduce the impact of negative information on your credit history is by adding positive information. It will take a few months to see the impact, but it will help your credit score rise.

Don't Use Too Much Credit

As you get approved for credit cards, be careful how you use them. Don't max them out. In fact, you should keep the balance below 30 percent. **Make your monthly payments on time, and it's even better if you can pay off the entire balance and avoid adding interest charges.**

Don't Make Any New Mistakes

Whatever happened to ruin your credit is in the past – leave it there. However, make sure you avoid any similar situations in the future. Have an emergency fund and don't spend money you can't afford. Learn how to handle credit and be responsible. In time, you will see the results.

Continue to Monitor Your Credit

A credit score is never static. It's always changing, so you must continue to monitor it to make sure everything is updated correctly. **Otherwise, you need to have it fixed so that it reflects accurately and positively.**

Have a great summer!



Parent Minutes

- Parent Meeting started at ___2:00pm_____.
- Parents were greeted by: _____ Teachers_____.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was leaded by: _____N/A_____.
- Minutes from last Parents Meeting were given by: __Eleonore _Owen_____.
- Policy Council Representative, reported Policy Council Minutes:
Yes: _X____. No: _____.
- **Parents were notified of upcoming Important Dates:**
 - VPK voucher for the summer, Summer VPK will be 8:30-4:30pm and also after care will be \$50.00 per week.
 - April 27th next Council meeting
 - March 23th and March 30th early release days
 - Field trip to Sanford Zoo April 28th
 - Friday Eastern Egg Hunt
 - Parent activity the 26th food station
 - Transition Meeting on March 22nd
 - April 12th Pic day 8:00am please get there on time.

Ms. Cynthia and Ms. Sue spoke about:
Zoo parents discount and field trip rules.

Meeting adjourned at: 2:22 pm





Policy Council update for April 2017



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





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!

