



Woodward Head Start Newsletter

October 2017



From the teachers

This month we will complete our theme My Family, My Community. The children will learn about neighbors and neighborhoods. Using the topic "Hello, Neighbor!" we will read stories about what it means to be a good neighbor. Using the topic "Community Helpers," we will read stories about how people in a community help each other. During our final week we will begin learning about the five senses (hearing, sight, touch, taste, and smell). Using the topic "Using My Senses," we will read stories about how people use their senses.

Through the Second Step curriculum the children will learn about empathy identifying and understanding feelings and being kind to others. You can help your child learn more by talking with her/him about the things he/she is doing at school and the new letters and words that he/she is learning.

Mrs. Deakins, Mrs. Woodman, Ms. Rose and Ms. B



By Jennifer Fowler, CDS



Fall is here and we are already off to a wonderful beginning of preschool here at Woodward. We have had a wonderful start to our school year so far and it seems as though everyone has made a smooth transition. If your child is still having a difficult time separating, please be sure to make an appointment with your child's teacher and myself so we can help to ease the transition some. Not to worry they will be making new friends in no time. By working together, we can make this a wonderful beginning to your child's education. Your children are all a delight and they will teach us many things. They will help us remember how to play, to live in the present moment, and to make new discoveries. Let's be models of the behavior we want them to have; cooperate, share, take turns, laugh, play and "use our words".



Teachers and Principle Reminders

- ♦ Check your child's folder every day.
- ♦ Read with your child every night.
- ♦ Make sure your child is getting plenty of sleep and is ready for school each day.
- ♦ Attend school every day on time.

Remember we encourage volunteering and welcome all of you to join our teachers and children in the classrooms. Your children enjoy seeing you in the classroom and so do we...

Be sure to attend the next parent meeting here at Woodward, you can check with your teacher or family advocate if you are not sure when it is.

Please do your best to bring your child to school every day. We understand that things happen, so if your child can't come please be sure to call your child's teacher to let them know they will not be here or that they will be late.



Family Advocate News By Nelly Pagan

I'm so happy to welcome October!

We would like to help you get ready for the Holidays, yes! **Holidays!!!!**

If you would like to have some relief in your pocket, I recommend you go to:

Toys for Tots: www.VolusiaCountyToysforTots.com

REGISTRATION WILL OPEN OCTOBER 1, 2017

For Registration, proceed through the following four (4) step process and determine the procedure.

Click the "[Request Toys](#)" button at the top of the page

1. Select your state - City or County search options will appear.
2. Select the city or county nearest your location - Contact by phone, FAX, email (Recommend you use email. Click the hypertext email address. An email form will appear).

Fill out the form by providing your name, phone number and address. Provide the ages and gender of your children and request that Christmas toys be provided for them. The Coordinator will contact you.

Here is this other program for kids with Special Needs.

Nathaniel's Hopel: <https://www.nathanielshope.org/>

This includes kids with any physical, cognitive, medical or hidden disability, chronic or life-threatening illness or those who are medically fragile.

*Remember, you can use the parent's computer at the Family Advocate office.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact me at: (386) 774-1520 Or you can email:

npagan@mfcs.us.com



Policy Council Update

The **September Policy Council meeting** was held on Thursday, September 28th at 10:00am at Lake Sumter State College in Leesburg. Eight 2016-17 policy council members were present. Two community members were present. The Mid Florida Community Services Board of Directors liaison was also present. Numerous members of the Mid Florida Head Start/Early Head Start Administrative Team were present. Several newly elected 2017-18 Policy Council representatives attended. The new representatives could not vote during this meeting because they have not received the Policy Council training yet.

The following reports were *discussed*: Budget, Credit Cards, Enrollment/Attendance, Meals and Snacks, Service Areas and Centers.

The following items were *reviewed*:

Family Engagement Plan - Several parenting curriculums have been reviewed. One will be selected for our program.

PIR (Program Information Report) - Highlights of 2016-17 Head Start services included a high percentage of well credentialed staff, positive health outcomes and an increased focus on capturing male involvement).

Policy council members were asked about their training needs. Any future training interests or needs should be sent to Family Advocates.

Awards were presented to parents who completed 1 year of service and 3 years of service on the Head Start Policy Council. Kim Ferwin (Spring Hill Center), Adelani Adekunle (Horizon Elem.), James Norton in absentia (Center), Juan Echezebal (Holly Hill Elem.). Community members Chuck Moreau and Jackie Davis also received service awards. A plaque was given to Trevene Christian-(Westside Elem.) for committed service as Head Start Policy Council Chairman. Each recipient gave a short speech highlighting how Policy Council has benefitted them and encouraging new representatives to expect good things from their involvement with Policy Council.

The following **announcements** were made:

The recent update to Performance Standards allows parents to serve on Head Start/Early Head Start Policy Council for a total 5 years in lifetime. The old term limit was 3 years in lifetime.

Kim Ferwin (Spring Hill Center) was acknowledged for having Perfect Attendance at Policy Council Meetings during 2016-2017 program year.

The program specialist from the Head Start Region IV Office will be visiting our program in November.

The **next Policy Council meeting** is scheduled for Thursday, November 16th. The meeting will be conducted via video conference. Participants will meet at the conference room in their county.