Woodward Head Start

December 2016

From the Teachers:

December will be a short but eventful month. We will begin by focusing on USDA activities with "Spinach Lane". The children will learn how spinach grows and tastes; then concluded our unit by making Dilly Spinach Dip.

The children will learn about holidays around the world. We will focus on holidays, traditions and cultural diversity. Winter will be upon us soon and we will learn how others in the world celebrate this season. We will observe and record the changes in our environment and how they differ in other parts of the world.

Please continue to review counting and numbers. We have a focus letter of the week and those are noted on our lesson plans located on the parent info board. Please take time to look and review with your child.

Parent participation in home and center activities is crucial to a successful fun year. We look forward to seeing more of our families participating in the classroom and in center events. As always we thank you for your continued support.

Have a safe and fun Winter Break!!!!!

Highlights:

Snow Day (Winter Carnival) Friday Dec. 9th 5:30 to 7:30pm

Parent Meeting Friday, Dec. 16th at 9:30am

Family Engagement Friday, Dec. 16th at 9:15am

No School/Friday Dec. 21st

Classes Resume Wednesday, Jan.4th

Congratulations!

To Jack Lasky for winning the drawing at the last Parent Meeting. Jack won a $ 15.00 Walmart gift card and a Finding Choosy Award.

From the Desk of Dr. Marcy Guddemi,
Child Development Specialist

Dear Parents, I am very happy to be working at the Center where your child attends Head Start! I worked for Head Start many years ago as a classroom teacher and Education Director. I truly believe that Head Start is an outstanding program, and children and families grow from their participation. So don't be LATE and don't be a NO SHOW. Help your child get to school every day on time and ready to learn.

As I have been observing in the classrooms, I have noticed the types of play that children are engaging in. You more than likely have heard that children learn through play. They learn different things with different types of play. For example, they learn about math with the building blocks: two squares blocks are equal to one long block. Children learn science when they play with or use in art projects different objects from nature: feathers, pine cones, shells, seeds and nuts, leaves, etc. However, the most important play of all is pretend play. In pretend play children learn and practice language, they learn about self-control and turn-taking, and they learn about different roles and the rules that govern that role. For example, the receptionist makes the appointments and the nurses and doctors give the shots. Another important benefit of pretend play is how it helps the child cope with stress. Have you ever seen a child spank a baby doll or give the baby a shot? Help your child pretend play by taking a role yourself and pretend play with your child!

Policy Council Report

Policy Council Update for November 2016

The November Policy Council meeting was held on Thursday, November 17th at 10:00 am via video conference. Fifteen policy council members were present. A special welcome was extended to a new community policy council member, Carolyn Casler. Ms. Casler is employed by the Early Learning Coalition of Pasco/Hernando counties.

The following persons were approved for hire:
***Jessyal Acevedo**, Teacher's Assistant* - Hernando Head Start
***Megan Golembieski**, Program Substitute - Hernando/Sumter counties*
***Jeamary Garcia**, Teacher - Horizon* Head Start -Volusia County
***Brittany Jackson**, Extended Day Teacher - EVEC - Volusia County*
***Juliette Santiago**, Family Advocate - Chisholm Head Start – Volusia County*

Budget report training was conducted by Kris Bates, Chief Financial Officer of Mid Florida Community Services, Inc.

The following reports were approved: Budget and Credit Cards, Enrollment/Attendance, Meals and Snacks, Service Area and Center. Staff will be asked to decrease the number of pictures included in center reports and increase the size of any pictures that are included in these reports.

An Information Memorandum recently issued by the Office of Head Start was reviewed. The memorandum highlighted new requirements in the Head Start Performance Standards. As a result of the memorandum, programs are prohibited from expelling or suspending a child due to the child's behavior.

A presentation on the Galileo Curriculum was provided Child Development Specialist, Karen Bourbonnais. The twelve Learning Domains were reviewed. Additionally, information related to how the Galileo data can be easily accessed by parents and utilized by teachers and administrators to support the development of children in the program.

A series of changes to the Policy Council By laws were reviewed and approved during the meeting. The specific areas affected by these changes included:
Family and Community Partnership
Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment & Attendance - ERSEA
Health
Oral health

The following **announcements** were made:
Mid Florida Community Services, Inc. has purchased a new location at 233 Oakridge Street in Holly Hill, Florida. The goal is to open the location at the beginning of the 2017-18 school year. However, if we are awarded the Early Head Start grant, efforts will be made to open the new location in April 2017.

A large room at the Hernando Head Start building is currently being renovated to become a Training Room for use by Head Start staff and possibly community partners.

Happy Holidays!

From the Family Advocate

Hi Parents,

On November 16, we held our annual health training: It's a Healthy Thing. First of all, thank you to all who attended. I'm sure you would agree that it was very informative as well as an awesome experience. As always, we were able to learn, grow and really enjoy the company of all other parents along with Head Start staff. Please, stay tuned as we will inform you of other future parent trainings, events and meetings.

I also want to thank all those who have updated their family contacts and set family goals. If you have not yet completed these steps, please reach out to me as soon as possible, so we can better service you as a family. I wish you all lots of joy and peace this coming holiday season. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, 2017.

Saludos padres,

El 16 de noviembre, celebramos nuestro entrenamiento anual de salud: It's a healthy thing. En primer lugar, gracias a todos los que asistieron. Estoy seguro de que estarán de acuerdo que fue muy informativo, así como una experiencia increíble. Como siempre, pudimos aprender, crecer y disfrutar realmente de la compañía de todos los otros padres junto con el personal de Head Start. Por favor, permanezca atento ya que le informaremos de otros futuros entrenamientos, eventos y reuniones de padres.
También quiero agradecer a todos aquellos que han actualizado sus contactos familiares y metas familiares. Si aún no ha completado estos pasos, comuníquese con nosotros tan pronto como sea posible, para que podamos servirle mejor como familia. Les deseo a todos mucha alegría y paz esta próxima temporada navideña. Feliz Navidad y Feliz Año Nuevo, 2017.

Thank you!

Nelly Ann Pagán

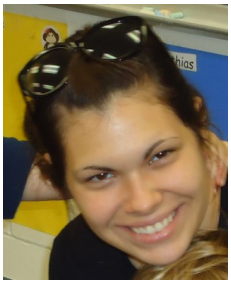
Family Advocate

Blue Lakes / Deltona Lakes / Woodward

A Message from Our President

Woodward Parent Meeting

We would like to see more faces at our Parent Meetings. Classroom decisions are dependent upon your Parent Meeting attendance. For example, at our last parent meeting a decision regarding changing the date and time of our parent meetings was made. Hope to see all of you on Friday, December 16th at 9:30 am at our next parent meeting.



Two parking spaces are reserved for our class. When you arrive to sign-in in the morning, if those two spaces are taken, please circle around until one of the spaces become available.

Thank you so much for your co-operation!

Mrs. Woodman, Mrs. Deakins,

Ms. Rose and Ms. B