



May 2017



Head Start! Early Head Start News

Parents/Guardians & Friends of Head Start/Early Head Start:

*Head Start /Early Head Start is
always recruiting!*

Please recruit your family &
friends' children for the Head
Start/Early Head Start Programs!

For information and/or
applications please call.....

301-783-1730 for

Stacy Funkhouser

UPCOMING EVENTS/ PARENT INVOLVEMENT

May 8th: Centers Closed-
Parent/Teacher Conferences

May: Program Graduations for
children transitioning to
Kindergarten

May 17th: Policy Council/
Parent Involvement

May 22nd: Last day for
children enrolled in half day
services

May 23rd: Last day for half day
staff

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Dear Parents and Children,

Warm weather has finally arrived! It is so hard to believe we have almost completed another year! Where does the time go? We still have some great events coming up before we end the year that we hope everyone will take part in. Graduation ceremonies will take place in May for our children going to Kindergarten next year. Until then, we hope everyone is having a great year and has a super last month of school. ~Program Staff

Here are the 10 kindergarten readiness skills to focus on as you work with your child. Don't be concerned if she does not have them all down before the first day of kindergarten, as she will continue to work on them throughout the year. Try a few activities listed for the skills your child might need to work on a bit more before she starts school.

Writing:

- Help your child practice writing letters, especially the letters in his/her name.
- Teach your child how to write her name with an uppercase first letter and the remaining letters in lowercase.
- Write in shaving cream in the bathtub, salt or sugar in a cake pan or in finger paint to make practicing more fun and multisensory.

Letter Recognition:

- Play games to help your child recognize some letters of the alphabet.
- Play hide and seek with refrigerator magnets.
- Rather than drilling your child with flashcards, use them to play a game of alphabet go fish.

Beginning Sounds:

- Make your child aware of the sound that each letter makes.
- Find items around the house that begin with the same sound and identify the letter that makes each sound.
- Overemphasize the first sound in words to help your child hear the individual sounds in words.

Number Recognition and Counting:

- Count throughout the day (for example, the crackers he is eating for snack or the socks that you take out of the dryer).
- Point out numbers you see in your environment and have your child name them (for example, the numbers found on food boxes or street signs).

Shape and Colors:

- If your child is having trouble recognizing certain colors, you might add a little food coloring to cookie dough, milk or vanilla pudding to emphasize those colors.
- Help your child recognize more difficult shapes such as diamonds and rectangles by showing her how to draw them on paper and cut them out.
- Play games in which your child finds objects of particular colors and shapes around the house or in the neighborhood as you drive.

Fine Motor Skills:

- Give your child several different writing options (colored pencils, crayons or markers) to help keep him interested in writing and drawing.
- Playing with play dough is a fun way to strengthen the muscles of the hand that will be used for writing.

Cutting:

- Purchase a good pair of child-safe scissors and let your child practice.
- Give her old magazines or newspapers to cut up, or allow him to make a collage of the things he likes by cutting them from magazines and gluing them to a piece of paper. Cutting play dough is also fun for children.

Reading Readiness:

- Run your finger under the words as you read to your child to help her learn that words go from left to right and top to bottom.
- Play games with rhyming words to help your child hear similar sounds in words. For example, as you are going up the stairs, name one word that rhymes with cat for each step as you go up.

Attention and Following Directions:

- Read lots of stories with your child and work up to reading longer chapter books, one chapter each night or as long as he remains interested and focused.
- Give your child two and three step directions. For example: "put on your pajamas, brush your teeth and pick a book to read."
- Play Simon Says with two or three step directions. For example: "Simon Says jump up and down and shout hooray."

Social Skills:

- Give your children opportunities to interact with other children in preschool, church or social groups or play dates.
- Teach your child how to express her feelings if she doesn't like something.
- Role-play different situations he might experience on the playground or at school. Help him find solutions for typical problems he might encounter.

Chances are you're already practicing many of these skills your child will need for kindergarten. Remember to keep it fun and don't make it stressful for you or your child. With just a little fun practice, your child will be prepared for her elementary school debut!

Cumberland Street

NEWS FROM 1B: The children are enjoying our Watch it Grow unit. They love to pretend to be seeds and grow into beautiful flowers. We are even growing sunflowers in the classroom for the children to take home when they mature. Our next unit starting is Weather Watchers. Our end of the year picnic is coming up and so is graduation. I want to wish all of our graduates the best of luck in Kindergarten. I hope everyone has a safe and terrific Summer! Picture: 1B 2017 Graduates



NEWS FROM 2B: Ms. Andrea and Ms. Danyelle-Hello! We are quickly approaching the final stretch of our school year, but we still have exciting and fun activities lined up. We have started our final unit in our InvestiGator Club curriculum, Weather Watchers. We will be learning about rain and snow, sun and clouds, the sky, and seasons. In our plans, we also have our end of the year picnic. It will be Friday May 12th at 1:30 at Constitution Park. It will be at pavilion #5 (by the duck pond). All families are encouraged to attend and enjoy the day with their child. Also, we have Graduation coming up. Pictured are the fourteen students that will be graduating from our Head Start class. Graduation will be Monday May 15th at 6pm at Allegany High School's Auditorium. As always, parents and guardians are welcome to volunteer in the classroom. We look forward to seeing you!



NEWS FROM 1A: As the year comes to an end, class 1A has been as busy as ever! We just finished up a unit *Splash and Dig* where we learned all about different bodies of water and how things grow. As part of the study, we visited the YMCA for swimming lessons and the HRDC Senior center for stories about growing. We also tried new foods during our unit, such as broccoli, jicama, and radishes. For the month of May, we are studying *Weather Watchers* and will be learning all about seasons and weather. We will also continue with our swim lessons and have our class interns teaching some exciting lessons! Check out our monthly calendar for more upcoming events!



NEWS FROM 2A: Our class has been on several field trips during March and April. In March we went to the fire station. The fire fighters showed the children around the fire station and showed them what a fire fighter looks like when he has all of his gear on. We would like to thank the Cumberland Senior Center for inviting us to the egg hunt at Constitution Park. It was a cold morning but the children loved it. We have been spending time learning about how things grow and are ending the year studying the seasons and weather. We will be going to Evergreen Heritage Center the beginning of May and having an end of year picnic at Constitution Park. Information will be sent home.

NEWS FROM 3A: The beginning of April has been a busy time for the friends in Ms. Brooke & Ms. Taryn's class. We started the month off with a new unit called "Watch Me Grow!" We have been discussing fruits, vegetables and flowers and their growth processes. We've done taste tests with some new vegetables and also planted flower seeds, which we will be observing over the next many weeks. In celebration of the Easter holiday we participated in an Easter Egg Hunt with the HRDC Senior Center and also held an Easter party in the classroom, where we made several crafts and enjoyed a tasty snack. We are looking forward to the last few weeks of Head Start with some exciting upcoming activities. We held our annual Skating Event at Moon Glo on April 19th from 7-9, A trip to Rocky Gap on April 20th and will be beginning our final study of the year on April 24th with "Weather Watchers!" Looking ahead into May we will be "weather watching" & looking for signs of Spring during a nature walk on May 3rd. End of the year parent conferences will take place on Monday, May 8th @ the Head Start center and we will be holding our End of the Year Picnic on Friday, May 12th!!! Be sure that families of our graduating friends mark their calendars for May 15th, as graduation will be held at Allegany High School beginning at 6pm. Head Start's last day will be on Monday, May 22nd! We have had such a wonderful year here in classroom 3A! Thank you to all the parents /guardians who have



NEWS FROM 3B: CBST 3B has had a busy and exciting past few weeks! We just finished up our *Splash and Dig* Unit where we learned all about different bodies of water and animals that live in each! As a part of our study, we visited Rocky Gap State Park where we were able to see the lake, shore, and animals that live there! We turned our dramatic play area into a “beach” and students were able to play in sand and water buckets to enjoy experiments! We are currently learning about things that grow in our new unit, *Watch it Grow!* We get to take walks on the canal, go to the park, and go on our playground to search for things that grow (trees, flowers, animals, and people). We have a dirt table in centers, where the students are able to dig throughout the dirt to search for live things, using their magnifying glass! We even made mud pies in our class! This was our favorite! In celebration of Earth Day on April 22, we will be taking a field trip to the recycling center this month to learn all about recycling and how to keep our earth healthy! We can’t wait to “spring” into the new and exciting things we have planned for this month! Check out our monthly calendar for more upcoming events! Ms. Kayla & Mr. Brian!

Cumberland Street Cont.



Mount Savage News...

NEWS FROM MS1: MS1 has been busy swimming into Spring! We have been enjoying our swim lessons at the YMCA and have become very good at scooping, kicking and jumping in the water! We are learning about things that grow and have planted some tomato and Zinnia seeds that we are anxiously awaiting to sprout! We have been keeping active by dancing to many silly songs on these rainy days and enjoying the fun of the playground on the sunny days! We are so excited to have 12 of our friends graduating this year! You will all do great in Kindergarten! A special thank you to all of our parents who helped by volunteering in our classroom and on field trips! You are what makes our classroom so much fun! Have a great summer!

NEWS FROM MS2: As we finish up our year, we have a lot of fun things to wrap up our year! We have been learning about things that grow, what it takes to make things grow and identifying living and nonliving things. The children have planted seeds for both mom and dad... Wonder what will come up?? We have been enjoying swim lessons at the YMCA. We have so many great swimmers!! Upcoming events in Ms. Autumn’s room are finishing up swim lessons, graduation for our Head Start graduates and a huge End of the Year picnic!! We can’t wait to share these moments with our families to end the year!

Allegheny College Head Start

NEWS FROM ACHS: It has been an exciting time in ACHS this month. We have been honing our swimming skills with swimming lessons at the YMCA, hunting for Easter eggs, and visiting with our friend Ms. Tammy from the library. Also, we have been studying things that grow such as trees, vegetables and flowers, and are experimenting with growing a cactus in our room. Next we are going to be studying the weather and seasons. We are ready for a fun filled spring. Happy Spring from ACHS!



SEYMOUR STREET

NEWS FROM SS2: March and April were jammed pack with a lot of fun; in March, our students and their families had an opportunity to attend the School Readiness with Dr. Seuss. We also had a field trip to John Humbird Elementary School for the Mobile Planetarium. Our students especially enjoyed the Planetarium, Elmo and friends were a huge hit! As always, we welcomed our friendly librarian Ms. Tammy for story time and crafts. Our students would like to thank the Senior Center for hosting the Easter egg hunt at Constitution Park; a day to hunt candy filled eggs and ride the school bus is just a pure happiness! Another special thank you to the volunteers who provided candy and hid the eggs for our annual school Easter egg hunt at Smith Park. Our little ones also dyed Easter eggs, bright colored eggs filled our tables; along with red, blue, green, purple, brown hands! Creativity and a little bit of science. Thanks to Craig for boiling our eggs. The skating social was the big talk amongst our students that attended; they enjoyed skating and eating pizza!

Seymour Street EHS

There have been some changes in Ms. Kayleen and Ms. Brittany's room! Ms. Mindy accepted a new position at the Cresaptown HS Pre-K Program! Ms. Jessica has been helping out in the classroom since she left! We have been having a lot of fun this month! We made a lot of crafts to celebrate St. Patrick's Day! We have been enjoying the nicer days during the month by playing outside and taking walks around the neighborhood! We are looking forward to more nice days so we can enjoy the playground! Below is our friend Kade celebrating St. Patrick's Day with some funky glasses and a hat we made together in class!



EHS Home Base

Early Head Start Home Based families had a blast at our socials each month. We had a Valentine's Day social where the kids read books, colored, and searched for the hearts laying around the room. In March, we had a YMCA soft play room social. The kids enjoyed playing, climbing, and exploring the soft mat room. In April, we had a great turn out at our spring social at HRDC. The kids dyed Easter eggs and went for an Easter egg hunt. We also have the Judy Center Family Socials that take place once a month to all families enrolled in Early Head Start and those interested in the program. The next Judy Center social is Wednesday, May 24th from 9:00AM – 10:30AM located at Beall Elementary School Head Start Center.



NEWS FROM BA: News from Bel Air...As the school year is quickly coming to an end, we finished up the month of March with an investigation of Splash and Dig, where we learned all about the different places we find water and all the fun we can have with water. We took a class vote of what we would all like to do over summer break and the majority of the children said that they want to go swimming. A few, teachers included can't wait to go to the beach! We headed into April with an investigation called Watch it Grow, where we have been learning about trees, flowers, how fruits and vegetables grow. The children loved learning about the life cycle of a plant, counting and sorting seeds, how fruits and vegetables grow, and how they get to the stores where we can buy them. We have been working really hard to learn all the letters of the alphabet, the sounds the letters make and tons of words that start with those letters. Over the past several weeks we have learned about the letters, L,O,R,Z,I,T,B,J,and Q. April has been a very special month as we celebrated Easter and have been loving the warm spring weather and getting to play outside. We had a fantastic Easter celebration, with several craft activities and games and a big Easter egg hunt and we all enjoyed our Easter break. As May is right around the corner, we are preparing for our last month of school where we will all become Weather Watchers as we launch into a new investigation. Throughout this investigation we will learn about rain and snow, the sun and the clouds, the seasons, and other things we see in the sky. This last investigation, leaves us with only five letters of the alphabet, W, U, G, K, and X. We will also be preparing for graduation and our end of year picnic celebration. It had been a fabulous school year and we couldn't be more proud of all the children's accomplishments and growth. As many of our friends will be moving on to Kindergarten, we wish them and their families all the best. For those who will return to us, we'll see you in the fall! Have a safe and happy summer!



We enjoyed the warm weather and a day at the park!



The Intern Jasmine got to teach and she did a shape activity.



Susan K. Westfall

NEWS FROM SKW 1- In the month of March, Miss Savanna and Miss Martha's class studied the Investigator Club unit "Splash and Dig". Our class learned all about water. Our class also enjoyed a field trip to the Planetarium at FSU where we learned about the planets in our solar system. For the month of April, we have been studying "Watch It Grow," learning about plants and how they grow. April has been a very busy month. We have started swimming lessons at the YMCA and visited the senior center and library. In April, we celebrated Easter by coloring eggs, making Easter bunny baskets, and having an Easter egg hunt. We will begin our "Weather Watchers" unit in May and are excited to learn about the seasons and the water cycle. We can't wait for our End of the Year Picnic and graduation. Happy 5th Birthday to Brody! CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

NEWS FROM SKW2- My friends at SKW2 have been busy in March and April investigating how plants grow in our "Watch It Grow" unit. We planted flowers in individual pots and are patiently waiting for them to bloom for Mother's Day. Dancing and singing to the "Watch it Grow Cha Cha" is our favorite part of the day. Every week, the children bring in something from home that begins with our letter of the week. This week's letter was "Jj" and several children brought in jelly beans, as well as a jump rope and a jumping kangaroo. Parents joined us for a spring celebration, craft, and egg hunt. The children enjoyed searching the football field for special treats left from the Easter Bunny himself! We would like to wish a very Happy Birthday to Gabriel!

We are getting ready to begin our "Weather Watchers" unit and are excited to check our weather station each day to observe how much our weather changes. We will be learning about the seasons and the water cycle, creating real clouds inside the classroom. Coming up in May, we are looking forward to our End of the Year Picnic and graduation. We would like to wish a very Happy Birthday to Carsen! CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES from all of your friends at SKW2! We are so proud of you!

