



The Center

Volume 27, Issue 6
February 1, 2016



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.

February Events

February 10

Classroom Celebrations

10:00-11:00

The Center closes early at 4:00pm

Parent-Teacher Conferences as scheduled

February 11

Parent-Teacher

Conferences as scheduled

February 11—15

The Center is CLOSED

February 17

Policy Council meeting

5:00-7:00pm

February 25

"Night at the Museums"

Family Fun Night

5:30-7:00pm

Every Friday

Teacher Planning

Families Welcome

Preschool News—Head Start Updates

February is Mail Month



During the month of February, children at The Center will be learning all about the mail.

Watch for your cubbies for instructions on making a mailbox for your child to have at school to receive mail. Materials to make mailboxes will also be available at a work station in the hallway during parent-teacher conference times.

You can ask friends and relatives from all over to send mail to your child in care of their room at The Center, 315 West Sixth Street, Leadville, CO 80461.

You can also drop letters for Center kids (postage free) into a cardboard mailbox near room 9.

The children will take turns delivering mail to their friends and finding out where the mail comes from.

During the month, each classroom will also have a field trip to the Post Office, so mark your calendars to come and join the fun.

Remember that classroom celebrations will take place on Wednesday, February 10, and that The Center closes early on that day at 4:00pm for Parent-Teacher Conferences.

Our school will also be closed Thursday, February 11 through Monday, February 15.

And finally—use your new EYC passport to go ice skating for free at our wonderful outdoor skating rink.



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:

Tanya Lenhard 486-6920
Director of Early Childhood Programs

Policy Council 486-6888
extension 2190



"Night at the Museums" ***Family Fun Night***



Thursday, February 25, 5:30-7:00pm

Come and enjoy an evening of art and science right here in the gym.

Updates

Here come the Food Friends

When you offer new foods to your child, does he/she often refuse to eat them? Encouraging kids to try new foods is not always easy.

Beginning this month your child will take part in a program called *The Food Friends*, a program that has been researched and developed at Colorado State University. This is a 12-week program designed to help kids get over picky eating in an effort to develop better eating habits. Kids will do many fun activities that will help them learn about new foods. Kids will also have many chances to try a variety of new foods that may increase their willingness to try new foods. By offering more new foods, kids have the chance to learn about and eat a greater variety of foods.



In addition to the *Fun With New Foods* program for kids at school, we want to help kids try new foods at home. A new food can be:

- a food that your child has never seen or tasted before;
- a food that you have offered before, but your child has been unwilling to try;
- a new kind of a familiar food (like a new kind of apple); or
- ♦ a familiar food prepared a different way (like mashed potatoes instead of fries)

Remember to Enjoy New Foods Today for Good Health Tomorrow!

Lake County Community Health Resources

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Lake County Public Health</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">486-2413</p> <p>Immunization clinic, family planning, health care for children with special needs.</p> <p>Medicaid and CHP+ applications.</p> <p><u>Immunization Clinic</u>- By appointment <u>Family Planning</u>- By appointment <u>Blood Lead Testing</u>- By appointment</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Nutrition Programs</u></p> <p>WIC- 486-2749 Supplemental foods for women, infants and children who qualify.</p> <p>St. George Community Meals- 200 West 4th Free community meals, all are welcome.</p> <p>Please see Mary in Room 9 for more local food resources.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Doctors</u></p> <p><u>Rocky Mountain Family Practice...</u> 486-0500 Dr. Lisa Zwerdinger, Amy King, PA, Tyler Norton, PA</p> <p><u>St Vincent Leadville Medical Clinic...</u> 486-1264 Dr. Gary Petry, Jackie Duba, MPH,PA</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Mental Health/Support Services</u></p> <p>Alcoholics Anonymous.....486-3087</p> <p>Solvista Mental Health.....486-0985</p> <p>Summit Community Care Clinic...970-668-4040</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Dentists</u></p> <p>Dr. Lance Schamberger.....486-2060</p> <p>Dr. Christine Jones.....486-0053</p> <p>Dr. Curtis Slack.....486-3801</p> <p>Pediatric Dental Specialties.....970-668-8668</p> <p>Summit Community Care Clinic.....970-668-4040</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Emergency & Hospital</u></p> <p>Emergency.....911</p> <p>St. Vincent Hospital.....486-0230</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Optometric</u></p> <p>Lake County Vision Center.....486-2505</p>

How to prepare for parent/teacher conferences

A conference with your child's teacher is similar to a visit to the doctor's office. You have a lot that you want to talk about in a limited amount of time. The more prepared you are going in, the more beneficial the meeting will be for both you and the teacher. Here are some tips for a productive conference, along with a list of good questions to ask the teachers.



Schedule your appointment early. If you're one of the first parents to sign up for a conference, you'll be more likely to get a time that works well for you.

Write down your questions. When you're meeting with the teachers it may be hard to remember what you wanted to talk about. Jot down your questions beforehand and bring them to the conference. Prioritize your questions so you ask the most important ones first in case you run out of time before you can cover everything on your list.

Stick to the topic at hand — your child. Most parent-teacher conferences last only a short time. Don't use this time to ask questions about basic school policies. That kind of information can usually be found in the school's handbook, on its website, or by calling the office during business hours. This is your chance to get detailed feedback on your child, so make the most of it.

If you have a specific question or issue that doesn't come up, don't hesitate to ask. The teachers may not realize that you're concerned about something in particular. You know your child better than anyone, so take the initiative.

Try not to get defensive. It's natural to feel a bit nervous about parent-teacher conferences. Every parent wants to hear how wonderful his or her child is — and the teachers should tell you about your child's special skills and achievements. But one of the main functions of these conferences is to point out areas where your child has room to develop. The teachers may even suggest extra help, testing, or some ways to increase consistency between school and home.

Keep in mind that this is a part of all parent-teacher conferences. Resist the urge to argue with the teachers or dismiss their comments. They are not blaming you or your child. The point of this meeting is to get an assessment of how your child is doing in school and to look for ways you can help.

Remind yourself that the teachers are on your side and you have the same goal: to help your child learn all that he or she can.

Get a feel for the social scene. How your child fits in socially can have an effect on how well he or she learns. Ask the teachers how your child gets along with the other children.

Give the teacher relevant information. Let the teachers know of any changes at home. A new baby, a divorce, or a death in the family can all affect the way your child behaves in the classroom.

Stay in touch with the teacher. Now that you've opened the door to communication, don't wait until the next conference to talk. Call the teachers in a few weeks if you have a question or if you need to update them on something you talked about during the conference.

Adapted from : http://www.babycenter.com/0_how-to-prepare-for-parent-teacher-conferences_65700.bc?showAll=true



February 2016 Preschool Menu

Monday- 1	Tuesday- 2	Wednesday- 3	Thursday- 4	Friday- 5
CEREAL, FRUIT ----- GRILLED CHICKEN ON BUN, FRENCH FRIES, FRUIT ----- ANIMAL CRACKERS, VEGGIES	CHEESY BAGEL, FRUIT ----- ITALIAN DIP STICKS, VEGGIES, FRUIT ----- COTTAGE CHEESE, FRUIT	CEREAL, FRUIT ----- GRILLED HAM & CHEESE SANDWICH, VEGGIES, FRUIT ----- GRAHAM CRACKERS, FRUIT	WAFFLE STICKS, FRUIT ----- BEEF AND GRAVY NOODLES, GREEN BEANS, FRUIT ----- HARD BOILED EGG, CRACKERS, FRUIT	CEREAL, FRUIT ----- MACARONI & CHEESE, CHICKEN TENDERS, VEGGIES, FRUIT ----- BLUEBERRY MUFFIN, FRUIT
Monday- 8	Tuesday- 9	Wednesday- 10	Thursday- 11	Friday- 12
CEREAL, FRUIT ----- HAMBURGER ON A BUN, FRENCH FRIES, FRUIT ----- ANIMAL CRACKERS, VEGGIES	GRANOLA BAR, FRUIT ----- SOFT CHICKEN TACO, VEGGIES, FRUIT ----- STRING CHEESE, FRUIT	CEREAL, FRUIT ----- TURKEY & CHEESE SANDWICH, SUN CHIPS, VEGGIES, FRUIT ----- BANANA BREAD MINIS, FRUIT	NO SCHOOL TODAY	NO SCHOOL TODAY
Monday- 15	Tuesday- 16	Wednesday- 17	Thursday- 18	Friday- 19
NO SCHOOL TODAY	CHEESY BAGEL, FRUIT ----- SPAGHETTI WITH MEAT SAUCE, VEGGIES, FRUIT ----- COTTAGE CHEESE, FRUIT	CEREAL, FRUIT ----- PIZZA, VEGGIES, FRUIT ----- GRAHAM CRACKERS, FRUIT	WAFFLE STICKS, FRUIT ----- CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP, CRACKERS, VEGGIES, FRUIT ----- HARD BOILED EGG, CRACKERS, FRUIT	CEREAL, FRUIT ----- MACHO NACHOS, BLUEBERRY MUFFIN, VEGGIES, FRUIT ----- BLUEBERRY MUFFIN, FRUIT
Monday- 22	Tuesday- 23	Wednesday- 24	Thursday- 25	Friday- 26
CEREAL, FRUIT ----- GRILLED CHICKEN ON BUN, FRENCH FRIES, FRUIT ----- ANIMAL CRACKERS, VEGGIES	GRANOLA BAR, FRUIT ----- ITALIAN DIP STICKS, VEGGIES, FRUIT ----- STRING CHEESE, FRUIT	CEREAL, FRUIT ----- GRILLED HAM & CHEESE SANDWICH, VEGGIES, FRUIT ----- BANANA BREAD MINIS, FRUIT	FRENCH TOAST, FRUIT ----- TURKEY & GRAVY, MASHED POTATOES, GREEN BEANS, FRUIT ----- SOFT PRETZEL, SUNFLOWER BUTTER, FRUIT	CEREAL, FRUIT ----- MACARONI & CHEESE, CHICKEN TENDERS, VEGGIES, FRUIT ----- YOGURT, FRUIT
Monday- 29	The Center participates in the USDA funded program and is an equal opportunity provider and employer.			
CEREAL, FRUIT ----- HAMBURGER ON A BUN, FRENCH FRIES, FRUIT ----- ANIMAL CRACKERS, VEGGIES	The Center participates in the USDA funded program and is an equal opportunity provider and employer.			
Breakfast is served at 9:30 with milk Lunch is served at 12:00 with milk Snack is served at 3:30 with water	Menus are subject to change			



Winter is an exciting time for kids. It brings great outdoor activities, such as snowboarding and skating, but also cold weather, ice and snow, which can present a danger to children. But that **doesn't mean they can't enjoy the winter. Here are some winter safety tips.**

Ice Skating

- Make sure children always wear a hockey or ski helmet while skating.
- **Make sure children's skates are comfortable, with good ankle support,** to avoid twists, sprains or breaks.
- When possible, have children skate on public indoor or outdoor rinks. If this is not possible, children should remember to:
 - Obey all signs posted on or near the ice. Yellow signs usually mean skate with caution, and red usually means no skating allowed.
 - Make sure they are always supervised on the ice.
 - **Never assume it's safe to skate on a lake or pond. An adult should make sure the ice is at least 10 cm (four inches) thick,** and check with local weather authorities for information about ice thickness.
 - Avoid walking on ice near moving water. Ice formed on moving water, such as rivers and creeks, will vary in thickness and is highly unpredictable.



Skiing/Snowboarding

- Take lessons from a qualified skiing or snowboarding instructor.
- Never ski or snowboard alone.
- With parents, check equipment every year for fit and maintenance. Bindings should be checked annually by a qualified technician.
- **Make sure they're in control of their speed. Many injuries result from a loss of control.** Stunts and fatigue also lead to injuries.
- Always wear a helmet with side vents that allow them to hear.
- When snowboarding, wear wrist guards to reduce the risk of wrist injury.
- Dress safely. Wear brightly-colored clothing, and warm hats and mittens.
- Avoid icy hills. The risk of falls and injuries increases in icy conditions.
- Watch out for other skiers and snowboarders, as well as any other obstacles, on the slopes.
- Stay in designated areas and on marked trails.



Sledding

- Always wear either a ski or hockey helmet – not a bicycle helmet – while sledding.
- Never use a sled with sharp or jagged edges.
- Make sure the handholds on the sled are secure.
- Always sit up or kneel on a sled. Laying down increases the risk of head, spine and abdominal injuries.
- Never sled on or near roadways.
- Look for shallow slopes that are free of trees, fences or other obstacles.
- Avoid sledding on crowded slopes.



Community Connections

*From Mary Cannell,
Family and Community
Partnerships Manager*



CHP+ / MEDICAID

Application assistance available

719.486.6928

For more information, visit Room 9

Child Find

Early intervention for
children with special needs



Every county in Colorado has professionals who are trained to evaluate children in a variety of areas, including cognitive functioning, physical functioning, hearing and vision, speech and language and social and emotional development. This service is referred to as Child Find. Evaluations are conducted by the Child Find team at no cost to parents.

Once the child find evaluation team, which includes the parents, has gathered sufficient information used to determine a child's eligibility for early intervention or preschool special education services, an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP; birth to three years of age) or an Individual Education Plan (IEP; three to five years of age) is developed and services begin shortly.

Children under the age of six may be referred at any time for an eligibility determination for early intervention (ages birth to three) or preschool special education services (ages three through five).

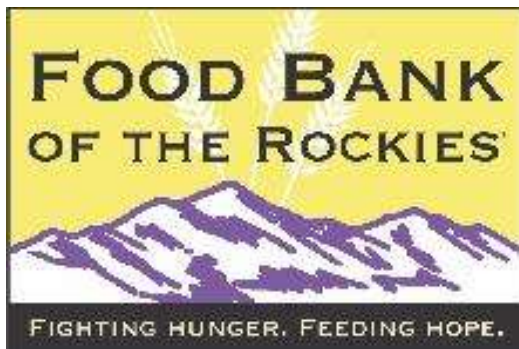
Here in Lake County, our very own Lauren Bissonette is the first contact for families interested in a Child Find evaluation. See her here at school, call her at 719-293-4613, send her an email at l-bissonette@lakecountyschools.net, or stop by Room 9 for more information.

FREE Family
Counseling offered for
Head Start Families

Provided by Solvista Health
(formerly 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 8:00am to ensure a spot in line.

Bring boxes or bags to carry food home.

Want To Raise Kind Kids? - These 5 Techniques Will Help

A large majority of youth across a wide spectrum of races, cultures, and classes appear to value aspects of personal success—achievement and happiness—over concern for others.

It's interesting because if you ask most parents how important instilling kindness into their kids is, they will rank it pretty high on the list. However, in a recent survey by Harvard, youth were 3 times more likely to agree than disagree with this statement: "My parents are prouder if I get good grades in my classes than if I'm a caring community member in class and school."



Is this really the message we want to send our kids? Parents are usually concerned with their children's moral state, so perhaps a hard look at the messages we send to them on a daily basis would be a good idea. Here are 5 suggestions to help shift the balance towards kindness and caring for others:

1. Give Them Opportunities To Practice - Kids aren't born good or bad, and they learn kindness just like they would learn anything else, such as a sport or an instrument. Daily repetition of acts of caring will help grow the capacity for them to want to help others. Simple things like watering the plants or even helping a friend with homework go a long way. With guidance from adults and practice, young people can also develop the skills and courage to know when and how to intervene in situations when they and others are in trouble.
2. Learning Two Important Skills - Being able to zoom in and out helps build a 'wider circle of concern'. Being able to dial in and listen closely and attentively to individuals while also taking in the big picture and capturing multiple perspectives helps children with understanding the full range of the human experience and putting it into context
3. They Need Role Models - This doesn't mean being the 'perfect parent' or having all of the answers, but understanding our own shortcomings and being honest and transparent about them to our kids can work wonders in connecting our values to their way of understanding the world. Lead by example, and if we continue to practice zooming in and out so will they.
4. Help Children Manage Destructive Feelings - Often the ability to care for others is overshadowed by feelings of jealousy, anger, shame, or other negative feelings. We need to teach children that all feelings are okay, but there are other ways of dealing with them. Children need our help learning to cope with these feelings in productive ways. Children are "moral philosophers," the researchers write. "When adults spark children's thinking with ethical questions they put issues of injustice on children's radar and help children learn how to weigh their various responsibilities to others and themselves."
5. Adults, Stop Passing The Buck - Researchers mentioned that parents worry too much about their children's moral state and what kind of member in society they will be. But, it's hard to find adults who openly admit that they may be part of the problem. Adults need to examine the messages they're sending, and ask themselves: what values am I really instilling? It's time to take responsibility.

This article was adapted from an article by Rajie Kabli that can be found at <http://www.collective-evolution.com/2015/11/06/want-to-raise-kind-kids-harvard-says-these-5-techniques-will-help-you-do-that/>



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
Bissonnette, Lauren	Early Childhood SPED & Child Find Coordinator	10	4413	lbissonnette
Cannell, Mary	Family and Community Partnerships Manager	9	6928	mcannell
Caraveo, Brenda*	Preschool Teacher	5	4408	bcaraveo
Clafin, Tracey	Preschool teacher	3	4406	tclafin
Flores, Perla*	Preschool Teacher	2	4405	peflores
Glaser, Sally	Preschool Teacher	4	4407	sglaser
Hinds, Jenna	Preschool Teacher	8	4411	jhinds
Holm, Lizz	Preschool Teacher	2	4405	lholm
Lenhard, Tanya	Director of Early Childhood Programs	Office	6920	tdlenhard
Lopez, Nancy*	Preschool Teacher	3	4406	nalopez
Lopez, Noemi*	Bilingual Aide	Office	6920	nolopez
Lopez, Trisha	Preschool Teacher	6	4409	trlopez
Lujan, Jacqueline	Preschool Teacher	6	4409	jlujan
Martinez, Wanda	Preschool Support Staff	9	6920	wmartinez
Mascarenaz, Chantel	Preschool Teacher	8	4411	chmacarenas
Mascarenaz, Jenny*	Transportation Manager	9	6925	jmascarenaz
Oatey, Claire	Business Manager	Office	6929	coatey
Roeder, Lisa	Preschool Teacher	7	4410	lroeder
Romero, Lora	Preschool Teacher	5	4408	loromero
Romero, Marissa	Child Care Director	Office	6920	maromero
Sanchez, Chantell	Preschool Teacher	7	4410	chsanchez
Sandoval, Brandi	Preschool Support Staff	9	6920	brsandoval
Sifuentes, Anne*	Preschool Teacher	4	4407	ansifuentes
Valdez, AnnaMarie	Health Manager	Library	6923	avaldez
Vigil, Alyssa	Cook	Kitchen	6924	allyssavigil
Policy Council*	Parents/Community Reps	9	2190	mcannell
Preschool Office	Resource Room - 486-6928 and 486-6925			
Child Care	Front Office - 486-6920			
Child Find	Room 10—719-293-4613			

Please Remember!
 For Attendance and The Bus please call 486-6925 and leave a message.
 This line is checked 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 January 13, 2016

Attending: Alison Hoagland, Alyssa Gallegos, Jen Boeve, Thea Gab, Bethany Godsman, Sandra Cano, Tammy Taylor, Skye Calvert, Itzel Saldivar, Kelly Martinez, Mari Spinner, Vanessa De Lira. Guests – Ellie Solomon, Tanya Lenhard, Claire Oatey, Mary Cannell

Not attending: Tasha Dunning, Maria del Socorro

The meeting was called to order at 5:30pm by the Chair, Mari Spinner. New school board liaison Ellie Solomon and new member Vanessa De Lira were welcomed. There were no notes in the Suggestion Box and no messages on voicemail.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes: The agenda and minutes were reviewed. Thea moved to approve the agenda; Jen seconded. The motion passed with all in favor and none opposed. Jen moved to approve the minutes from the last regular meeting in November; Thea seconded. The motion passed with all in favor and none opposed.

Roll Call: Bethany conducted roll call and determined a quorum was present.

Treasurer Report: Alison reported the balance of the Parent Activity fund to be \$457.99. A deduction for this month will be \$175.20 for the meeting meal. That leaves \$282.79 to be spent before the end of the fiscal year. Mary provided a list of two parenting books recommended by Thea and a number of story books to support families with incarcerated parents. Discussion ensued on how to spend the remaining funds. Alison moved to direct Mary and Claire to use the remaining funds for Spanish resources for families with incarcerated parents, age appropriate board games that families could check out of the resource center to promote math and literacy skills, and a sled to go with the snow shoes. Kelly seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor and none opposed. The group would also like to consider buying a tube that families could use on the tubing hill, instead of having to rent one. Mary will research costs and other concerns. Mary advised the group that they will have a new \$1500 to spend as of February 1, with the beginning of the new fiscal year. The group reviewed the proposed budget allocation for the Parent Activity fund for FY16. Thea made a motion to approve the budget allocation, and Jen seconded. The motion passed with all in favor and none opposed. The entire Parent Committee will also vote on the budget for the Parent Activity Fund.

Committee Reports: Ellie gave a brief school board report, including information on the calendar, class day, and graduation requirement work groups. The Parent Activity Committee met to plan a successful Winter Festival. Jen gave a report from the Education and Family & Community Partnerships Committee meetings. LCECC met in December to discuss early childhood topics in Lake County.

Training: Mary led the group in discussing advocacy and how making connections to your child's school and speaking on their behalf enhances their education. Parent-Teacher conferences, home visits, and Policy Council meetings are among the ways The Center provides opportunities for families to learn advocacy skills and see the benefits.

Director's Report: Claire presented the FY15 budget, with notes on how the remaining fund would be spent by the end of the month. She presented the Vacation & Holiday Pay Policy and explained that the administration team had approved an expenditure to pay all regular Center staff for 5 extra days as a kind of bonus, since the funds were available in the budget. Alison moved to approve the policy, and Kelly seconded. The motion passed with all in favor and none opposed. Claire also presented the FY16 budget that will start next month, noting that it was the same as the budget the council had already approved with the grant application in October. Tanya presented the **Director's Report** and talked about the site visit from December. She thanked Claire for her work on the grant application, which the program specialist praised for its completeness and asked if it could be presented as an example to other programs. Tanya reported that the program was also complimented on our classroom spaces and environments, the quality of our lesson plans, and our effective community partnerships. Tanya also reported to the council that there will be an Enrollment Meeting with the Office of Head Start to brainstorm ideas around our under enrolled status. She said it would be ideal to have a member of Policy Council participate in that meeting and said she would let the council when a date and time were set.

Unfinished Business: Mary presented the Human Resource Outline, with the explanation that this is how employment vacancies are filled and new employees supported. Kelly moved to approve the Human Resource System with the correction of a few typos, and Jen seconded. The motion passed with all in favor and none opposed. Tanya presented the fall outcomes data for children, with the explanation that this is how our kids were assessed in the different domains of learning at the beginning of the school year. The next report with additional data collected at the winter checkpoint will show the growth that has taken place and help identify areas where we will focus extra attention.

Tanya pointed out some highlights in the data, such as a high number of children already at "Widely Held Expectations" for writing their name. Members asked questions about ways data could be aggregated and about difference in expectations for different aged children.

New Business: Mary presented the Self Assessment Process Policy, with an explanation of how this document describes the different tools we use to collect data for self assessment, identifies who the data comes from, how it relates to showing the success of program goals, and how the self assessment is used for program improvement. Mary also invited Council members to participate in the Community Wide Self Assessment interviews that will take place in the spring. Jen moved to approve the Self Assessment Process Policy, and Bethany G. seconded. The motion passed with all in favor and none opposed. Mary presented the Parent Reimbursement Policy. She described how Policy Council members who incur expenses while doing Policy Council business can be reimbursed for things such as mileage or child care necessary to do that business. Kelly moved to approve the Parent Reimbursement Policy, and Alison seconded. The motion passed with all in favor and none opposed. Mary asked the council members for input on selection criteria and explained how eligibility and selection work together to be sure that our program gives priority to families most in need of services. There was discussion about how the enrollment forms are used as a means toward a first conversation with a family during their interview to determine family needs. There was discussion about a change in the meeting for February, because the regular date would conflict with Parent-Teacher Conferences. The group agreed to push the meeting back one week to February 17.

Announcements: The announcements from the agenda were noted, including the ongoing enrollment for this school year, upcoming meetings and events, school closures, recruitment for the district's calendar committee, and the next regular Policy Council meeting on February 17.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm by Mari. Respectfully submitted, Bethany Godsman, Policy Council Secretary

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

Tanya Lenhard
Director of Early Childhood Programs
Phone: 719 486-6920
Fax: 719 486-9992
E-mail: tdlenhard@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 486-6920.

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

February 2 from 1:00—3:00pm at CMC. Parents and caregivers welcome.

Head Start Policy Council

February 17 at 5:00 in the cafeteria 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.

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.

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.