

# Oakridge December Newsletter



## December is the beginning of winter.



We are so excited to open here at Oakridge. The teachers are beyond excited to finally get in the classrooms with these precious kids. We are so excited we get to be with the children just at the best time of year arrives. This month will be a short month but we are going to have so much fun.

Our goal at Oakridge for the month of December is perfect attendance. If your child is going to be absent or late please be sure to call your child's teacher and let them know.

Please be sure that you child is dressed appropriately for the weather. Send in a change of clothing for your child.

## Parent Reminders: Important Dates

**Family Involvement:** Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> @ 1:30 Head Start & 3:00 Early Head Start

**Parent Meeting:** Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> @ 2:15

**Early Release Days:** Dec 6, 13, and 20 for Head Start ONLY

**Winter break:** Head Start Dec 21- Jan 7

**Winter break:** Early Head Start Dec 22-26 and Jan 1-2

**Open house:** Dec 19<sup>th</sup> 4pm -5 pm

## Perfect Attendance: November

### Classroom 1

NO SCHOOL

### Classroom 2

Jacob Beatty  
Josh Brown  
Chance Ross  
Jamaar Smith  
Jameer Smith

### Classroom 3

NO SCHOOL

### Classroom 4

NO SCHOOL



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## What's happening at Oakridge Head Start?

### Ms. Mary and Ms. Elaine Classroom 1:

We are so happy to be in our new facility, welcome to Oakridge Head start! This month we will be working on getting to know our new teachers, peers and healthy interaction with each other. In second step our theme is welcoming. We're using various props and different communication skills. During IMIL, we are learning new songs with movements and gestures. We are also conducting individual art projects, math techniques, science discoveries, fine motor skills and large motor skills. Our learning theme is weather report: all year long, we are learning about different types of weather and the seasons. We would like to encourage our parents/guardians to volunteer and assist us whenever possible.

### Ms. Carolyn and Ms. Mandi Classroom 2

We are so excited to finally be in a new classroom. We will be working on getting to know our classroom and the new toys that are in it. We are going over the colors of fall. We will also be discussing the different holidays around the world. There are different ways that different cultures celebrate the different holidays and we will be discussing each and every one of them.

### Child Development Specialist Corner: Crystal Hill

Holidays can be a time when parents decide that doing things with their children will be a priority and they will use the time to get to know each other and enjoy each other's company. Children love doing things with parents.

Try to arrange some individual time with each child if you can, as well as family time - this helps build good relationships and helps your children's self-esteem.

Just one different activity each day will help keep children interested and looking forward to it.

Remember children do not need to be 'entertained' all the time. Just a change of place or a few suggestions can help them to be very creative on their own.

Sometimes saying "I'm bored" is another way of saying "I want you to play with me", and sometimes the child has not even started to try to think of what to do by themselves.

Happy Holidays to everyone & enjoy this time with your family!!

**Remember to login and check your child's progress in Galileo. If you need the password again, see your child's Head Start teacher....**

*Merry Christmas*



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## What's happening at Early Head Start of Oakridge?

### Ms. Nikki and Ms. Jakera Infants Classroom 3

We are very excited to finally be opening up at Oakridge. Ms. Ja'kera and Ms. Nikki are looking forward to getting to know the students and families. The first couple of weeks we are going to focus on getting to know each other in the classroom. We would like to have some family photos to display in the classroom for our students.

### Ms. Rachael and Ms. Harmony Toddlers Classroom 4

We are so excited to finally get to open. We have been so ready for this day since August. In the toddler class we will be working on getting to know our friends and our teachers. We will focus on getting to know our schedule and just having fun with all of our new friends and teachers. We welcome any parents or family member to come in and volunteer in our classroom any time.

### Family Advocate Corner: Tiwanda Saxton

I first want to say WELCOME to all of our Early Head Start/Head Start Families! I want to THANK ALL OF YOU for your patience with us; it has truly been a journey for us all! I hope and pray that you are satisfied with the ending results!

I know that you all are excited about the center finally opening and we are too... and did you know that you can have your child here as early as 7:30 if you do not have extended day!

- We are asking all families to do your best to get your children here by 8:00 a.m. The children do their morning activities around this time. Attendance is very important to our program... If your child is going to be absent or late, please call and let us know why.
- Please remember to introduce yourself to a parent that is in your child's classroom.... You would be surprised who may live close to you and who would enjoy having a new playdate outside of school!!!

I will be contacting each of you to fill out a new volunteer form. As much as we love for you to drop your child off, we also love extra help!

**Extended day** payments are due on Fridays or first thing Monday morning during drop off. If the money is not presented in the time listed, the child (ren) will not be able to stay.

I will be out of the office on Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>-Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> for training. If you have any questions, please contact the CDS, Crystal Hill.

Thank you again for your patience!!!

**If you need anything, please do not hesitate to call!**



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## Policy Council Report

The **November Policy Council meeting training** was held on Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am via video conference. A quorum was established. Thirteen policy council members were present.

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

The results of the election of officers conducted at the October meeting were reviewed. Council members were advised that the person elected as chairman was not eligible for election to an office as he attended the meeting as an alternate and alternates are not eligible for nomination to an office. The official policy council representative from a center is the only person who can be nominated for or elected to a policy council office. The previously elected vice chairman, Sheila Ramos (Representative from Coleman Center in Volusia) was nominated to now become the chairman. There was a unanimous vote in favor of Ms. Ramos. Ramon Ayala was nominated for the office of vice chairman. There was unanimous vote in favor of Mr. Ayala. Candidates for the following job vacancies have been approved for hire: Hernando: Substitute Teacher III

Volusia: Substitute Teacher III, Blue Lake Elementary Blended Classroom  
Family Advocate, Jo Sheppard Early Head Start & Holly Hill Head Start  
Teacher Assistant III, Blue Lake Elementary Blended Classroom  
Substitute Teacher Assistant Nutrition Coordinator  
Full Time Extended Day Teacher Assistant, EVEC

Budget training is postponed until next month due to the hospitalization of the Mid Florida Community Services, Inc., Chief Financial Officer - Kris Bates.

A maximum of 25% for food expenses was agreed upon per Parent Activity. All parent activities have to submitted, in advance, to the Family Advocate for forwarding to the Family Engagement Coordinator for approval. The cost of food items that serve as materials to help teach a specific parenting skill during a Parent Activity is not included in the food expense.

The School Readiness Committee update was provided. The committee met on Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>. Topics of discussion included children arriving late at centers, behavior concerns and curriculum. The Selection Criteria for 2018 – 19 was approved. Special appreciation was extended to Robin Bowman from WVEC for her recent participation on the interview panel for Family Advocate interviews.

The Program Specialist from our regional office and an Early Childhood Specialist from our regional office visited several of our sites during the week of Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>. They complimented the consistency of documents on parent boards and health boards in each classroom they visited and recognized the high level of teamwork among staff.

The following committees are looking for parent volunteers: Community Needs Assessment, ERSEA (Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, Enrollment and Attendance) and School Readiness. Any parent interested in serving on any of these committees can contact the Family and Community Partnership Manager in their county. Volusia county parents can contact Cindy at 386-736-1325. Hernando/Sumter parents can contact Jaclyn at 352-754-2464.

The December meeting will be held on Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will be conducted via video conference. Participants will meet at the conference room of the administrative office closest to their county.

## Parent Meeting Minutes

**NO MEETING THIS MONTH: PLEASE COME TO OUR FIRST MEETING**

