



The Center

Volume 26, Issue 1

September 1, 2014



Early Childhood Programs of Lake County School District

Our mission is to serve and respect children and families by providing research-based early childhood services that promote the development of knowledge, life skills, and self-esteem.

September Events

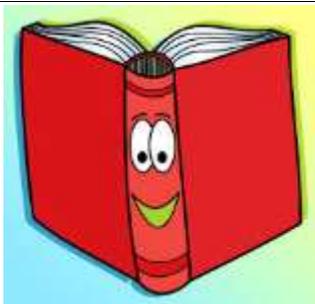
September 3
First Day of Preschool

September 10
Policy Council meeting
5:00-7:00pm

September 25
*Family Fun Night/Eyes
Wide Open
Folkloric Dance
Dinner and Show*
6:00pm

September 30
Picture Day

Every Friday
Teacher Planning
Families Welcome



Parents' Voices

It is important for us to hear from you. We welcome your input to operate a program that meets the needs of the families we serve. To reach:

Paul Ricken 486-6920
Director of Early Childhood Programs

Melina Compean 486-6929
Child Care Director

Policy Council 486-6888
extension 5229

Preschool News

Head Start Updates from Paul Ricken

Hello! Welcome to the 2014-2015 School Year at The Center!

We are excited to see you and your children come through the front door the first week of September! The staff has been working hard these past few weeks to be **sure we are "ready" for your child.** As the new Director of Early Childhood Programs, for the Lake County School District, I work with the managers at The Center to ensure the quality of our program remains high. Our staff, from managers, to teachers to support staff, is here to help everyone who enters our doors, succeed! It was a pleasure to meet you at

the recent Parent Orientation days. While we gave you a lot of information, please know we put all the forms and information you gave back to us to good use. Each year we need to be sure we have all the signatures and information to enroll your child. Thank you for helping us!

Our teaching staff cannot wait to give your child a first class preschool experience. The overall objective of The Center is to be certain your child is ready for Kindergarten, when that time comes for them. Whether we have your child for 1, 2 or 3 years, we are always working with this in mind.

Perhaps you are a bit curious about me! I

moved to Leadville this summer to be the new Director. The great reputation of The Center and meeting some of the manager staff prior to being hired convinced me that the job and community here are right for me! I have Colorado roots, with both my parents and their parents living in Woodland Park, Victor, and Denver over the years. Living here will certainly be a different experience for me that I am looking forward to making the most of. Most recently, I have been living in the San Francisco Bay Area. My daughter will continue to live and go to school there.

Together, we will work **together to give our kid's** the best year, yet!!

Family Fun Night

Join us for dinner and an evening of folkloric dancing by Jeannette Trujillo-Lucero
Thursday, September 25
6:00—Dinner 6:30—Dance Performance
This is a FREE event for the entire community!

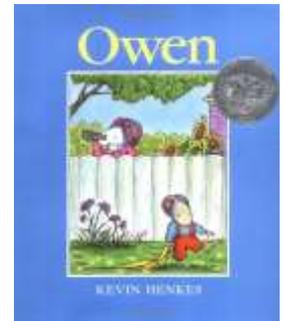


Book Titles for Back to School

We all fear the unknown—children are no exception. The characters on these pages coax out what children are worrying about before the start of school and allows for meaningful discussion that might help to quell these fears.

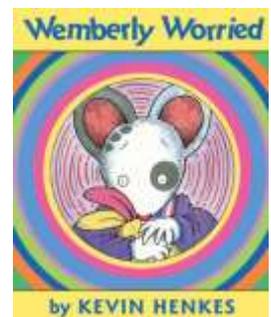
OWEN BY KEVIN HENKES

Kevin Henkes writes often of characters who are going through big changes who learn to adapt and thrive. We recommend *Owen* as a family read for little ones who are worried about what will happen to Blankie (or other lovey-type objects) when school starts.



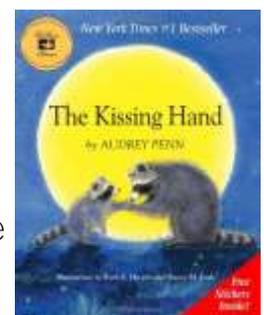
WEMBERLY WORRIED BY KEVIN HENKES

We recommend *Wemberly Worried* for children who are harboring some worries and fears about what the first day of school will **be like: "What if no one else has spots? What if no one else wears stripes? What if no one else brings a doll? What if the teacher is mean? What if the room smells bad?"** Even children **who are not naturally "worriers" will find delight in seeing how Wemberly overcomes her worries about starting school.**



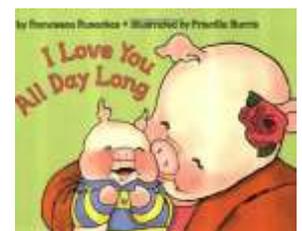
THE KISSING HAND BY AUDRY PENN

Many parents and teachers turn to this book title to help comfort the **"I'll miss you, Mom!"** fears that often accompany the first days of school. Mrs. Raccoon gives Chester Raccoon a kiss on the hand that will go with him on his first night of school.



I LOVE YOU ALL DAY LONG BY FRANCESCA RUSACKA

I Love You All Day Long is a comforting transition book for the first days of preschool or kindergarten. This book is a heart-warming, comforting tale of how a parent's love stays with a child whether they are together or apart-all day long.





If you would like to give your suggestions for the preschool menu, please call AnnaMarie Valdez at 486-6923 for the date of the next Nutrition Committee meeting



From Anna Marie Valdez,
Health Manager

September 2014 Preschool Menu

		Wednesday- 3	Thursday- 4	Friday- 5
		PANCAKES, APPLESAUCE ----- SACK LUNCH—TURKEY & CHEESE SANDWICH ----- CHEERIOS	BAGEL WITH CREAM CHEESE, FRUIT ----- SPAGHETTI WITH MEAT SAUCE, ROLL, SALAD ----- CHEESE STICK, MINI MUFFIN	CEREAL, FRUIT ----- HOT DOG, BAKED BEANS, FRUIT ----- CHEESE & CRACKERS
Monday- 8	Tuesday- 9	Wednesday- 10	Thursday- 11	Friday- 12
HARD BOILED EGG, GOLDFISH, FRUIT ----- HAMBURGER, FRENCH FRIES, FRUIT ----- GRAHAM CRACKERS, VEGGIES	CEREAL, FRUIT ----- CHICKEN ENCHILADA CASSEROLE, VEGGIES, CINNAMON STICK, FRUIT ----- GRANOLA BAR, FRUIT	FRENCH TOAST, FRUIT ----- SACK LUNCH—SUB SANDWICH ----- SUNFLOWER BUTTER, PITA BREAD	SOFT PRETZEL, CHEESE SAUCE, FRUIT ----- COWBOY MACARONI, SALAD, FRUIT ----- YOGURT, FRUIT	CEREAL, FRUIT ----- BBQ SANDWICH, CORN, FRUIT ----- GOLDFISH CRACKERS, FRUIT
Monday- 15	Tuesday- 16	Wednesday- 17	Thursday- 18	Friday- 19
GOLDFISH SANDY, FRUIT ----- CHICKEN TENDERS, GOLDFISH, VEGGIES, FRUIT ----- ANIMAL CRACKERS, VEGGIES	CEREAL, FRUIT ----- NACHOS WITH GROUND BEEF, BEAN SALAD, CINNAMON STICK, CORN, FRUIT ----- COTTAGE CHEESE, FRUIT	PANCAKES, APPLESAUCE, FRUIT ----- SACK LUNCH—HOT POCKET ----- CHEERIOS	BAGEL WITH CREAM CHEESE, FRUIT ----- BEAN BURRITO, SALAD, FRUIT ----- CHEESE STICK, MINI MUFFIN	CEREAL, FRUIT ----- TURKEY AVOCADO WRAP, THREE BEAN SALAD, FRUIT ----- CHEESE & CRACKERS
Monday- 22	Tuesday- 23	Wednesday- 24	Thursday- 25	Friday- 26
HARD BOILED EGG, GOLDFISH, FRUIT ----- GRILLED CHICKEN SANDWICH, FRENCH FRIES, FRUIT ----- GRAHAM CRACKERS, VEGGIES	CEREAL, FRUIT ----- BEEF TACO, SPICY BEANS, FRUIT ----- GRANOLA BAR, FRUIT	FRENCH TOAST, APPLESAUCE, FRUIT ----- SACK LUNCH—TURKEY & CHEESE SANDWICH ----- SUNFLOWER BUTTER, PITA BREAD	PRETZEL, CHEESE STICK, FRUIT ----- PIZZA, SALAD, FRUIT ----- YOGURT, FRUIT	CEREAL, FRUIT ----- CHICKEN STIR FRY, FRIED RICE, FRUIT ----- GOLDFISH, FRUIT
Monday- 29	Tuesday- 30			
GOLDFISH SANDY, FRUIT ----- HAMBURGER, FRENCH FRIES, FRUIT ----- ANIMAL CRACKERS, VEGGIES	CEREAL, FRUIT ----- CHICKEN ENCHILADA CASSEROLE, VEGGIES, CINNAMON STICK, FRUIT ----- COTTAGE CHEESE, FRUIT		<p>Breakfast is served at 9:30 with milk</p> <p>Lunch is served at 12:00 with milk</p> <p>Snack is served at 3:30 with water</p>	
		Menus are subject to change	<p>The Center participates in the USDA funded program and is an equal opportunity provider and employer</p>	



Health News

From AnnaMarie Valdez,
Health Manager

Physical Forms are due every year

Welcome to a great new school year! Remember that all **children's physicals are due by** September 17th.

If you need assistance in making an appointment or have any further questions please feel free to contact me at 486-6923 or at my office in the library.

REMEMBER THAT YOUR CHILD IS NOT ABLE TO ATTEND THE CENTER WITHOUT A PHYSICAL.



Below are a few tips from The National Center on Health when planning a visit to **your physician's office:**

- *Ask for help if you do not understand a health form or do not know how to fill it out.
- *Ask for handouts in the language that is easiest for you to read.
- *Write down questions you have before you go on any health care visit.
- *Tell Your Doctor if you do not understand what he or she is saying.
- *Go to the library and ask how to find accurate information about your health concerns and medicines.
- *Ask your Head Start Program for information on health issues that concern you.
- *Go to health workshops **at your child's Head Start program and in your community.**

Child Care Updates from Melina



It is with great pleasure that we welcome your family to our early childhood program. The teachers and staff anticipate a great year filled with new friendships and a lot of learning. The teachers have been working really hard to get the rooms ready for the first day of school and are excited for their kids to arrive. **Please don't forget to call the school with any questions and always let us know when you need to change the individuals on your child's pick up list.**

If you owe tuition for your child to attend our program you will receive a statement **on your child's cubby.** Do not forget to pay your bill by the 15th to avoid a late charge fee of \$5. Payments can be dropped off in the slot on the second door up at the front office. Let me know if you have any billing questions. Happy September.

Community Connections

*From Mary Cannell,
Family and Community
Partnerships Manager*



CHP+ / MEDICAID

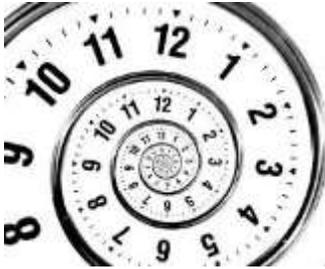
Application assistance available

719.486.6928

For more information, visit Room 9

*Do you want, books, computers,
and the ability to travel through
time and space?*

*Get a
library card!*



Lake County Public Library is located at 1115 Harrison Avenue and provides a number of *FREE* services to the residents of Lake County.

Curious? Just stop by the library or Room 9 for more information.

FREE Family Counseling offered for Head Start Families

Provided by West Central Mental Health

Counseling is offered to families free of charge.

Please arrange an appointment through Room 9




Food Bank of the Rockies

will be distributing free food at St. George's church on the third Wednesday of each month.

There are no applications necessary.

Just arrive at 8:15am to ensure a spot in line.

Bring boxes or bags to carry food home.

Be Your Child's Biggest Fan

Children are looking for your approval at all times. They want to feel that they are wanted, needed, and accepted for who they are. As they begin to grow and learn about their passions, it will be important for you as their parent to do whatever you can to become **your child's biggest fan.**



What does it mean to be your child's biggest

fan? This means that you know your child, their likes, and their dislikes. You know what they aspire to become and the heroes that they have. You are aware of why they do the things they do, and what gives them energy, and what discourages them. Think about fans of celebrities. They are **aware of every single detail of that person's life and will do whatever they can to be that person's biggest proponent and ally.**

As a parent, this is your job. You must take on this role with your child.



When you think about being a fan, the first thing in your mind may be sports, but encouragement can be transferred to anything, whether it is sports, band, drama, schoolwork, or helping around the house.

Ask yourself, "Am I my child's biggest fan? What else can I do to show them my support?"

This article was adapted from www.dadrevolution.com.

Conversation Starter of the Month

Try asking your child....

" If you could eat only one ice cream flavor for a whole year, which would you choose? "

or

" What is your favorite movie and which character do you like the most?"



How to Contact The Center Staff



For voicemail, dial 486-6888, then enter the extension listed.
 For email, use the listed address, then @lakecountyschools.net,
 for example: jsmith@lakecountyschools.net
 Staff members with (*) following their names are bilingual



Name	Position	Room #	Voice Mail	Email
Cannell, Mary	Family and Community Partnerships Manager	9	6928	mcannell
Compean, Melina	Child Care Director	Office	6929	mcompean
Davis, Nicki	Preschool Teacher	1	4404	ndavis
Dokken, Jenna	Preschool Teacher	8	4411	jdokken
Flores, Perla*	Preschool Teacher	5	4408	peflores
Glaser, Sally	Preschool Teacher	4	4407	sglaser
Holm, Lizz	Preschool Teacher	7	4410	lholm
Lenhard, Tanya	Education Manager	Office	6922	tdlenhard
Lopez, Nancy*	Preschool Teacher	6	4409	nalopez
Lopez, Trisha	Preschool Teacher	7	4410	trlopez
Lujan, Jacqueline	Preschool Teacher	6	4409	jlujan
Martinez, Wanda	Preschool Support Staff	9	6920	wmartinez
Mascarenaz, Chantel	Preschool Teacher	3	4406	chmacarenas
Mascarenaz, Jenny*	Transportation Manager	9	6925	jmascarenaz
Mennig, Alicia	Preschool Teacher	5	4408	amennig
Ricken, Paul	Director of Early Childhood Programs	Office	6920	pricken
Roeder, Lisa	Preschool Teacher	1	4404	lroeder
Romero, Marissa	Preschool Teacher	3	4406	mromero
Sandoval, Brandi	Preschool Support Staff	9	6920	brsandoval
Sifuentes, Anne*	Preschool Teacher	4	4407	ansifuentes
Smith, Rebecca	Preschool teacher	8	4411	rebsmith
Valdez, AnnaMarie	Health Manager	Library	6923	avaldez
Policy Council*	Parents/Community Reps	9	5229	mcannell
Preschool Office	Resource Room - 486-6928 and 486-6925			
Child Care	Front Office - 486-6929			

Please Remember!

For Attendance and The Bus please call 486-6925 and leave a message.

This line is checked right before the bus goes out each day, and attendance is recorded from the messages.

Other lines may be checked only once each day.

What is the Head Start
Policy Council?

A board of parents and community representatives who make decisions about the operation of the Head Start program.

Why do we include the meeting
minutes in the newsletter ?

To keep you informed about the program and its services.

How can you give your input ?

Your classroom representative's name is on the bulletin board between Rooms 8 and 9. A suggestion box is near the building entry. To leave a voice mail message, call 486-6888 extension 5229.

The Center Early Childhood Programs - Policy Council Minutes - Meeting Date-May 14, 2014

Attending: Mari Spinner, Melissa Kirr, Liz Flores, Cheryl Talbot, Erin Allaman, Ann Stanek, Harmony Jump, Sally Lein, Melina Compean, Emily Bordogna, Mary Cannell Not attending: Analy Gurrola, Saige Bertolas, Shanae Sanchez, Sonia Luna, Sean Cooper, Francisca Reyes, Kymbr Trujillo, Jackie Littlepage,

The meeting was called to order at 5:20 pm by Melissa.

Roll Call: Mari conducted roll call and Melissa assigned voting spots to alternates to ensure a quorum was present.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes: The agenda and minutes were reviewed. Members requested some additions to the agenda **to talk about the building lock out and Policy Council's role in staff discipline and termination.** Cheryl moved to approve the agenda with the additions, and Sally seconded. The motion passed with all in favor and none opposed. Cheryl moved to approve the minutes from the April 9 regular meeting and the April 21 special meeting, and Sally seconded. The motion passed with all in favor and none opposed.

Treasurer Report: **In Shanae's absence, Mary reported the current balance of the 2014-15 parent activity fund is \$1122.75.** The only expense in the past month was for the meal for the last Policy Council meeting. Members suggested either funding another Kelli McCall talk since the last one was so well received and can be a partnership with BAG. A music event for parents and kids was also discussed. Committee Reports: **Harmony gave the school board report, including information about next year's calendar,** the amazing fund raising results for the intermediate school playground, TCAP scores for 3rd grade, and kudos for the very positive site visit from our Head Start program specialist. Tanya presented the results of the Spring Child Outcome data. She noted that we met the program target of less than 15% of children below expectations in every area except math. Teachers have requested even more training in this area. Scores for social interaction are very strong, and reflect the fact that this is a focus of our program. The Family and Community Partnerships Committee meeting brought some new suggestions on connections, such as planning a special day for fathers to visit school. None of the other committees met this past month.

Training: Mary talked about staying involved and engaged with school as our children get older. Parent presence at school events conveys the importance of school to children and helps to get to know teachers and other parents. **Spending regular time with children helps to get to know them and set the stage for "special" moments. Surveys are an easy way to make your feelings and wishes known and acted upon.**

Director's Report: Emily reported that the budget is in a good place. Everything is on track. Emily has been working with a TTA person to help mentor the new director on key subjects and assist the program with this transition, including PIR reports and board training. Interviews for a new Director of Early Childhood Programs have been taking place with Melissa as the Policy Council representative on the interview team.

New Business: Mary presented the Self-Assessment Results. This document compiles data from many assessment sources from the entire year including the Parent Evaluations, Community Wide Assessment, Staff Survey, Health and Maintenance checklists, and many other sources. The biggest theme that came out of the data was that families, staff, program specialist, and community members view The Center as a friendly, welcoming place for kids and families. Furthermore, Center policies and procedures show a well-run program that adheres to performance standards, and our quest for continuous improvement is evident. Cheryl moved to approve the Self-Assessment results, and Erin seconded. The motion passed with all in favor and none opposed. Policy Council would like to go on record thanking the staff for doing a great job of making kids, families, and community members feel welcome. Mary reviewed the Program Option policy and explained that our Head Start program is as a center based grantee with a home visiting component, which we feel serves our community well. Sally moved to approve the Program Option, and Mari seconded. The motion passed with all in favor and none opposed. Mary reviewed highlights of the Parent Evaluations. 70 surveys have been received. Comments included requests for longer conferences and home visits that included more parent training on how to do practice pack activities like a teacher would, including techniques and language that would connect the homeside activities to what is going on in the classroom. There are still concerns about the menu, but improvements have been made. **Suggestions for enhanced fatherhood engagement included a special FFN or day to visit the school as their child's show and tell subject.** Council members were invited to attend the Strategic Planning session this coming Friday at CMC. The results of these reports will be used at Strategic Planning to help set goals for next year. Council members who are interested in being on Policy Council next year gave permission for their names to be included on the ballot. Members were advised that even though this was the last regular meeting of the school year, special meetings would be requested over the summer to approve new staff. The council discussed with Emily the reasons for the ongoing lockout. Emily explained it was an extra precaution to keep kids and staff safe. She expressed regret at the kids having to give up some outside time and field trips, but affirmed that this was a proactive measure intended to keep **everyone as safe as possible.** **Emily also answered members' questions about Policy Council's role in staff discipline and resignations.** It was clarified that Policy Council must give approval for terminations, but that resignations and the reasons for them are kept confidential. Council requested an edit to the Employee Handbook to make this distinction clearer.

Unfinished Business: Mary presented the Community Assessment as a document that identifies factors in our community that may put kids at risk for school readiness and how our Head Start program addresses those needs. A new version of the Community Assessment will be completed in June. Mary thanked Policy Council for making the suggestion to remind parents they are welcome at school to have lunch with their children. Since the reminder note went out, many parents have joined their classrooms for lunch and many children are inviting their parents, with great results. Thank you gifts of water bottles were presented to members, and binders were returned.

Announcements: The announcements from the agenda were read. These included a notice about enrollment for next year continuing, the Accountability and PAWS meetings days and times, a reminder about the end of the year celebrations, and the next Policy Council meeting on Wednesday, September 10. Council members were invited to come to the September meeting to welcome new members. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm by Melissa.

Respectfully submitted, Mari Spinner, Policy Council Secretary

Lake County School District
The Center / Margaret J. Pitts Elementary School
315 West 6th Street
Leadville, CO 80461

Head Start Program
Paul Ricken, Director of Early Childhood Programs
Phone: 719 486-6920
Fax: 719 486-9992
E-mail: pricken@lakecountyschools.net

Colorado Preschool, & Tuition-Based Programs
Melina Compean, Child Care Director
Phone: 719 486-6929
Fax: 719 486-6934
Email: mcompean@lakecountyschools.net



The Center's Governing Values



We believe:

- All children, families, and staff must be respected for their unique strengths and abilities
- The involvement of the family, regardless of its composition, is an important part of enriching each child's success
- Children have the right to be in a physically, emotionally, and mentally safe environment
- Children learn best in an accepting, loving and fun environment
- That families are a child's first and most influential teachers
- We can support families in advocating for their child's best interest
- It is the responsibility of all staff to nurture, strengthen, inspire and expand each child's abilities, interest, and independence
- All families must have access to affordable child care
- All children must be given equal opportunities to enter formal education ready to learn

If you need to call after 3:30pm

Please call us at 486-6929.

This is the only phone line that is staffed after 3:30pm.

You may leave a message at this number and it will be checked. If you call other numbers, or leave messages at other extensions, your message may not be heard until the following morning.

Parent/Staff Training Opportunities

Financial Literacy Computer-Based Instruction- Available in the Resource Room, the "Money Smart" curriculum is training on financial matters all parents should know. Developed by FDIC.

Car Seat Safety Training- Call Jenny for further information on free car seats for those who need them, and proper installation of new and existing seats. 486-6925.

Committee Updates
(Visit Room 9 for info)

Early Childhood Council
October 7 from 1:00—3:00pm at CMC. Parents and caregivers welcome.

Head Start Policy Council
September 10 at 5:00 in Room 9 at The Center. All Head Start parents are encouraged to volunteer for election to this parent committee.

For Attendance and The Bus please call 486-6925 and leave a message.

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If your child is sick and has a fever, keep him/her at home to prevent the spread of illness to others. Public Health and the School District advise parents to keep children home for 24 hours after the child is free from fever without fever reducing medications.