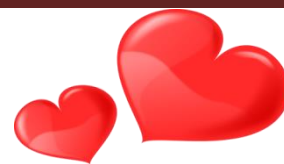


# Oakridge February Newsletter

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**February is for new beginnings.**



As the school year goes on the kids are starting to really love coming to school. This month Head Start will be doing home visits and early head start will be doing parent teacher conferences. Also this month we will be nursing students come and evaluate our children.

Please be sure to call your child's classroom whenever you are running late.

Please be sure that your child is dressed appropriately for the weather.

## **Parent Reminders: Important Dates**

Parent Involvement: Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> 1:30p.m. Head start

Parent involvement: Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> 3:00 Early Head start

Parent Meeting: Jan 8<sup>th</sup> 2:15p.m. BOTH

Early Release Days: Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28

Closed: Feb. 19 presidents day

Home Visits month of Feb: Head Start

Parent Conference: Early Head Start

Extended Day letters: due Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>

Nursing Students: Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>

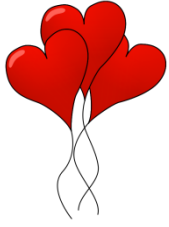
Transition Meeting: Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 2:15 (All children going to Kindergarten)

Policy Council Meeting: Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>

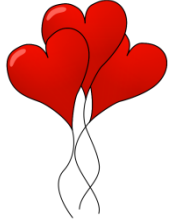


# Oakridge February Newsletter

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## What's happening at Oakridge Head Start?



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

Greetings Everyone! In Last month's theme, "Animals Everywhere" the children learned where animals live, what they eat, similarities, characteristics, and other interesting things about animals. This month in February, we will be talking about construction, machines, tools and how they are used, workers, how to build, and many stimulating activities. In math: Learning how to use different ways in measuring. Science: How people/animals build homes/houses. Literacy: Reading books about constructions. In addition to, shared writing, alphabet review, oral language vocabulary words, and social/emotional development activities (Second Step).

Congratulations to our VIP Parent for the month, Stephanie Robinson and our previous VIP parent, Winston Maddox.

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

We had a great month learning about winter, Building in Our City, and Let's Go for a Ride. We practiced saying the word transportation. See if your child can remember this big word and how to pronounce it! This month we will start by learning What's Down on the Farm? We will work hard on all our shapes, comparing sizes and patterns. We will also be examining and trying spinach. We are looking forward to this exciting month of learning.

We would like to say a big HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Emily turning 4 and Rah'Zion turning 5.

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

### Ms. Nikki and Ms. Ja'kera Infants Classroom 3

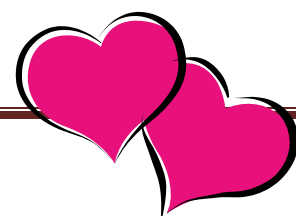
The Infant/Toddler classroom is busy getting ready for Valentine's Day. We are making decorations for our classroom and cards to take home. We are still working on sitting at the table while we are eating and drinking for safety reasons. Ms. Crystal brought us some new toys and the students love them. We look forward to seeing all of our parents at the Parent Meeting and Parent Involvement Activity.

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

Wow! We can't believe we have already been in our classroom two months already. We really appreciate all the parent support we have had. Our children have grown so much and we wouldn't be able to do what we do without our parents. This month we will be talking about eating healthy, types of clothing and our feelings. We will be working on using a spoon and using our words in our classroom. Please be sure to volunteer anytime you have free.



# Oakridge February Newsletter



## Stay Healthy During the Winter Months

With the cold weather here this means that you or your child may become sick at some point. One of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of germs and stay healthy is by washing your hands frequently throughout the day. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) suggest following these guidelines for effective hand washing:

- Wet your hands with clean running water and apply soap. Use warm water if it is available.
- Rub hands together to make a lather and scrub all surfaces.
- Continue rubbing hands for 15-20 seconds.
- Rinse hands well under running water.
- Dry your hands using a paper towel or air dryer.

If soap and water aren't available, the CDC suggests using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer to kill germs. However, hand sanitizers should not be used to replace the practice of hand washing. Germs are often spread by touching contaminated surfaces and then transferring the organisms to your mouth, nose or eyes. So avoid putting your hands in your face.

Try to keep a sick child out of the kitchen because germs can be spread to eating surfaces when kids cough, sneeze, and rub their hands on them. This can make the rest of the family vulnerable to getting sick.

### Reminders

Please make sure that children are coming to school each day with labeled weather appropriate clothing (jacket, hat, mittens, snow pants, and boots). Please note that the classrooms try to go outside each day weather permitting.

### Thank You:

Classroom teachers would like to thank all families that have graciously donated items to their child's classroom over the past months. Many families have donated classroom materials, extra clothes, went on field trips and volunteered in the classroom. We thank you for your continuous support!



## Perfect Attendance

### Classroom 1

Isaiah Haile  
Jodie Ponder  
CartiA Ross  
Collin Jolleys

### Classroom 2

Olivia Cason  
Deandre' Cotton  
Amillia Kemp  
Elizabeth Mata-Freije  
Emily Rosales Gonzalez  
Chance Ross  
Jamaar Smith  
Jameer Smith  
Mariah Spikes

### Classroom 3

Scarlett Futch

### Classroom 4

Daniel Evans  
Uriah Mobley

# Oakridge February Newsletter

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## From FA's Desk:

First of all, I would like to “Thank You” parents for getting the children here on time. Arrive 8:00 -8:15 a.m. And Pick up at 2:00 p.m. If you are going to be late, please call your child’s teacher.

Parents, this is Flu season. Please dress your children according to the weather. In your classroom, you should see information about the Flu. If more info is needed, please see me!

Please remember your codes to gain entrance into the building. Also, you cannot hold a door for another parent; everyone needs to use their codes to gain entrance.

February is Dental Health Month, the celebration of Black History and Valentine’s Day!  
**2018 National Children’s Dental Health Month**

Parents, this is the perfect time to take a fieldtrip to the dentist if you have not already done so!  
**Happy Valentine’s Day**

Your FA,  
Tiwanda Saxton

## Parent Meeting Minutes

Parent Meeting started at \_\_\_2:15pm\_\_\_\_\_.

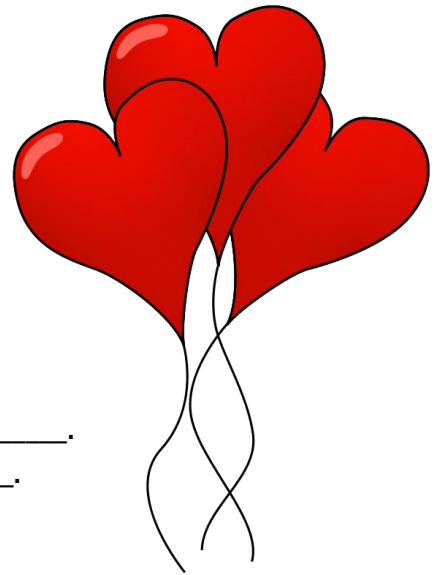
- Parents were greeted by: \_\_\_\_\_Mr. Michael Davis\_\_\_\_\_.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was leaded by: \_\_\_\_\_Mr. Michael Davis\_\_\_\_\_.
- Minutes from last Parents Meeting were given by: \_No one\_\_\_\_\_.
- Policy Council Representative, reported Policy Council Minutes:  
Yes: \_X\_\_\_\_\_. No: \_\_\_\_\_.
- **Parents were notified of upcoming Important Dates:**

- January 15<sup>th</sup>,2018 MLK Holiday-No School
- Early Release dates: Jan 17<sup>th</sup> ,24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>
- FA’s: Dental- if parent received a form from the FA the child appointment needed to be set by January 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Teacher’s report-Ms. Carolyn gave the report for classrooms 1&2
- CDS- Crystal talked about the code system

Other announcements

- Parents thanked us for all that we do

**Meeting adjourned at: 3:00 pm**



# Oakridge February Newsletter

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## Policy Council Update – January 2018

The January Policy Council Meeting was held on Thursday, Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> at Lake Sumter State College in Leesburg. Twelve policy council members, including MFCS Board Liaison, Evone Jackson, were present. Eight staff members were present.

Heidi Rand, Director of Early Learning Programs, stated that the Head Start budget information indicates no concerns.

Jeff Heyne, Quality Assurance Manager reported the overall attendance percentage for last month was 84.91%.



The following reports were approved:

*Budget, Credit Cards, Enrollment/Attendance, Meals and Snacks, Service Areas and Centers. Parent Activity requests* for Brooksville/Hernando and Coleman were approved. New hires for the following positions were approved:

Hernando: Teacher in Brooksville/Hernando; Hernando: Substitute Teacher; Hernando: Teacher in Spring Hill; Volusia: Extended day staff at Oakridge center; Volusia: Substitute at Jo Sheppard;

Volusia: EHS Teacher at Malloy; Volusia: Family Advocate at Port Orange center; Volusia: Center Aide in Volusia County; Volusia: Teacher Assistant at EVEC; Volusia: Teacher Assistant at Blue Lake;

Volusia: Nutrition Services Coordinator in Volusia County

Amy Thomas, Deputy Director of Children's Services, presented the Disability Services Policy and Procedures which were amended to reference the Early Head Start children. Jeff Heyne led a review of the new Selection Policy and Procedures and spoke about the Project Spotlight Policy and Procedures. A project spotlight ensures that all identified needs are met before a child is placed in a classroom. Every department signs off stating that the child is ready to start. Lastly, Heidi Rand presented the Impasse Procedure. The procedure is established to resolve any internal disputes.

Amy Thomas presented the updated School Readiness Goals. The updates include the addition of Language and Literacy Development, to support our ESL (English as a second language) children. A Spanish version of the goal sheet is available.

Amy Thomas conducted training on the Second Step Curriculum. This curriculum teaches children how to explain their emotions, control their behavior, listen, pay attention and get along with others. One of our classrooms is featured in the Second Step marketing video. Our Head Start classrooms have a weekly lesson from Second Step.

Heidi Rand facilitated eligibility training. The training included a review of eligibility types, the eligibility verification process, being sensitive to families and disciplinary action for unacceptable conduct from staff.

Carol Coffie, Deputy Director of Program Services, presented a PowerPoint on the Community Wide Strategic Plan and Needs Assessment. The review included the purpose of and process for conducting the assessment, assessment highlights and a summary of the assessment recommendations.

The top 3 needs identified by parents are Child Care, Employment and Housing. The top 3 needs of families identified by community partners are Housing, Employment and Medical Care.

The grant application for Early Head Start funding was reviewed by the council.

New EHS Classrooms will be opening soon at the Malloy site in DeLeon Springs, Hernando site in Brooksville and Chisholm site in New Smyrna.

The federal review is scheduled for the week of February 12th. Several guests will be visiting sites during this week.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 22nd at 10am and will be conducted via video conference. Members will meet in the conference room at the administrative office in their county.

LOVE

LOVE

LOVE