

The Center

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November 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.

November Events

November 10 *Ski Program letters go out*

November 12 Policy Council meeting 5:00-7:00pm

> November 12 *Picture Retakes*

November 20 *Thanksgiving Lunch* Purchase tickets in Room 9

November 24-28 The Center is CLOSED

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 Ricken486-6920Director of Early Childhood Programs

Melina Compean 486-6929 Child Care Director

486-6888

Policy Council extension 2190 Head Start Updates from Paul Ricken

As we head into November, we are reminded to be thankful for the people around us.

Here at The Center, this means parents, families, staff and of course, the children!

We are so fortunate to have your children in our lives, helping them grow and thrive right before our eyes.

The staff takes pride in their work with your children and the evidence shows in many positive ways!

Preschool News



As I look out the window and see that the leaves are gone from the trees, I am reminded that the fall season is short.

The colors that were so vibrant just a month ago have been replaced.

This has not dampened the enthusiasm of the kids, however.

They are still active and full of energy

when they come to school!

For this we are thankful.

Enjoy the new month of November.

For me, the month that reminds us of the changing season around us and a month that is full of Thanksgiving.

Thank you for being a part of our lives!

Please join your child's class for

<u>Thanksgiving Lunch</u>

Thursday, November 20-see schedule for time

Tickets are available in Room 9.

Watch your child's cubby for more information.

Bus Evacuation Drill

We had our first practice bus evacuation drill in the back parking lot at Pitts on Tuesday, October 7, 2014. The children participated in an emergency evacuation drill conducted on the bus the child was riding in. Drivers and monitors conducted the drill jointly as a team. The children followed instructions given by the driver.

The Final Rule requires three basic topics to be addressed in every drill.

Ridership rules. Safe riding practices are taught to children. This is the most important lesson young children should learn about transportation –related emergencies.

Every Head Start drill should include discussion about, and more importantly practice in, safe and orderly evacuation from appropriate exits.

Children are taught how to sit and slide out an emergency door, and are taught to go to a prearranged point about 100 or three vehicle lengths from their own vehicle and to stay there holding hands with each other in a safety chain or buddy system.

A total of three emergency evacuation drills must be conducted each program year.

Child Care Updates from Melina

Please do not forget to talk to me if you would like to alter your child's schedule. There is an overhours charge when your child attends past their scheduled hours.

Two of our holiday months are coming up in November and December. Although school may not **be in session, you are securing your child's spot and tuition will remain the same as our billing cycle** will just skip over those weeks.

Your statement may print out a different due date, please do not forget that tuition is due every month on the 15th.

Thank you all for your help with keeping our kids safe. We appreciate that everyone is coming through the front doors to pick up their child rather than going through the playground gate.

Lake County Community Health Resources			
Lake County Public Health	Nutrition Programs	<u>Doctors</u>	
486-2413 Immunization clinic, family planning, health care for children with special needs. Medicaid and CHP+ applications. <u>Immunization Clinic</u> – By appointment <u>Family Planning</u> - By appointment <u>Blood Lead Testing</u> - By appointment	WIC- 486-2749 Supplemental foods for women, infants and children who qualify.St. George Community Meals- 200 West 4th Free community meals, all are welcome.Please see Mary in Room 9 for more local food resources.	Rocky Mountain Family Practice 486-0500 Dr. Lisa Zwerdlinger, Amy King, PA, & Laurie Strasburger, PA <u>St Vincent Leadville Medical Clinic</u> 486-1264 Dr. Gary Petry, Jackie Duba, MPH,PA	
	<u>Dentists</u>	Emergency & Hospital	
Mental Health/Support Services	Dr. Lance Schamberger486-2060	Emergency911	
Alcoholics Anonymous486-3087	Dr. Christine Jones486-0053	St. Vincent Hospital486-0230	
West Central Mental Health486-0985	Dr. Curtis Slack486-3801	<u>Optometric</u>	
Summit Community Care Clinic970-668-4040	Pediatric Dental Specialties970 668-8668	Lake County Vision Center486-2505	
	Summit Community Care Clinic970-668-4040		

<u>Early Literacy Skills</u>

A child's journey towards literacy involves learning to speak, listen, read, understand, watch, draw and write. You can help your child develop these skills.

Talking, singing, playing sound and word games, reading, writing and drawing with your child are great ways to establish a good literacy foundation. Everyday activities, like going to the local shops or library, as well as special treats – trips to the museum or zoo – all provide lots of opportunities for literacy development.

Many parents feel they haven't got time for literacy development activities. You **don't need lots of time –** five minutes a few times a day is often enough. The key is to use different opportunities to help your child learn. These can range from things like taking a trip to the local store to a night-time story before bed.



<u>Talk and sing</u>

Talking and singing with children can teach them about sounds and how sounds come together to form language. By teaching your child language games and songs, you'll be helping him to develop listening and speaking skills. It's also important to listen to your child – this helps you learn about the stories and songs he most enjoys.

Read and make books

Reading with your child helps develop his vocabulary, ability to listen and comprehend, and ability to understand the purpose of print. You'll also be helping to set up a lifelong positive attitude towards reading.

<u>Draw and write</u>

From an early age, children love to try to 'write' like their older siblings or parents. Play-writing (scribble) and drawing helps your child develop the fine motor skills needed for writing with pencils and pens later. It also helps him begin to recognize and remember letter shapes.



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

November 2014 Preschool Menu

Monday- 3	Tuesday- 4	Wednesday- 5	Thursday– 6	Friday- 7
WAFFLE STICKS, STRING CHEESE CHICKEN STIR FRY, BROWN RICE, FRUIT GRAHAM CRACKERS, VEGGIES	CEREAL, FRUIT BEAN BURRITO, SALSA, VEGGIES, FRUIT GRANOLA BAR, FRUIT	FRENCH TOAST, APPLESAUCE TURKEY & CHEESE SANDWICH, VEGGIES, FRUIT SUNFLOWER BUTTER, PITA BREAD	SOFT PRETZEL, CHEESE SAUCE, FRUIT CHICKEN PASTA WITH GARLIC SAUCE, SALAD, FRUIT YOGURT, FRUIT	CEREAL, FRUIT CHEESY DIP STICKS WITH SAUCE, VEGGIES, FRUIT GOLDFISH CRACKERS, FRUIT
Monday- 10	Tuesday- 11	Wednesday- 12	Thursday– 13	Friday– 14
BANANA BREAD MINIS, FRUIT CHICKEN SANDWICH ON BUN, POTATO SALAD, FRUIT ANIMAL CRACKERS, VEGGIES	CEREAL, FRUIT BEEF SOFT TACO, CORN, FRUIT COTTAGE CHEESE, FRUIT	PANCAKES, APPLESAUCE ARROZ CON QUESO, CHICKEN TENDERS, VEGGIES, FRUIT CHEERIOS, MILK	BAGEL WITH CREAM CHEESE, FRUIT COWBOY MACARONI, SALAD, FRUIT CHEESE STICK, MINI MUFFIN	CEREAL, FRUIT GRILLED HAM & CHEESE SANDWICH, VEGGIES, FRUIT CHEESE & CRACKERS
Monday- 17	Tuesday– 18	Wednesday- 19	Thursday- 20	Friday– 21
WAFFLE STICKS, STRING CHEESE HAMBURGER ON BUN, FRENCH FRIES, FRUIT GRAHAM CRACKERS, VEGGIES	CEREAL, FRUIT CHEESE OR BEEF ENCHILADA, VEGGIES, CINNAMON STICK, FRUIT GRANOLA BAR, FRUIT	FRENCH TOAST, APPLESAUCE BBQ PORK SANDWICH, CORN, FRUIT SUNFLOWER BUTTER, PITA BREAD	SOFT PRETZEL, CHEESE SAUCE, FRUIT THANKSGIVING LUNCH YOGURT, FRUIT	CEREAL, FRUIT SPAGHETTI WITH MEAT SAUCE, SALAD, FRUIT GOLDFISH CRACKERS, FRUIT
Monday- 24	Tuesday– 25	Wednesday- 26	Thursday- 27	Friday– 28
NO SCHOOL TODAY	NO SCHOOL TODAY	NO SCHOOL TODAY	NO SCHOOL TODAY	NO SCHOOL TODAY
Give 7	hanks		The Center is CLOSED Monday, November 24 through Friday, November 28 for Thanksgiving Break.	
Lunch is served a	d at 9:30 with milk at 12:00 with milk it 3:30 with water	Menus are subject to change	The Center participates in the USDA funded program and is an equal opportunity provider and employer	



Sun Safety Tips: Eye Protection



Facts about Eye Protection from KidsHealth.org:

Just as early skin protection can prevent skin cancer later in life, the same can be said for protecting the eyes from harsh UV rays. Certain eye contains like cataracts and macular degeneration-conditions that generally occur later in life--may be prevented by properly protecting your child's eyes now. Here are some simple tips to follow:

1. Kids Need Shades Too: Year-round sunglass protection is necessary for parents and for kids. And if you're family spends time skiing or on or the water, sunglasses are mandatory to protect against the harsh glare and reflection of UV rays.

2. Get the Right Level of Protection: KidsHealth recommends parents check the labels of sunglasses, being sure to choose glasses with lenses that provide 100 percent UV protection.

3. Set a Good Example: Remember wear your sunglasses regularly and your kids will want to do the same.



4. Wrap It Up: The best shades for kids should cover the entire eye area, including the sides of the face, which is why super cool looking wrap-around shades are best for kids--they keep sunlight from entering from the sides as well as protecting from the front.

5. Get Real Protection: Plastic toy sunglasses from the local toy store will not protect your child's eyes. For best protection, consult your local optician or optometrist for buying the best shades for your kids.

6. Don't Worry: Kids who wear corrective lenses play in their glasses all the time, so your child will be safe at play wearing sunglasses. And if your child plays sports, like baseball and soccer, look for eyeglass straps that will keep sunglasses on.

More Resources: The following resources provide additional information about the importance of protective eyewear for kids:

http://kidshealth.org/parent/firstaid_safe/outdoor/sun_safety.html http://www.epa.gov/sunwise/kids/kids_actionsteps.html

From Mary Cannell, Family and Community Partnerships Manager



CHP+ / MEDICAID

Application assistance available

719.486.6928

For more information, visit Room 9

<u>Child Find</u> <u>Early intervention for</u> <u>children with special needs</u>

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

lbissonnette@lakecountyschools.net, or stop by 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.

Ways to Teach Your Child Financial Literacy

It is never too early to start building financial literacy skills. At first your child should understand what money is and that is has value. Then, as he starts exploring what it means to spend and save, use these tips to reinforce financial literacy.

Money Basics

- Introduce Coins and Bills. Introduce coins and bills one at a time, starting with the penny. When you have spare change, let your child sort and count the coins. Or, let her organize your wallet, putting the bills in order from least to greatest.
- Let Him Pay. As your child gets to know money amounts, let him pay for small purchases. When you're paying with cash at the grocery store, ice cream parlor, or coffee shop, let him pay the cashier and accept the change.
- Visit the Bank. While you're making a withdrawal or deposit, they're learning who works at a bank and where money is "stored."

Money Management: Spend, Save, Share

- Comparison Shopping 101. As your child learns how to shop, the supermarket or toy store aisle is the ideal time to talk about prices. Choose two items that your child wants and compare the prices. Which is more? Which one would he buy and why? Is it worth the extra cost to buy the package with the character on the front?
- Set a Saving Goal. Your child's first saving goal should be for a fun game or toy. Post a picture of her goal on a piece of paper and draw stepping stones with money amounts that add up to her goal (stones of 5 cents or \$1 depending on the ultimate goal). Then, as she saves those money amounts, color in the stepping stones. When she's filled in all the stones, go shopping!
- Start the Habit of Sharing. An important part of having money is sharing. For your family, it may be dropping a few coins in the collection plate, or letting your child donate to a favorite charity. To add to the experience, attend a charity event so they can see where their money went. If your child donated to a local pet shelter, attend an adopt-a-pet day.

<u>Financial Responsibility</u>

- Teach Choices. Money is all about making choices. Start the conversation about choices when the issue has nothing to do with money. For example, what do we do when we have five cookies and six kids? Then, introduce the same idea later when money is involved—we have \$10 and want to buy three things that add up to \$11, what do we do?
- Be Honest about Your Finances. When you have to make a difficult financial decision, be honest with your child. You don't have to tell him everything, but do discuss how it will affect him. While you're having that discussion be sure to stress that while money is valuable, it's not love, and it's not safety. That what you are there for.

Adapted from http://www.education.com/magazine/article/kindergarten-financial-literacy/



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	Ibissonnette
Cannell, Mary	Family and Community Partnerships Manager	9	6928	mcannell
Caraveo, Brenda*	Bilingual Aide	9	6920	bcaraveo
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	Iroeder
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	2190	mcannell
Preschool Office	Resource Room - 486-6928 and 486-6925			
Child Care	Front Office - 486-6929			
Child Find	Room 10-719-293-4613			

Please Remember! For <u>Attendance</u> and <u>The Bus</u> 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.

Page 9	What is the Head Start	Why do we include the meeting	How can you give your input?	
ruge ,	Policy Council? A board of parents and community representatives who make decisions	To keep you informed about the program	Your classroom representative's name is on the bulle- tin board between Rooms 8 and 9. A suggestion box s near the building entry. To leave a voice mail mes-	
program.	1 0		sage, call 486-6888 extension 5229.	
The Center Early Childhood Programs - Policy Council Minutes - Meeting Date-October 8, 2014				

<u>Attending</u>: Emma Tekansik, Samantha Leyba, Eldenida Lagos, Liz Flores, Mari Spinner, Tammy Taylor, Ann Stanek, Erin Watkins, Tamsey Tufte, Elda Consuelo, Mary Cannell, Paul Ricken via telephone

Not attending: Francisca Reyes, Sean Cooper, Erin Allaman, Cheryl Talbot

The meeting was called to order at 5:15pm by the Chair, Liz Flores. Introductions were made for some new members who were present for the first time.

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

<u>Approval of Agenda and Minutes</u>: The agenda and minutes were reviewed. Samantha moved to approve the agenda, and Ann seconded. The motion passed with all in favor and none opposed. Erin moved to approve the regular September meeting minutes and the special September meeting minutes, and Tammy seconded. The motion passed with all in favor and none opposed. <u>Treasurer Report:</u> In Cheryl's absence, Mary reported the current balance of the 2014-15 parent activity fund to be \$499.50. The biggest expense from last month was \$470 paid to the Mexican Folkloric dancers. Expenses still to be deducted include the Safeway bills for food for the September and October meetings, which ran about \$70 each. If the expenses for the November and January meetings run about the same, there will be a little over \$200 to be spent on other things before the end of the fiscal year on January 31. Members were asked to brainstorm ideas to be discussed at future meetings.

<u>Committee Reports:</u> Harmony gave the School Board report focusing on the grand openings of new high school and the playground at the intermediate school. Both events were well attended and enjoyed. Mary and Tammy gave a report from the ECC about the new fiscal agent. Mary said the Accountability and PAWS meetings are focusing on increasing engagement among parents. Members signed up to be PC representatives on the other Center committees. None of the other committees had met recently, because the school year has just begun. During the discussion about the Health Advisory committee, Samantha expressed concerns about the enterovirus that has been in the news, and there was discussion on how our Health Advisory partners had so far given recommendations to review the disease prevention policies and procedures already in place, and to be sure they are being implemented with fidelity. When we receive updates from those sources with different advice, we will implement it. Members also encouraged Mary to provide additional notices about the Parent Resources in Room 9, including the strider bikes. They suggested including more information like this during Orientation and Open House visits.

<u>Training</u>: Mary referred members to the "How to Run a Meeting" pamphlet in their binders. Everyone has done a great job of jumping in to participating in meetings, and more opportunities for training on this topic will arise during the year.

Director's Report: Paul called into the meeting and gave a brief report. Mary reviewed the budget spreadsheet with a note that most of the In Kind donations are booked close to the end of the fiscal year.

New Business: Paul reported that the Continuation Grant was not yet ready for review. He requested a special meeting to review and approve this. The Council agreed to meet on Wednesday, October 22 at 5:00pm for this purpose. A special vote can take place via phone or email if a quorum is not available for this meeting, but the Council thought it was a significant topic that needed a face-to-face meeting. Mary reviewed the Program Goals and explained how they were defined at Strategic Planning in May by families, teaching staff, and administration using data collected in various forms throughout the year. Liz suggested including Greater Heights in Kindergarten transition events. Erin moved to approve the Program Goals, and Tamsey seconded. The motion passed with all in favor and none opposed. Mary reviewed the Community Complaint Policy and explained that it is a policy required by Head Start Performance standards to define a procedure for resolving issues that arise between the program and the bigger community. Mari moved to approve the Community Complaint Policy, and Erin seconded. The motion passed with all votes in favor and none opposed. The By Laws were reviewed, including the composition of and role of Policy Council, the difference between voting and non-voting members, and potential conflicts of interest. Tammy moved to approve the By Laws, and Mari seconded. The motion passed with all in favor and none opposed. Mary presented Rebeca Gurrola-Rios as a candidate for a new substitute teacher. Rebeca is a babysitter for a few families in our program, and through that connection wants to learn more about being a part of our program. She is bilingual and is considering taking college classes to pursue ECE as a career. Erin moved to approve Rebeca Gurrola-Rios as a new hire, and Tamsey seconded. The motion passed with all in favor and none opposed. Liz talked about the Dollar per Child campaign to support advocacy for Head Start at the national level. Erin offered to make a \$68 donation so that The Center could be counted among participating programs. Erin was thanked for her generosity. Members were asked to consider volunteering for Pumpkin Patch, as this fund raiser supports The Center's Learn-to-Ski program. The meeting time was discussed, with a focus on possibly starting later. Members said they would rather not start later if that meant having to end later. We discussed that the meal could take place during the meeting, when people may be coming in late due to work and other commitments. Mary asked for guidance on how to best communicate the need for parents to not enter through the playground gate to pick up kids, but always use the front entrance, even when the kids are playing outside. Members said they had done this without realizing the safety concerns it could cause, and that the best thing to do would be to post a sign and empower staff to talk to parents about it respectfully. The same guidance was given regarding preschool families staying on school grounds to play, without realizing the implications for this on our license, when kids till signed into care are there.

<u>Unfinished Business</u>: Erin, Elda, and Tamsey signed confidentiality agreements. Elda signed her Room representative letter. Members gave permission for email only notice of meetings on the sign in sheet.

<u>Announcements</u>: The announcements from the agenda were read. These included a notice about enrollment for this school year continuing, reminders about the next Family Fun Night, Home Visits, Pumpkin Patch, Classroom Celebrations, and notice of the next Policy Council meeting on Wednesday, November 12.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:14pm by Liz. Respectfully submitted, Samantha Leyba, Policy Council Secretary

THE CENTER EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

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-<u>6929</u>. 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.

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.

Parent/Staff Training **Opportunities**

Literacy Computer-Based Financial 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

December 2 from 1:00-3:00pm at CMC. Parents and caregivers welcome.

Head Start Policy Council

November 12 at 5:00 in Room 9 at The Center. All Head Start parents are encouraged to volunteer for election to this parent committee.