



FEBRUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

Picayune School District Early Childhood Programs





ERSEA

Thank you for your continued support in all our school and community activities and rely on our EHS/HS Program the opportunity to recruit, enroll and provide high quality services for families and children to learn and grow.

Returning kids received the last week in January an Enrollment Intent letter to secure your child's spot for the 2024-2025 school year, we highly recommend to turn this form in at your earliest convenience to start planning our Re-enrollment process.

If your child is transitioning from EHS To HS please provide all required information that include Original Birth Certificate, Updated Income Information, Proof of residency, Medicaid Card and Social Security Card, at the time of enrollment you will also need updated Immunization Record, Age appropriate check up, Dental Exam and Eye Exam.

If you have any questions or need clarification on something, please don't hesitate to contact your ERSEA Coordinator, thank you for taking the time to familiarize yourself with these documents and helping us prepare for a productive, fun, and rewarding 2024-2025 school year!

Let the good times roll!!

~Your ERSEA Coordinators
 EHS/CCP: Jhoanny Vargas, M.S. HS
 PreK: Kaylin Richard, B.S.

TEACHERS OF THE MONTH



Keyontae Jenkins, CDA
 EHS Nicholson



Sheree Berry, B.S.
 HS Picayune



Kathy Smith, A.A.
 HS Poplarville



Karlee Lilley, A.A.
 SSL Pre-K

SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

We hope this newsletter finds you well and full of joy as we enter the month of February. We have some exciting news and updates to share with you!

1. Mardi Gras

We are excited to announce that our program will be participating in the annual Mardi Gras parade this year! This festive event is a great opportunity for our families to come together and celebrate the rich culture and traditions of Mardi Gras. We are excited about all of vibrant floats, colorful costumes, and lively music. It is a perfect occasion for our children to showcase their creativity and express themselves through art and performance. We encourage all our families to join us in this exciting event and be part of the Head Start team in the parade.

Participating in the Mardi Gras parade not only offers our families a chance to have a great time, but it also provides a unique learning experience for our children. They will have the opportunity to learn about different cultures, traditions, and the importance of community participation.

To ensure the safety and enjoyment of all participants, we kindly request that parents and caregivers accompany their children during the parade.

We understand that not all families may be available to participate in the parade. However, we encourage you to show your support by attending and cheering on our Head Start team along the parade route. Your presence means a lot to our children and will help make this event even more memorable for them. We look forward to seeing you all at the Mardi Gras parade! Let's come together, celebrate, and create lasting memories with our Head Start community.

2. Valentine's Day Celebration:

We are thrilled to announce that we will be celebrating Valentine's Day with our students and their families on February 14th. We have planned a fun-filled day with activities, crafts, and sweet treats to spread love and happiness.

3. Parent-Teacher Conferences:

Parent-teacher conferences are scheduled for the week of February 1-9. This is a great opportunity for you to meet with your child's teacher, discuss their progress, and set goals for the remainder of the school year. Please make sure to sign up for a time slot with your child's teacher.

4. Dental Health Month:

February is Dental Health Month, and we are committed to promoting good oral hygiene habits among our students. Our teachers will be incorporating dental health activities into their lesson plans, and we encourage you to reinforce these habits at home. Don't forget to schedule your child's dental check-up!

5. Black History Month:

February is also Black History Month, a time to celebrate the achievements and contributions of African Americans throughout history. Our classrooms will be exploring the rich culture and significant accomplishments of Black individuals. We encourage you to engage in conversations at home and share stories of inspirational Black figures with your child.

6. Outdoor Exploration:

As the weather begins to warm up, we will be spending more time outdoors. Please make sure to dress your child appropriately for outdoor play and provide them with sunscreen and a hat. Outdoor exploration is not only fun but also encourages physical activity and a connection with nature.

7. Parent Engagement Opportunities:

We value your partnership and encourage your active involvement in your child's education. Throughout the month, we will be hosting virtual parent workshops and events. Look out for emails and flyers with more information on how you can participate.

8. Reminders:

- Please remember to submit any required paperwork or updated information to the office.
- Don't forget to read with your child for at least 20 minutes every day.
- We have a parent resource library available for borrowing books and educational materials. Reach out to your child's teacher for more information.

We are grateful to have you as part of our Head Start and Early Head Start family. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. Let's make February a month filled with love, learning, and growth!

Warm regards,

Dr. Pamela Thomas, Head Start/Early Head Start Director

FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Family Service department thrive to keep our families informed of upcoming events, important dates and resources that can support the child's development and enhance family engagement. It is my privilege to update you with the Family Service edition of the newsletter.

Spotlight

In this month's edition of the newsletter we would like to spotlight our "Poplarville Head Start" for such an outstanding job and effort that their parents have put forth to reach their In-kind goals. Poplarville Head Start target goal for the month of December was 4,713.19.

They met 3,041.42 of that goal and striving to meet their goal for the month of January. We are proud of the effort that the parents has shown so far, just keep pushing forward and continue to complete you're in-kinds daily to stay on top of your target goal.

Early Head Start/ Head Start Annual Mardi Gras Parade

The Early Head Start/ Head Start will be having their Annual Mardi Gras Parade on Friday, February 9, 2024 @ 9:30 a.m. This year we are honored to have Mrs. Lynn Bogan Bumper as our Grandmarshall. All classrooms will have their own floats. It is important that your child have a representative to ride with them on the float, (Parent, Grandparent, Uncle, Aunt etc) due to safety precautions. We are asking that parents please arrive before 8:30 a.m. and park in the vacant parking lot behind Early Head Start. The streets will be blocked off after 8:30 a.m. and you will have no access to park near Early Head Start. If you have any questions are concerns please contact your family advocate.

Family Outcomes/Partnership

- Just a reminder, all family outcomes and family partnerships are to be updated by the end of January. If you have not been in contact with your family advocate please do so before January 31st.

The Family Service Department would like to express to our parents the importance of taking part in their child's early education experience. Our department is always here to support you in any way possible. If there is anything that we can assist you with please feel free to stop by the family advocate office are the family community engagement managers offices to express your concerns. Thank you for all the support that you contribute toward Early Head Start / Head Start.

Warm regards, Angie Wilson, Family Community Engagement Coordinator

In-Kind

It is very important for all parents to contribute to complete their in-kinds daily. This is a key part of our operations. We have contacted all parents to inform them the importance of completing the in-kinds. If you have not started to complete you're in-kinds, please do so as soon as possible. If you are having any problems please feel free to stop by your family advocate office for support.

Upcoming Events

- Black History Celebration (February)
- American Heart Awareness/Wear Red (February 2, 2024)
- Mardi Gras Parade (February 9, 2024 @ 9:30 a.m.)
- Mardi Gras Break (February 12th & 13th)
- Valentine Party (February 14, 2024)
- Dr. Seuss Week (February 26th- March 1st)

Upcoming Events Community

- Teen Activity Night, February 16, 2024 11a.m.-1p.m. Margaret Reed Crosby Memorial

Monthly Parent Meeting (All Parent meetings are Mandatory)

- Nicholson Early Head Start (February 6, 2024 @ 4:00 p.m.)
- Early Head Start / Annie Kindergarten (February 6, 2024 @ 5:00 p.m.)

Poplarville Head Start
(February 6, 2024 @ 5:00 p.m.)

Picayune Head Start
(February 7, 2024 @ 5:00 p.m.)

- PRCC Lab School
(February 8, 2024 @ 5:00 p.m.)

Health

Dear Parents,

It's February, The Health Team has some exciting events and important information to share with you this month.

Firstly, mark your calendars for Saturday, February 10! It's Household Hazardous Waste Day, happening from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm at Pearl River Central High School (Front parking lot), located at 7407 Hwy 11, Carriere, MS 39426. This event provides an opportunity for you to safely dispose of various items that may be lying around your house, such as aerosols, household chemicals, flammable liquids, batteries, mercury-containing instruments, fluorescent bulbs, fire extinguishers, propane tanks, and electronic items like TVs and printers. Best of all, it's free of charge!

Secondly, we'd like to remind everyone that February is National Dental Month. It's the perfect time to emphasize the importance of good oral health habits for children. By starting early, we can greatly improve their chances of maintaining healthy teeth and gums throughout their lives. Remember to be on the lookout for toothbrushes coming home and make sure to schedule those all-important dental check-ups. After all, oral health is a window to our overall health.

If you have any questions or need further information, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We are here to support you!

Wishing you a healthy and happy February!

From,
The Health Team
Your Health Team

HS/PRE-K Manager: Pamela Frazier, RN

Nicholson/ PRCC: Chelsea Dennis, LPN

EHS/CCP Manager: Neterior McCormick, BS, RMA

Site Nurses: Rosa/Annie's: Yvette Burton, LPN

Mental Health

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We always want you to know how important you are. You matter! With that said, did you know that February is International Boost Self-Esteem Month. Yes, that's right 'Boost Self Esteem. Self-esteem plays a major role in our lives, and at some point in life, we all struggle to combat low self-esteem. Here at Head Start, we want you and your children, to be your best selves. We want to promote positive well-being for the whole family. Here are a few tips to help you boost your self-esteem. Pour into yourself positivity so that you can then pour into your children and others.

Tips to Boost Self-Esteem

1. Avoid negative self-talk. Are you guilty of thinking or saying things like: "uh I can't do this", "you're so stupid", or "you'll never make it". If so... STOP!!! Stop, Take a step back (take a breath) Observe what's happening, Proceed positively and mindfully. Don't focus on ALL THE THINGS YOU DID WRONG. Instead, focus on what you did right, focus on what you can do better. Be solution focused vs. problem focused. Change negative self-talk to positive self-talk. Try saying things like "don't give up", "you can do this" "you are stronger than you think".

Stop comparing yourself to others. "Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid." Lynda Mullaly Hunt (Book: Fish in a Tree). You are Unique and unlike anyone else. STOP comparing yourself to everyone else. Remember to STOP- look at how far you've made it and remember "you've made it through 100% of your worst days".

Exercise. "Take care of your body, it's the only place you have to live."- Jim Rohn. Take a few minutes everyday to exercise. Just taking a brisk walk every day decrease you risk of chronic disease and increases positive feelings and well-being.

4. Celebrate your strengths. There is a saying that goes, "Don't just celebrate your touch downs, but celebrate your 1st downs." Whenever there is a positive moment in your life, such as, a task or goal you've accomplished, big or small, be sure to celebrate all your wins.

Tell us how you plan to boost your self-esteem this month. Share with us through Learning Genie #BoostSelfEsteem.

Your Mental Health Team:

HS/PreK: Ashley Benson, M.S. & Bianca Pierce, M.S.

EHS/CCP: Rewa Haralson, M.S.

Disabilities Services

Valentine's Day is a day to celebrate love and affection, whether it's romantic love, friendship, or familial bonds. It's an opportunity to express appreciation for the special people in your life and create cherished memories. However you choose to celebrate, make it a month filled with love, kindness, and joy. So, mark February 14th on your calendar, and make this Valentine's Day a memorable and love-filled occasion for you and your loved ones.

Keeping Valentine's Day in mind throughout the month of February,

1. Here are some of the Benefits of inclusion

- Meaningful friendships
- Diverse and shared play opportunities
- Greater academic outcomes for both the children with and without disabilities
- Increased appreciation for diversity and difference
- Respect for all people
- Higher expectations for all
- Preparation for adult life in an inclusive society
- Improved persistence in the face of obstacles
- Additional access to peer role models for academic, social, and behavioral skills
- Opportunities to meet and learn about the experiences of families with a different story
- A feeling of connectedness and support

2. Collaborative Partnerships

- We include our collaborative Partnerships in our activities so they can be get to know our staff, parents, all of the children in the center
- By working together, we are able to better support the unique needs of our children and their families.

3. Parent Engagement

- We encourage our parents to actively engage with the children, teachers, community partners, etc.
- We encourage our parents to contact us if they concerns or issues we can help with.
- We are committed to providing the highest quality of care and support to all children in our program, regardless of their abilities. If you have any questions, suggestions, or would like to share your success stories, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We value your feedback and input.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to the children and families we serve. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of all young learners.

Disabilities Services Team:

Ann Brock, Disability Coordinator for Early Head Start

abrock@pcu.k12.ms.us, 601-749-3306

Sonya Lather, Disability Coordinator for Head Start

slather@pcu.k12.ms.us, 601-798-2537

EDUCATION – EHS / CCP

We hope that the information shared will empower you to create a nurturing and engaging environment for your child's development. Remember that you are your child's first and most important teacher. We encourage you to be that voice that will be heard when it relates to your child's educational journey.

"We may not be able to prepare the future for our children, but we can at least prepare our children for the future." Franklin D. Roosevelt
 This month we will be sharing information on Self Regulation. What is Self Regulation? Self regulation is a child's ability to control his or her behavior. It develops over time, and involves many aspects of social, emotional, and cognitive development. Self regulation can also be thought of as the successful integration of emotion (what a child feels) and cognition (what a child knows or can do) resulting in appropriate behavior.

Why Self Regulation Matters!!! Self regulation appears to help children solve problems and develop coping strategies. This includes the ability to focus and to control impulses. Children who don't learn to self regulate usually have a harder time transitioning on in school. Being ready for kindergarten means knowing letters, colors, and numbers, but also means being able to sit still during circle time and get along with others.

What can you do as a parent? *Provide structure and predictability. * Model self control and self regulations in your words and actions when you are frustrated, upset or excited. INFANTS *Be responsive to your baby's needs, such as hunger or tiredness. * Look for overstimulation cues such as turning away or arching the back; when they occur, give your baby a break and reduce the amount of stimulation. TODDLERS and PRESCHOOLERS *Name emotions, using words like happy, sad, embarrassed, and proud to describe how you feel. * Anticipate transitions and announce changes to normal daily routines well in advance. * Be involved. Anticipate inappropriate behavior and redirect it.
 Factors that help shape how well a child can self regulate include: *Age
 *Biology*Relationships *Cognition.

Self-regulation is recognized as one of the key areas of early child development in the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework PSD EHS Education Team,

EHS ED Manager: Charlotte Nixon, B.S.
 CCP Ed Manager: Robette Watts, M.S.
 Mentor Coach: Kaycee Schielder, B.S.

EDUCATION – HS/PRE-K

Dear Head Start Families,

As we progress further into the school year, we have begun implementing new Curriculum to enhance what your children are learning in their classrooms to prepare for their transition into Kindergarten. Along with Creative Curriculum, we are now incorporating AI's Pals, which focuses on the Social Emotional domain, and STEAM Xpress, which integrates Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics concepts into unique, hands-on applied learning experiences.

As a Head Start parent, it is very important to help guide your child on their learning path to success. Our families have been actively involved in providing some of the same academic experiences at home as they are involved in at school. Students have been active on Math Shelf, one of the programs that we implement in our classrooms, at home and students have shown a huge amount of growth. It was especially apparent upon returning from Christmas break. Some students have completed up to 15 levels. That greatly exceeds the end of the year expectation of completing 8 levels. Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication toward your child's education!

There are many things that you can be doing at home to continue helping guide your child on their learning path to success. Home Activities are sent out weekly via the Learning Genie App for you to complete on a daily basis with your child. You may also have your child complete Math Shelf lessons at home so that they can continue to grow on their mathematical journey. By doing these things, you are not only giving back to your child's school but you are also preparing your child for Kindergarten. You are helping to set your child's foundation for learning which is crucial during the first five years of life. Together we can make a difference! Again, thank you for all that you do to make your child's education a success.

Sincerely, The
 Education Team
 Ashley Veerkamp, Education Manager
 Dinah Thanars, Mentor Coach
 LaKeshia Price, Mentor Coach

FEBRUARY 2024 (Head Start / Early Head Start Center-Based)

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
			1. Breakfast: Biscuit with Egg Patty, Diced Pears, Milk, Water Lunch: Cheese Pizza, Sliced Baked Potatoes, Applesauce, Milk, Water	2. Breakfast: Chex Cinnamon Cereal, Mandarin Oranges, Milk, Water Lunch: Marconi & Cheese, Broccoli, Diced Peaches, Milk, Water
5. Breakfast: Oatmeal, Diced Peaches, Milk, Water Lunch: Chili on Bun, Spinach, Tropical Fruit, Milk, Water	6. Breakfast: Biscuit with Egg Patty, Mandarin Oranges, Milk, Water Lunch: Baked Chicken Tenders, Mixed Veggies, Fresh Baked Roll, Strawberries, Milk, Water	7. Breakfast: Cheese Grits, Diced Pineapples, Milk, Water Lunch: Macaroni & Cheese, Broccoli, Diced Pears, Milk, Water	8. Breakfast: Rice Chex Cereal, Applesauce, Milk, Water Lunch: Chicken Alfredo, Steamed Carrots, Fresh Baked Roll, Tropical Fruit, Milk, Water	9. Breakfast: French Toast, Mandarin Oranges, Milk, Water Lunch: Cheese Pizza, Sliced Baked Potatoes, Applesauce, Milk, Water
12 Closed	13 Closed	14. Breakfast: Cheese Grits, Mandarin Oranges, Milk, Water Lunch: Chicken & Dumplings, Green Peas, Tropical Fruit, Milk, Water	15. Breakfast: Biscuit with Egg Patty, Applesauce, Milk, Water Lunch: Hamburger on Bun, Mixed Veggies, Mandarin Oranges, Milk, Water	16. Breakfast: Chex Cinnamon Cereal, Diced Peaches, Milk, Water Lunch: Chicken Spaghetti, Yam Patty, Diced Pears, Milk, Water
19. Breakfast: French Toast, Applesauce, Milk, Water Lunch: Baked Chicken Tenders, Yam Patty, Fresh Baked Roll, Strawberries, Milk, Water	20. Breakfast: Cheese Grits, Mandarin Oranges, Milk, Water Lunch: Red Beans w/ Rice, Turnip Greens, Corn Bread, Diced Pears, Milk, Water	21. Breakfast: Oatmeal, Diced Peaches, Milk, Water Lunch: BBQ Chicken on Bun, Sliced Baked Potatoes, Diced Pineapple, Milk, Water	22. Breakfast: Biscuit with Egg Patty, Applesauce, Milk, Water Lunch: Macaroni & Cheese, Broccoli, Diced Peaches, Milk, Water	23. Breakfast: Chex Cinnamon Cereal, Mandarin Oranges, Milk, Water Lunch: Macaroni & Cheese, Broccoli, Diced Peaches, Milk, Water
26. Breakfast: French Toast, Applesauce, Milk, Water Lunch: Mararoni & Cheese, Broccoli, Strawberries, Milk, Water	27. Breakfast: Oatmeal, Diced Pineapple, Milk, Water Lunch: Spaghetti/Meat Sauce, Mixed Veggies, Fresh Baked Roll, Mandarin Oranges, Milk, Water	28. Breakfast: Cheese Grits, Diced Pineapple, Milk, Water Lunch: Hamburger on Bun, Steamed Carrots, Tropical Fruit, Milk, Water	29. Breakfast: Biscuit With Egg Patty, Applesauce, Milk, Water Lunch: Grilled Chicken on Bun, Yam Patty, Diced Pears, Milk, Water	1. Breakfast: Chex Cinnamon Cereal, Mandarin Oranges, Milk, Water Lunch: Cheese Pizza, Sliced Baked Potatoes, Broccoli, Diced Peaches, 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