



Westside Head Start

February 2018

This month one of the activities we will be focusing on will be **"Valentine's Day"**. It is a day when we share our good feelings about special people. This day is also an opportunity to talk about the importance of sharing, giving and friendship. Our children will also be focusing on: "Construction Zone."



AT Home

Parents, try to set aside a time to have a heart to heart chat with your child. To develop self-esteem, talk about "feelings" and why you are proud of them. Help your child make a note card for someone special, while you dictate.



Groundhog Day Feb. 2nd



Dental Health Month



Valentine's Day Feb. 14th



President's Day Feb. 20th



Up Coming Events:

- Parent Involvement — Feb. 21st - 12:30 p.m.
- Parent Meeting – Feb. 21st – - 1:00 p.m.
- President's Day – Feb.19 th – No School



Perfect Attendance for January

Antone Adams, Cashmere Brown, Alani Edwards,

Treasure Laramond, Ahnaztazya Owen, Lyliann Spaulding

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From FA's Desk:

- For all those parents who owe the physical and shot record and have not been able to turn in the documents please contact the family representative as soon as possible.
- Dental, if you have not taken your child into the dentist please make an appointment as soon as possible, if you have any question please contact you Family Advocate, please don't hesitate.

Desperately seeking new ways to celebrate Valentine's Day with your little sweetheart?

Share: Cards of course! Whether you make your own cards or opt for a box set for handing out at school, heed this teachers tip: have your child just sign his or her own name. This cuts down on the time it takes for special deliveries around the room. For a perfect card idea for little guys, check out the monster cards at makeandtakes.com. And if your son isn't into handing out cards, check with his teacher, he may be able to pass out pencils instead.

Watch: If you allow yourself enough time, Netflix has a handful of Valentine's Day flicks for kids. You can add Clifford's Be My Big Red Valentine, Miss Spider's Happy Heartwood Day, or Elmo Loves You! Or watch Be My Valentine, Love Barney instantly.

Family Advocate
Phone: 386-238-8815



Parent Meeting Minutes

Day: 12 Month: 01 Year: 2018

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

- Parents were notified of coming Important Dates:

- Picture Day - TBA
- No School Jan. 15th for MLK Birthday -
- Next month activity will be by Mr. Harry
- Ms. Krista reiterated and gave new Galileo information

Meeting adjourned at: 1:15 pm

From the CDS



Stay Healthy During the Winter Months



With the cold weather here this means that you or your child may become sick at some point. One of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of germs and stay healthy is by washing your hands frequently throughout the day. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) suggest following these guidelines for effective hand washing:

- Wet your hands with clean running water and apply soap. Use warm water if it is available.
- Rub hands together to make lather and scrub all surfaces.
- Continue rubbing hands for 15-20 seconds.
- Rinse hands well under running water.
- Dry your hands using a paper towel or air dryer.

If soap and water aren't available, the CDC suggests using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer to kill germs. However, hand sanitizers should not be used to replace the practice of hand washing. Germs are often spread by touching contaminated surfaces and then transferring the organisms to your mouth, nose or eyes. So avoid putting your hands in your face.

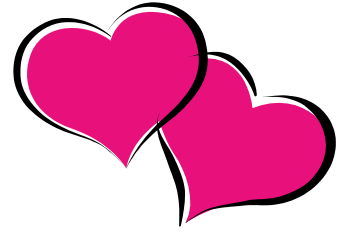
Try to keep a sick child out of the kitchen because germs can be spread to eating surfaces when kids cough, sneeze, and rub their hands on them. This can make the rest of the family vulnerable to getting sick.

Reminders

Please make sure that children are coming to school each day with labeled weather appropriate clothing (jacket, hat, mittens, snow pants, and boots). Please note that the classrooms try to go outside each day weather permitting.

Thank You:

Classroom teachers would like to thank all families that graciously take time out of their busy Schlender to attend our parent activities and parent meets.

POLICY COUNCIL REPORT

The January Policy Council Meeting was held on Thursday, Jan. 25th 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.