



Woodward Head Start

January 2018



From the Teachers:

This month's theme is "Animals Everywhere." We will read stories and learn about the many different land and sea animals from around the world. We will learn about different animal habitats and how they adapt to weather changes. The children will explore the differences between wild and domestic animals. The winter season is here so we will do more experiments with ice, snow and talk about arctic animals as well. Through the Second Step Curriculum the children will learn to 1) understand strong feelings, 2) recognize how they are feeling and 3) calm down strong feelings when they occur.

Mark your Calendars:

- * January 10th Parent Meeting 1:15pm
- * January 15th No School/ Martin Luther King's Birthday
- * January 19th Family Engagement 10:15am

Dear Parents:

The Galileo computer program is one of the tools that teachers use to record and measure each child's progress.

Its easy!!! Parents can log on to Galileo anytime from any computer with internet access.

Using Galileo, parents and teachers work together to help children achieve success in school.

<http://www.ati-online.com>



Select Pre-K parent center. Ask the teacher for passwords if you don't have them.

A Message from Our Parent Meeting President

Parents/ guardians please join us at our monthly Parent Meetings held in the classroom.

Your presence is very important for voting and discussing future events.

Reminders from the Teachers

- ◇ Please remember to check and return your child's blue folder every day.
- ◇ We ask that your child leaves his or her personal items such as toys, cell phones and expensive jewelry at home.
- ◇ Please check to make sure that your child has a change of clothing that is appropriate for the weather.





Welcome Back

From the Desk of: Jennifer Fowler, CDS



It is amazing how quickly the New Year comes and goes. I hope you had a wonderful break! We are already beginning to plan for next year! We are happy to see all your smiling faces back school. We wish you all a Happy 2018 and look forward to all the exciting events to come throughout the school year. As studies show it is important for children to stick to a routine, see the helpful information below.



Toy Safety Shopping Tips: Buy the right toy for the right age child



Ages 3 through 5



Avoid toys that are constructed with thin, brittle plastic that might easily break into small pieces or leave jagged edges.

Look for household art materials, including crayons and paint sets, marked with the designation “ASTM D-4236.” **This means the product has been reviewed by a toxicologist and, if necessary, labeled with cautionary information.**

Teach older children to keep their toys away from their younger brothers and sisters.

READ THE LABEL....



Shopping for toys during the holidays can be exciting and fun, but it can also be frustrating. There can be thousands of toys to choose from in one store, and it's important to choose the right toy for the right age child. Toys that are meant for older children can be dangerous for younger children.

In 2014, an estimated 140,700 children were treated in the U.S. hospital emergency rooms after toy-related incidents and 13 children died.



Policy Council update for December 2017



The **December Policy Council meeting** was held on Thursday, December 14th at 10am via video conference.

A quorum was established. Eleven policy council members were present. Twelve staff members were present.

The **following reports were reviewed and approved:** *Budget, Credit Cards, Enrollment/Attendance, Meals and Snacks, Service Areas and Centers.* *Parent Activity requests* for Bushnell and Spring Hill were approved.

Candidates for the following job vacancies have been **approved for hire:**

Hernando: Substitute Teacher in Brooksville/Spring Hill

Hernando: Part-time Early Head Start Teacher

Hernando: Early Head Start Teacher

Hernando: Head Start Teacher III

Hernando: Head Start Teacher V in Spring Hill

Volusia: Floating Early Head Start Teacher at Oakridge

Volusia: Center Aide Substitute for Volusia County

Mid Florida Community Services Finance Officer - Diane Berube, conducted a **budget training**. The highlights of the training included the various program related budgets (Head Start, Early Head Start, VPK and USDA) that are reviewed monthly, how to read the budget reports and the different budget periods. It was noted that the cost per child expense for Early Head Start is higher than the cost for a Head Start child. VPK instruction, totaling 3 hours a day, is provided in designated locations. The USDA budget is developed based on the number of meals served in the prior year.

Child Development Specialist-Jennifer Fowler, led an **information session on the Galileo Curriculum** which included accessing and navigating Galileo on their computer. Each parent was reminded that a personal Galileo password has been established for them and a magnet was given out earlier in the year for parents to write their personal password on. This magnet can be placed on the refrigerator for quick reference. Parents were encouraged to access Galileo regularly to access their child's profile which includes the following: information about what their child *has learned*, what their child is *ready to learn* and activities parents can do with their children at home to support the development of new skills.

Deputy Director of Children's Services - Amy Thomas, presented **the Child Outcomes Analysis Report**. She explained that these reports help identify if children are making developmental gains. The report consists of two different scores: baseline (starting point) and gains (progress). The goal is for each child to have a 50 point increase from the time they started the program to the end of the school year.

Director of Early Learning Programs - Heidi Rand, reported that a **Federal Monitoring Review** will take place the week of **February 12th, 2018**. Parents are encouraged to discuss any program concerns about their center, with their Family Advocate or Child Development Specialist before that time. The review will consist of classroom observations using the *CLASS* (Classroom Assessment Scoring System) tool, review of program data records, health and safety checks, interviews of policy council members and staff.

Policy Council meetings are held the 4th Thursday of each month, unless rescheduled due to holidays. The **next meeting** will be held on January 25th @ 10am. It will be a face-to-face meeting at Lake-Sumter State College in Leesburg, FL.



Financial Recovery

It's a new year!!!! Let's get started on the right foot, enjoy it and feel organized from the beginning. I would like to share some options with you to help you recover from the Holidays and avoid financial stress. Remember, you have the chance to check your credit report for free once a year. Check your free credit report and see how you are doing on your credit score by following the link below. Checking your credit report can be helpful if you plan this year to buy a new car, buy a home, or plan a family vacation.

<https://www.freecreditreport.com>

There are many different tools you can use to document your budget. Several budget tools are listed below.

Expense Envelope System

Although it is safer to pay bills online or by check, this tool is useful if you decide you still want to pay your bills in cash each month label and envelope for each expense category (rent, gas, food) and write the amount and due date under the label. Keep the envelopes in a very safe place until you make the payment. This way you will not be tempted to spend the money on something else.

Computer Spreadsheet System

If you can have access to a personal computer, you can create your own spreadsheet with columns for income sources, income dates, expenses, and expenses due dates. At the end of the income and expenses column, enter the formula to total each column. Free personal finance tools are also available online and on smart phones. It is important to enter transactions frequently to track your financial position.

Budget Box System

The budget box is a small box with dividers for each month, with one divider for each day of the month. When you receive a bill, check the due date and place it behind the divider that represents the bill's due date. As you receive income, pay your bills right away so you will not be tempted to spend the money on something else.

Monthly Payment Schedule or Calendar

These tools let you record in advance when you will receive income and when bills are due. Write the amount of your net pay on the calendar date you will receive it. Do the same with your basic necessities and high priority expenses so you can ensure that the funds are available to pay these expenses on time. Each month, cross out the expenses listed on your calendar as you pay them. This ensures the payment has not been forgotten.

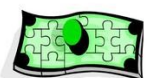
Nelly A. Pagán

Family Advocate

Deltona Lakes & Woodward

386-736-1325

npagan@mfcs.us.com



Budgeting
Adult Living

