



# WEST VOLUSIA EDUCATION CENTER (WVEC)



NEWSLETTER MAY 2017

## IMPORTANT DATES:

- May – Home Activities
- May 2- Transition to Kindergarten Meeting at 5:30
- May 3 – Teachers Appreciation week
- May 5 – Cinco de Mayo
- May 11 – Transitioning to Kindergarten for students
- May 12 – Mother's Day Celebration @12/ Parent Meeting @ 1:00pm
- May 15-19 Fun Week
- May 17 – Deland Museum Night @ 5:00 – 7:00 pm
- May 24 –Family Engagement (End of the Year celebration Earl Brown Park) @ 10
- May 26 – Last Day of School Early Release Day 12:30pm





## **Going to Kindergarten**



**By Jennifer Fowler  
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.

Hooray for preschoolers!!! We appreciate your support. Have a wonderful and safe summer!





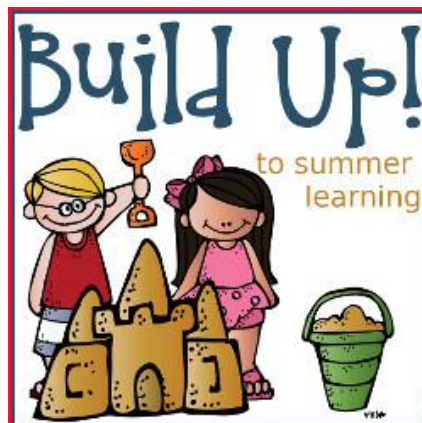
## INSIDE STORY CLASSROOM #1 AND 2

The school year is almost over, but not before we congratulate and thank you all for being such a special part of our classes. For our students; don't forget to Aim high, Dream Big and remember you can be anything you want to be. Always do your best in whatever you try and never forget how much we love you.

Remember to keep practicing during the summer your letters, numbers and make every time a teachable moment for your child.

The month of May, is going to bring different activities for you and your child. We want to encourage you to check your mailbox, bulletin board to be informing of all the events.

If your child is going to Kindergarten next school year and you want them to be part of the VPK summer program. Don't forget to bring the VPK vouchers and give it to Mrs. Aurea (Family Advocate). You won't regret it!







## April Policy Council Update

### Policy Council update for April 2017

The April Policy Council meeting was held on Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup> 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 a 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 year*

The following announcements were made:

*Applications for Early Head Start and Head Start for 2017-18 program year are being accepted*

*Week of May 1<sup>st</sup> 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

## Notes from our Family Advocate

### VPK IMPORTANT INFORMATION INFORMACION IMPORTANTE SOBRE EL VPK

**Dear Parents:** It's important that you visit the office during this month or visit the Early Learning Coalition Office to get your child's VPK Voucher. Head Start VPK Summer School Program is open, also to the Public and is getting full. Please, don't miss this opportunity. If you need assistance contact me as soon as possible: Thank You, Aurea Santiago/386.736.1325.230

**Estimados Padres:** Es importante que durante este mes nos visite en la oficina o que visite la oficina de Early Learning Coalition para obtener su VPK-Voucher. El Programa de Verano de Head Start ha sido abierto también para el público y se está llenando. Por favor, no pierda esta oportunidad. Si necesita asistencia comuníquese conmigo lo antes posible:  
Gracias, Aurea Santiago / 386.736.1325.230

