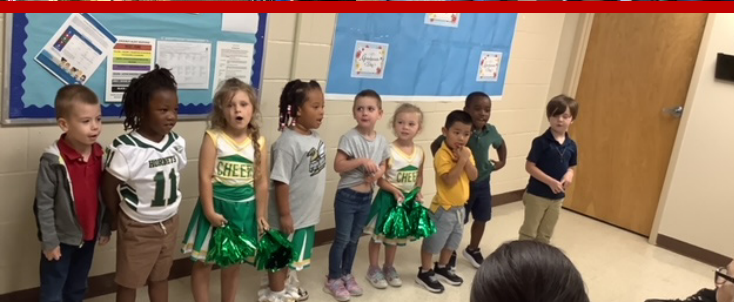




OCTOBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

Picayune School District Early Childhood Programs





SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Happy October! As we embrace the beauty of fall, please make sure you mark your calendar for of the exciting opportunities and activities we have planned for our Head Start/Early Head Start children this month.

As we step into October, I want to take a moment to extend my heartfelt appreciation for your continued support and involvement in our Head Start program. This month marks a time of growth and reflection as we focus on creating a nurturing environment for our children to thrive.

At Head Start/Early Head Start, we are committed to fostering not only the educational development of your children but also their social and emotional well-being. Our dedicated staff works tirelessly to create a safe and inclusive atmosphere where each child feels valued and encouraged to explore their interests.

As we progress through the fall season, we remain focused on our core mission: preparing children for success in school and in life. We are continually assessing and adapting our curriculum to meet the needs of our students, ensuring that they receive the highest quality of early childhood education.

As always, we encourage open communication between home and school. Please feel free to reach out with any questions, concerns, or insights you may have regarding your child's development. Your partnership is vital to our success and the success of your child.

Thank you for being an integral part of our Head Start/Early Head Start family. Wishing you a wonderful October filled with warmth and growth.

**Warm regards,
Dr. Pamela Thomas**

ERSEA

Dear Parents,

Ensuring that your child arrives at school on time and attends regularly is crucial for their success, especially in programs like Head Start and Early Head Start. Consistent attendance and punctuality not only enhance your child's learning experience but also foster a sense of routine and responsibility. To support this, consider setting a consistent bedtime and morning routine to help your child wake up refreshed and ready for the day. Planning ahead outfits, extra clothes or other items the night before can also alleviate morning stress. Remember, every day of learning counts, and your commitment to punctuality and regular attendance plays a significant role in maximizing the benefits of these valuable federal programs. Thank you for your continued support in helping your child thrive!

Also we are excited to announce that open recruitment is now underway for all our sites Picayune and Poplarville for Early Head Start / Head Start program. Applying is easy—just visit psdecp.com and submit your application online. Be sure to provide the required documents to verify eligibility and secure your child's place in our enriching program.

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

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH



Katherine Ledford, Teacher,
PICCP Site



Nora Barquero-Mejia, Staff,
Nicholson Site



Karlee Lilley, A.A. Teacher,
South Side Lower Pre-K



Myeisha Banks, A.A. Teacher,
EHS Rosa Site



Priscilla Acker, A.A. Teacher,
EHS Rosa Site



Dear Parents/ Guardians,

We would like to take the time to inform you that October is Domestic Violence Awareness month. This is a month dedicated to raising awareness, sharing resources, and showing support for those impacted by domestic violence. Domestic violence is a pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is being utilized in order to gain and maintain power and control. The effect of domestic violence can be long lasting, impacting not only the individual but also families, children, and communities.

Domestic violence is not limited to physical harm. Some examples of other types of domestic violence are:

Emotional/Psychological/ Verbal Abuse- demeaning a victim by humiliation, criticism, name-calling, gaslighting, blame or threats.

Financial Abuse- When the abuser maintains total control occur shared finances as a form of controlling a victim. This includes limiting their access to funds, forbidding them from holding a job, or intentionally ruining a victim's credit.

Sexual Abuse- When an abuser pressure or forces a victim to engage in sexual behavior they did not consent to.

Ways to Help

- ❖ **Know the signs-** Domestic violence can happen to anyone regardless of gender, age, race, socioeconomic status, or background. There are generally warning signs that the abuser may exhibit like: Making you feel guilty for all the problems in the relationship, threatening violence against you, your pets or someone you love to gain compliance, and Discouraging you from spending time away from your partner.
- ❖ **Don't ignore it-** If you hear your neighbors engaged in a violent situation, call the police. It could save a life.
- ❖ **Lend an ear-** If someone ever confides in you they are experiencing domestic violence, listen without judgment. Believe what they are telling you and ask how you can help.
- ❖ **Check in regularly-** If a loved one or friend is in danger, reach out regularly to ensure his or her safety.
- ❖ **Be available-** If someone you know is thinking about leaving or is in fear the violence will escalate, be ready to help. Keep your phone with you and the ringer on, make sure you have gas in your car and discuss an escape plan or meeting place ahead of time.

Let's use this month to not only raise awareness but inspire real change. Every voice, every action, and every effort count. Together we can make a difference. If in need of additional resources, you can contact Mental Health at (601)-799-1716.

<https://www.domesticshelters.org/articles/ending-domestic-violence/understanding-domestic-violence>

<https://www.domesticshelters.org/articles/ending-domestic-violence/10-ways-you-can-help-prevent-domestic-violence-where-you-live>

DISABILITIES SERVICES

Greetings parents, friends and family:

October is Learning Disabilities Awareness Month and here at Picayune Head Start and Early Head Start we are committed to creating an inclusive environment that welcomes and supports children with disabilities. **ALL CHILDREN**, regardless of ability, are provided with equal and fair access to learning and growth opportunities.

PHS and EHS offer individualized support for children with disabilities that may include specialized instruction and accommodations to foster development, services like physical, occupational and speech therapy, and assistive technology.

Upcoming parent trainings and recommended resources:

Our family resources and educational opportunities are available to any family who are seeking workshops, training sessions, and support groups. Take a look at our offerings:

- **Resources:** *Tools to Grow*, personal library of various books and resources upon request.
- **Educational Materials:** Helpful topics can be searched on Instagram, Pinterest, and YouTube.
- **Parent Training:** This month's training includes "Simple Activities to Increase PreSchooler's Attention Span, and Ways to include Children with Autism." In-person training available upon Request.

We got spirit, how about you: PHS & EHS host September events with fun and grandparents!

This month, we hosted a number of events like our annual Grandparents Day! And our Community Helpers day with our local Fire Station.



We are proud of our children's accomplishments and the hard work of our dedicated staff. Thank you PHS and EHS parents and the Picayune community for making a small town a good place for all children to thrive.

Upcoming events

Here's a listing of our upcoming events (SSL = South Side Lower; HS = Head Start):

October 17th (SSL)	October 21st-25th (HS)	October 25th (HS)	October 31st (HS)
Fall Fest	Spirit Week	Fall Fest	Trunk or Treat

Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you have questions, suggestions, or to simply share your success story. We value your feedback and input!

Peace and blessings,

Ann Brock
Disability Coordinator for Early Headstart
abrock@pcu.k12.ms.us
601-749-3306

Sonya Newkirk
Disability Coordinator for Headstart
slather@pcu.k12.ms.us
601-799-1716

HEALTH

HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

1. Plan costumes that are bright & reflective
2. Make sure shoes fit well
3. Make sure costumes are short enough to prevent tripping
4. Consider adding reflective tape or striping to costumes
5. DO NOT allow your young child wear a mask that can block eyesight and breathing.
6. Use flame resistant costumes and wigs
7. Do not allow young child to carry a sword, cane or stick. If child stumbles or falls these items can cause injury.
8. Use flashlights with fresh batteries when walking from house to house
9. Children should always be accompanied by an adult, not an older child.
10. Only go to homes with a porch light on and never enter a home or car for a treat
11. Carry a cell phone for communication
12. Remain on well-lit streets and always use the sidewalk
13. If no sidewalk is available, walk at the far edge of the road facing traffic
14. Never cut across yards or use alleys
15. Only cross the street as a group in established crosswalks
16. Never cross the street between parked cars
17. A good meal prior to trick-or-treat and parties will discourage young children from filling up on Halloween candy
18. Wait until children are home to sort and check treats
19. Never consume items that are unwrapped or suspicious

Your Health Team

EHS/CCP Manager: Neterior McCormick, BS, RMA
HS/PRE-K Manager: Pamela Frazier, RN
Site Nurses: Rosa/Annie's: Yvette Burton, LPN
Nicholson/ PRCC: Chelsea Dennis, LPN



Family Service Department

October, 2024
Newsletter

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.



This month Family Services would like to spotlight Elise Duke. Elise is currently a Student w/ the University of Southern Miss where she currently has the GPA of a 4.0. She is currently in her final Semester. She will Graduate in December with her Bachelor's Degree in Social Work. Elise, who attended the Head Start program when she was a child, is completing her Internship hours at the Picayune School District Head Start while learning the role of being a Family Advocate. Elise has shown great interest in learning the ins and outs of the Head Start Program. She shows great enthusiasm in everything that she does, from greeting the parents and students in the morning, to interviewing parenting and gathering required information needed to best help each individual family. Elise has stated that she would love to someday officially work for the Picayune School District Head Start Program, but until that day comes she will continue to learn as much as she can so that she can apply that knowledge to any future opportunities that may arise. We'd like to Congratulate Ms. Duke on the hard work she has shown so far and wish her luck on any future endeavors once she graduates.

Spotlight In-Kind

of our operations. All parents have been notified and explained the importance of completing the in-kinds. If you have not started to complete your 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.

Totals for the month of September 1st-23rd

EHS Target	Amount	HS/Pre-K	Amount	CCP	Amount
EHS 14,190.28	13,810.61 97.32%	Pic HS 10,642.73	10,768.62 101.18%	Annie 13,238.68	7,852.55 59.52%
(NEHS) 7,095.13	5,460.60 76.96%	PopHS 4,561.18	2,490.64 54.61%	PRCC 3,782.48	1,057.40 27.96%
		Pre-K 6,081.56	9,038.29 148.62%		

** Highlighted numbers reached their goals.

No School October 14th & 15th (Fall Break)

Upcoming Events October

Head Start / Pre-K

Picayune HS Events (Oct)	Pre-K Events (Oct)	Poplarville Events (Oct)
Think Pink wear pink on Friday	Think Pink wear pink on Friday	Think Pink wear pink on Friday
Fall Pictures (Oct. 9 th & 10 th)	SSL Grandparent Day (Oct 3)	King & Queen Drive (Oct 7-21)
King & Queen Drive (Oct. 7-21)	King & Queen Drive (Oct 7 - 21)	Fall Pictures (Oct. 22 nd)
Spirit Week (Oct. 21 - 25)	Fall Pictures (Oct 9 th)	Head Start Celebration (Oct 25)
Fall Festival (October 25 th)	Fall Festival (Oct 17 th)	Trunk Or Treat / Costume Contest (October 31 st)
Trunk or Treat/Costume Contest (October 31 st)		

Early Head Start / CCP

Early Head Start Rosa/Annie	Nicholson EHS	PRCC
Wear Pink on Fridays	Wear Pink on Fridays	Wear Pink on Fridays
Fall Pictures (Oct.10-11)	King & Queen (Oct 7-21)	King & Queen (Oct 7-21)
King & Queen Drive (Oct 7-21)	Fall Festival (Oct 18 th)	Fall Festival (Oct. 25)
Fall Festival (Oct 18)	Fall Pictures (Oct 8 th)	Trick or Treat on Campus/
Trunk r Treat Costume contest (Oct 30)	Trunk r Treat Costume Pumpkin contest (Oct 30)	Costume, Pumpkin Contest (October 31 st)

PARENT MEETING DATES

Nicholson Early Head Start (October 8, 2024, 4 p.m.)

Early Head Start (October 8, 2024, 5 p.m.)

PRCC (October 9, 2024, 11:00 a.m.)

Poplarville Head Start (October 9, 2024 4 p.m.)

Picayune Head Start (October 10, 2024, 5 p.m.)

EDUCATION – HS/PRE-K

Dear Head Start Families,

Fall is here! There are so many fun, exciting things to look forward to during this season. There are also many ways that you can get involved in your child's education and so many activities that you can do with your child at home. The following fall activities are easy to set up and are sure to keep your children busy and happy:

Fall Sensory Bin – A fall sensory bin is a box of autumnal items that will allow your kids to sharpen their fine motor skills, as well as explore new textures and sensations.
Nature Treasure Hunt – Put together a list of treasures that can be found in your back yard and ask your kids to find them.

Pumpkin Decorating – Pick up a few pumpkins at the local pumpkin patch or a grocery store near your home. Then let kids choose their favorite from the bunch, paint silly faces on them, add Halloween-themed stickers and unleash their creativity.

Autumn Dress Up – You could fill a bin with mittens, beanies, scarves and coats and ask your kids to dress themselves in their favorite items. Adult-sized clothing works best because the larger sizes make it easier for young children to slip in and out of each item.

Leaf Mazes – Instead of throwing your leaf piles into the trash bin, arrange them into a maze that your kids must navigate. All you have to do is rake the leaves into lines, leaving small openings every so often for kids to walk between. Your kids will learn critical-thinking and problem-solving skills as they have a blast navigating your labyrinth.

Indoor Light Shows – Turn off the lights and let your kids play with flashlights and light-up toys.

Whether you decorate pumpkins, play autumn dress up or put on an indoor light show your children will have a great time, especially if they are doing these things with YOU!

Sincerely,

Ashley Veerkamp, Education Manager
Dinah Thanars, Teacher Mentor Coach
LaKeshia Price, Teacher Mentor Coach

OCTOBER 2024 (Head Start / Early Head Start Center-Based Menu)

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
	1. Breakfast: French- Toast, Diced Peaches, Milk, Water Lunch: Macaroni and Cheese, Mixed Veggies, Fresh Baked Roll, Mandarin Oranges, Milk, Water	2. Breakfast: Cheese Grits, Diced Pineapple, Milk, Water Lunch: Hamburger on Bun, Steamed Carrots, Blueberries, Milk, Water	3. Breakfast: Biscuit with Egg Patty, Applesauce, Milk, Water Lunch: Grilled Chicken on Bun, Yam Patty, Blueberries, Milk, Water	4. Breakfast: Chex Cinamon, Cereal, Diced Peas, Milk, Water Lunch: Cheese Pizza, Broccoli, Diced Peaches, Milk, Water
7. Breakfast: Oatmeal, Diced Peaches, Milk, Water Lunch: Spaghetti & Meat Sauce, Spinach, Fresh Baked Roll, Applesauce, Milk, Water	8. Breakfast: Biscuit with Egg Patty, Mandarin Oranges, Milk, Water Lunch: Hamburger Steak w/ Gravy, Green Peas, Fresh Baked Roll, Strawberries, Milk, Water	9. Breakfast: Rice Chex Cereal, Diced Pineapple, Milk, Water Lunch: Grilled Chicken on Bun, Broccoli, Diced Peas, Milk, Water	10. Breakfast: Grits, Applesauce, Milk, Water Lunch: Cheese Pizza, Steamed Carrots, Diced Peaches, Milk, Water	11. Breakfast: Waffle, Kiwi, Milk, Water Lunch: Hamburger on Bun, Sweet potato Fries, Applesauce, Milk, Water
14. Fall Break	15. Fall Break	16. Breakfast: Oatmeal, Diced Peaches, Milk, Water Lunch: BBQ Chicken on Bun, Sliced Baked Potatoes, Diced Pineapple, Milk, Water	17. Breakfast: Biscuit With Egg Patty, Applesauce, Milk, Water Lunch: Hamburger on Bun, Broccoli, Diced Peaches, Milk, Water	18. Breakfast: Chex Cinnamon Cereal, Diced Peas, Milk, Water Lunch: Baked Chicken Tender, Fresh Baked Roll, Steamed Carrots, Mandarin Oranges, Milk, Water
21. Breakfast: French Toast, Applesauce, Milk, Water Lunch: Hamburger on Bun, Baked Sliced Potatoes, Strawberries, Milk, Water	22. Breakfast: Cheesy Grits, Diced Peaches, Milk, Water Lunch: Red Beans & Rice, Spinach, Fresh Baked Roll, Mandarin Oranges, Milk, Water	23. Breakfast: Chex Cinnamon Cereal, Diced Pineapple, Milk, Water Lunch: Spaghetti/Meat Sauce, Steamed Carrots, Fresh Baked Roll, Blueberries, Oranges, Milk, Water	24. Breakfast: Oatmeal, Mandarin Oranges, Milk, Water Lunch: Grilled chicken on Bun, Baked Beans, Diced Peas, Milk, Water	25. Breakfast: Biscuit With Egg Patty, Diced Peaches, Milk, Water Lunch: Cheese Pizza, Sliced Baked Potatoes, Strawberries, Milk, Water
28. Breakfast: Oatmeal, Diced Peaches, Milk, Water Lunch: Spaghetti & Meat Sauce, Spinach, Fresh Baked Roll, Applesauce, Milk, Water	29. Breakfast: Biscuit with Egg Patty, Mandarin Oranges, Milk, Water Lunch: Hamburger Steak w/ Gravy, Green Peas, Fresh Baked Roll, Strawberries, Milk, Water	30. Breakfast: Rice Chex Cereal, Diced Pineapple, Milk, Water Lunch: Grilled Chicken on Bun, Broccoli, Diced Peas, Milk, Water	31. Breakfast: Grits, Applesauce, Milk, Water Lunch: Cheese Pizza, Steamed Carrots, Diced Peaches, Milk, Water	1. Breakfast: Waffle, Kiwi, Milk, Water Lunch: Hamburger on Bun, Sweet Potato Fries, Applesauce, 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