

Oakridge January Newsletter



January is for new beginnings.



Welcome back! We hope everyone had a good holiday break. We are pretty excited to start back learning. We will have several things going on this month and so excited to get the New Year rolling. This month we will be learning a lot of really fun stuff and getting to know our friends and teachers really well. We look forward to a fun month.

Please be sure to call your child's classroom whenever you are running late. Also please be sure that your child is dressed appropriately for the weather and has a change of clothing as school.

Parent Reminders: Important Dates

Family Involvement: Jan 11th 1:30p.m. Head start

Parent involvement: Jan 11th 3:00pm Early Head start

Parent Meeting: Jan 11th 2:15p.m.

Early Release Days: January 10, 17, 24, 31

Closed: Martin Luther King Jr. Jan 15

Closed: Winter Holiday Jan 1st-5th Head Start

Closed: Winter Holiday Jan 1st & 2nd Early Head Start



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What's happening at Oakridge Head Start?

Ms. Mary and Ms. Elaine Classroom 1

Welcome back everyone! We hope you enjoyed your holidays with family and friends. During second step we will be learning how to cooperate using appropriate verbal/ nonverbal strategies. IMIL, we are learning about other countries and their musical backgrounds. In math and science we are learning how to count and compare, as well as make observations of different animals. Happy birthday to Cartia Ross who celebrated his 4th birthday on Jan 1st. We want to encourage our parents to come and volunteer, see how your child learns and what your child is learning.

Ms. Carolyn and Ms. Mandi Classroom 2

As we are getting settled in our in classroom, we had lots of fun learning about cantaloupes, the holiday season and winter weather in Florida. We are excited to celebrate the New Year. We will be learning more about winter and different buildings in our city. In Second Step we will be talking about managing our anger and waiting our turns. We would like to say HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Josh, Olivia, Deandre' and Emerson!!!

Perfect Attendance for December

Classroom 1

Khalaiya Frederick
Jayla Geter
Robert Howard Jr.
Stefauni Jackson
Joshua Juarez Ferenandez
Aniah Maddox

Classroom 2

Deandre' Cotton
Camryn Geter
Jamaar Smith
Jameer Smith
Rah'Zion Howard
Emily Rosales Gonzales

VIP Parent for December

Classroom 1

Winston Maddox
Parent of Aniah Maddox

Classroom 2

Bella Sistoso Beatty
Parent of Jacob Beatty

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What's happening at Early Head Start of Oakridge? Ms. Nikki and Ms. Ja'kera Infants Classroom 3

We hope that everyone enjoyed the holidays. This month we will be learning about our homes, neighborhoods, and community. We are also working on sitting in our chair while eating our meals. Please help us by practicing this at home. We appreciate your help! As always we look forward to seeing all our parents at our Parent Meeting and Parent Involvement Activity. Thank you to all who attended in December.

Happy birthday to Jerkari he will turn 1 on the 9th!

Ms. Rachael and Ms. Harmony Toddlers Classroom 4

We hope everyone had a great holiday. Us as teachers enjoyed getting to spend time with our families. We made a lot of progress with potty training last month. This month we will be working on it really hard this month. This month we will be discussing things we do in our city. We will be learning how to get along with our friends and to share our toys. Please be sure to volunteer anytime you have free.

Happy birthday to Daniel he will be 2 on the 27th!

Perfect Attendance for December

Classroom 3

Uriah Mobley

Classroom 4

Daniel Evans

VIP Parent for December

Classroom 3

Kearia Godwin

Parent of Jerkari Bennett

Classroom 4

Evahn Smith

Parent of Jonah Brown

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Welcome Back

From the Desk of: Crystal Hill, 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.

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

From FA's Desk

The Winter Season has come.... and with winter comes Winter Break!!! Please be Safe and Enjoy!!!!

Please, use this time to take your little ones to the dentist! Children are supposed to get a dental checkup every 6 months.

Your FA,

Tiwanda Saxton



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January is Cervical Health Awareness Month

Cervical Health Awareness Month is a chance to raise awareness about how women can protect themselves from HPV (human papillomavirus) and cervical cancer. HPV is a very common infection that spreads through sexual activity. It's also a major cause of cervical cancer.

Here are just a few ideas:

- Encourage women to get their well-woman visit this year.
- Let women know that the health care reform law covers well-woman visits and cervical cancer screening. This means that, depending on their insurance, women can get these services at no cost to them.
- Parents talk to your doctor about how important it is for their pre-teens to get the HPV vaccine. Both boys and girls need the vaccine.

Parent Meeting Minutes for December 2017

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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.