



# FEBRUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER

Picayune School District Early Childhood Programs







## TEACHERS OF THE MONTH



Kandice Rasmussen, CDA  
EHS Rosa



Monysha Gibson  
EHS Rosa



Lynn McCrory, CDA  
EHS Nicholson



LaTonya Thompson, A.A.  
HS Picayune



Jasmine Graham, A.A.  
HS Poplarville



Valencia Durr, A.A.  
SSL Pre-K

## PARENT SPOTLIGHT



**Congratulations to EHS Parent & HS/EHS Policy Council Chairperson, Ms. Jessica Spoo for obtaining her Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) degree and certification from Pearl River Community College!**





## EHS – EHS-GCP EDUCATION

The Mid Year Assessments are completed and your child's teacher should be reaching out to you to schedule the Parent Conference that is held after each assessment period. As you know our way of doing things during this pandemic are different so expect the conference to be held via Zoom, Duo, Face Time, and Messenger.

We have often stated the phrase that children learn through play. It is fascinating to watch what infants, toddlers and twos do with the toys and objects you provide. By observing purposefully, taking a real interest in what children do, and responding to them, you will learn about what interests each child and appreciate what each child is doing and learning. If you trust play, you will not have to control your child's development as much.

Topics for the month of February include Frogs, Weather, Mardi Gras, and Dr. Seuss.

Play will raise the child in ways you can never imagine. – Vince Gowman-

## HS/PRE-K EDUCATION

### 1. Curriculum:

- January 30 – February 3: Dental Health
- February 6 – 10: Valentine's Day
- February 13 – 24: Buildings
- February 27 – 28: Jump into Reading
- Letters of the Month: Oo, Kk, Dd, Ee, Uu, Gg, Rr
- Shapes of the Month: Square, Triangle, Octagon, Rectangle, Trapezoid
- Colors of the Month: Orange, Black, Red, Blue, White
- Math Focus: Naming Plane Shapes; Sliding, Flipping, and Turning Shapes; Creating Shapes; Recognizing and Comparing Shapes

### 2. This month we are focusing on the Cognitive area.

- We will be implementing a new program called Cognitive Toybox. Cognitive Toybox for Schools is the first assessment tool for children birth to five years of age that is a combination of game-based and observational assessments.

### 3. Parent Transition Meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> via Zoom. All parents of children transitioning to Kindergarten should attend this meeting.

## FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Hello Families! In the month of February, we celebrated the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr holiday, with the children marching through the hallways and a short program. Ms. Vinnie Scott and Ms. Gwen Williams gave a demonstration of the life of Dr. Martin Luther King. The program was held at all locations.

Further, HS/EHS programs will be implementing a new program called LEARNING GENIE. This will allow all parents to complete their in-kind activities (home activity logs, watch parent-child interaction videos, access to video books), sign children in and out, communicate directly with teachers, and receive program communications through the app installed on your smartphone. A huge THANK YOU to all families who have installed and logged into the app. We currently have 96% of families who have done so. **REMINDER: IF YOU WANT TO COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR CHILDREN'S TEACHER, MEET YOUR IN-KIND GOALS, AND LEARN ABOUT PROGRAM ACTIVITIES, PLEASE DOWNLOAD THE LEARNING GENIE APP ASAP. YOUR FAMILY ADVOCATE CAN GIVE YOU YOUR TEMPORARY PASSWORD TO GET STARTED!**



For February the following events are scheduled:

- February - Black History Celebrations
- February 14 (Valentine Party)
- February 17 (Annual Mardi Gras Parade)
- February 27 – March 3 (Dr. Seuss Week)
- NO SCHOOL February 20-21 (Mardi Gras Holiday)

REMINDERS: HS/Pre-K Dismissal Times:

Picayune Head Start- 1:45pm- 2:30pm

Picayune SSL Pre-K- 2:20

Please be sure to have students picked up on time. If you are going to be late, please give a courtesy call.

Picayune Head Start & Pre-K (SSL)  
February 2023  
Parent Meeting

Wednesday, February 1st, 2023 @ 5:00 pm

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86578454711?pwd=a3pKQXBYVlRldVlXcWUzZXZCZlRlQ109>  
Meeting ID: 865 7845 4711  
Passcode: psd2023

Nicholson Early Head Start  
February

February 7, 2023  
3:30 p.m.  
VIA: ZOOM

Parent Committee: provide every parent of an enrolled child with the opportunity to received up-to-date information on all component service of the program and assist in the development, as well as assist in the decision making of program planning and activities of their children.

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/8181131296?pwd=SlhNNUJlR0V0S0RFRlUzQzRlbnh1U09>  
Meeting ID: 818 1131 296  
Passcode: 914008

Picayune Early Head Start

Picayune Early Head Start is inviting you to a scheduled Parent Meeting via Zoom!

Tuesday  
February 7, 2023  
5:00 PM

Meeting ID: 313 877 5066 Passcode: 38VFD0

HAPPY Valentine's DAY

February

PRCC Lab School Parent Meeting

February 10, 2023 @ 10:30 a.m.  
Via Zoom

We are asking all parents to please attend this meeting. If you cannot attend, please have someone to attend for you. The link is posted below.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82398740181?pwd=L2lYa2RZM1gxK0NjczZlUkdjRkZz09>

Meeting ID: 823 9874 0181  
Passcode: 497774

SAVE THE DATE

Poplarville Head Start  
Parent Meeting  
February 7, 2023  
5:30 pm

We are asking all parents to please attend in this meeting. If you cannot attend, please have someone to attend for you. Please click on the link below.

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/2660058487?pwd=RlhOsoFYQnFkaWNEY1l6bnQ5NWRtzZ09>  
Meeting ID: 266 005 8487  
Passcode: UEpoIQ

I hope to see you there!!!

Happy Valentine's Day!

## DISABILITIES

Mardi Gras is getting closer, so I wanted to share this with all of you. Many children do not like loud noises this might help out.

### Headphones for Sensory Overload

Many children, with or without sensory processing disorders, wear noise-reduction headphones, in certain environments. You may have seen kids at a concert or party wearing a pair (and perhaps even wished for some yourself). These over-ear headphones control the actual noise level processed by the ear.

Filtering the decibel level helps children with hypersensitivity to environmental noise focus better on tasks and avoid sensory defensive behaviors. Often these headphones also lower anxiety levels, as a result of decreased auditory stimulation.

We recommend you opt for a pair of noise reduction headphones, not noise canceling, as blocking out all sound prevents children from hearing important sounds, such as you calling their name.

### When to Wear Noise Reduction Headphones

Your child's needs will dictate when and how often to break out the headphones. Some popular times to use them include large family gatherings, school auditorium or cafeteria, recess, camp, restaurants, grocery shopping, and playgrounds and amusement parks.

## MENTAL HEALTH TOPICS

Did you know that February was International Boost Self Esteem Month? Yes, that's right 'Boost Self Esteem Month. Self-esteem deals with how we value and perceive ourselves and is shaped by the opinions and beliefs we have about ourselves. Often times we may engage in what is known as "negative self-talk". Saying things like, "uh I can't do this", "you're so stupid", or "you'll never make it" Instead of negative self-talk let's try positive self-talk and say things like "don't give up", "you can do this" "you are stronger than you think . Remember no matter what you've done in life, no matter what's happened to you, you are not your mistakes.

\*National Eating Disorders Awareness Week (Feb. 21-Feb. 27) Eating disorders are serious conditions related to persistent eating behaviors that negatively impact your health, your emotions and your ability to function in important areas of life. For more information on Signs of Eating Disorders <https://newlife-counseling.com/blog/eating-disorder-awareness-month/> PAY ATTENTION!!!! BE INVOLVED!!!! Ask the Right Questions!!!! Always remember your mental health is just as important as your physical health, because your mental health effects your overall health. If you need additional resources reach out to our programs Mental Health Staff. Hope you all have a great month. Ashley Benson, MHC for Head Start/Pre-K



## FEBRUARY 2023 (Head Start / Early Head Start Center-Based Menu)

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
		1 Breakfast: Cinnamon Chex Mandarin Orange Cup 1% Milk Water Lunch: Beef Patty in Gravy Mashed Potatoes Fresh Baked Roll Pear Cup 1% Milk Water	2 Breakfast: Cheese Toast Pineapple Cup 1% Milk Water Lunch: Macaroni & Cheese Spinach Applesauce Cup 1% Milk Water	3 Breakfast: Egg Patty w/ Toast Strawberry Cup 1% Milk Water Lunch: Cheese Pizza Sliced Baked Potatoes Pear Cup 1% Milk Water
6 Breakfast: Grits/Biscuit Mandarin Orange Cup 1% Milk Water Lunch: Chili on Bun Broccoli Strawberry Cup 1% Milk Water	7 Pancake Pear Cup 1% Milk Water Lunch: BBQ Chicken w/ Bun Glazed Carrots Pineapple Cup 1% Milk Water	8 Breakfast: Cinnamon Chex Mandarin Orange Cup 1% Milk Water Lunch: Macaroni & Cheese Spinach Applesauce Cup 1% Milk Water	9 Breakfast: Cheese Toast Pear Cup 1% Milk Water Lunch: Macaroni & Cheese Spinach Applesauce Cup 1% Milk Water	10 Breakfast: Egg Patty w/ Toast Peach Cup 1% Milk Water Lunch: Sliced Baked Potatoes Pear Cup 1% Milk Water
13 Breakfast: Cinnamon Chex Peach Cup 1% Milk Water Lunch: Red Beans and Rice Turnip Greens Corn Bread Applesauce Cup 1% Milk Water	14 Breakfast: Egg Patty w/ Toast Pineapple Cup 1% Milk Water Lunch: California Veggies Pear Cup 1% Milk Water	15 Breakfast: Grits/Biscuit Peach Cup 1% Milk Water Lunch: Baked Chicken Breast Glazed Carrots Fresh Baked Roll Applesauce Cup 1% Milk Water	16 Breakfast: French Toast Mandarin Orange Cup 1% Milk Water Lunch: Cheeseburger/Bun Collard Greens Pear Cup 1% Milk Water	17 Breakfast: Grits/Toast Strawberry Cup 1% Milk Water Lunch: Cheese Pizza Yam Patty Peach Cup 1% Milk Water
20 <b>Mardi Gras Holidays – NO SCHOOL</b>	21	22 Breakfast: Egg Patty w/ Toast Mandarin Orange Cup 1% Milk Water Lunch: Baked Chicken Tenders Lima Beans Peach Cup 1% Milk Water	23 Breakfast: French Toast Pineapple Cup 1% Milk Water Lunch: Red Beans and Rice Turnip Greens Strawberry Cup 1% Milk Water	24 Breakfast: Cinnamon Chex Pear Cup 1% Milk Water Lunch: Macaroni & Cheese Glazed Carrots Mandarin Orange Cup 1% Milk Water
27 Breakfast: Grits w/Biscuit Mandarin Orange Cup 1% Milk Water Lunch: Cheeseburger on Bun Cooked Broccoli Strawberry Cup 1% Milk Water	28 Breakfast: Pancake Pineapple Cup 1% Milk Water Lunch: BBQ Boneless Chicken Sliced Baked Potatoes Pear Cup 1% Milk Water			

**Picayune School District Early Childhood Programs - (601) 799-4702**

- Early Head Start - Rosa
- Early Head Start – Nicholson
- EHS CCP – Annie’s Kindergarten & Daycare
- EHS CCP – Pearl River Community College Child Development Lab School
- PSD Pre-K Program
- PSD Head Start – Picayune
- PSD Head Start – Poplarville