



The Center

Volume 27, Issue 4
December 1, 2015



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.

- December Events**
- December 3
"Winter Festival"
Family Fun Night
5:30-7:00pm
 - December 7
Deadline to register for ski program lottery
 - December 9
Education & Family & Community Partnerships Committee meetings
5:00-7:00pm
 - December 17
Classroom Celebrations
Per classroom schedule
 - December 21–January 4
Winter Break
The Center is CLOSED
 - Every Friday
Teacher Planning
Families Welcome

Preschool News—Head Start Updates



Don't miss
Winter Festival
Thursday, December 3
5:30-7:00pm

Fun activities for the whole family.
Face painting, Ornament crafts, Story time, Photo opportunities

How to use your Explore Your Community passport

- Step 1: Get your EYC passport out of your cubby.
- Step 2: Visit *Fire on the Mountain* and help your child paint a FREE ornament.
- Step 3: Ask the staff at *Fire on the Mountain* to stamp your passport.
- Step 4: Bring your stamped passport, with the survey completed, back to school and exchange it for a free book in Room 9.
- Step 5: Don't forget to pick up your ornament from *Fire on the Mountain* when it is ready.



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

Please celebrate with us

Classroom Celebrations

Thursday, December 17
9:50-12:00pm

Time to share some good cheer on the last day before Winter Break.
Funding for this very special day is courtesy of the Trail 100 Legacy Foundation.



Transportation Updates

*From Jenny Mascarenaz
Transportation Manager*

486-6895

REASONS TO CALL:

- *Your child is not riding the bus
- *You have a pick up change for the morning bus (please call by 7:30am)
- *You have a drop off change for the afternoon bus (please call by 12:30pm)
- *Your child is not coming to school



Thank you!

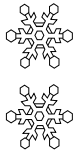
CLICK IT OR TICKET!



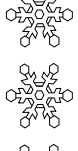
Under Colorado's Child Passenger Safety law, infants and children must be properly buckled up when riding in motor vehicles. A driver can be ticketed and fined a minimum of \$82 for each unrestrained or improperly restrained child in the vehicle.

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 Zwerdlinger, 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>



Part of getting ready for Kindergarten in Leadville is knowing how to put on your own snow gear for outside recess.



Every cubby has this list to help kids remember in what order to put things on.



Feel free to cut out this page to help your child practice this important skill at home.



GETTING DRESSED FOR OUTSIDE



snowpants



boots



hat



coat



mittens



December 2015 Preschool Menu

	Tuesday- 1	Wednesday- 2	Thursday- 3	Friday- 4
	GRANOLA BAR, FRUIT ----- SPAGHETTI WITH MEAT SAUCE, VEGGIES, FRUIT ----- STRING CHEESE, FRUIT	CEREAL, FRUIT ----- PIZZA, VEGGIES, FRUIT ----- BANANA BREAD MINIS, FRUIT	FRENCH TOAST, FRUIT ----- CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP, CRACKERS, VEGGIES, FRUIT ----- SOFT PRETZEL, SUNFLOWER BUTTER, FRUIT	CEREAL, FRUIT ----- MACHO NACHOS, BLUEBERRY MUFFIN, VEGGIES, FRUIT ----- YOGURT, FRUIT
Monday- 7	Tuesday- 8	Wednesday- 9	Thursday- 10	Friday- 11
CEREAL, FRUIT ----- GRILLED CHICKEN ON BUN, POTATOES AU GRATIN, 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	PANCAKES, FRUIT ----- CHLI CON CARNE WITH BEANS, CORNBREAD, VEGGIES, FRUIT ----- HARD BOILED EGG, CRACKERS, FRUIT	CEREAL, FRUIT ----- MACARONI & CHEESE, CHICKEN TENDERS, VEGGIES, FRUIT ----- BLUEBERRY MUFFIN, FRUIT
Monday- 14	Tuesday- 15	Wednesday- 16	Thursday- 17	Friday- 18
CEREAL, FRUIT ----- HAMBURGER ON A BUN, FRENCH FRIES, FRUIT ----- GOLDFISH CRACKERS, VEGGIES	GRANOLA BAR, FRUIT ----- SOFT CHICKEN TACO, VEGGIES, FRUIT ----- STRING CHEESE, FRUIT	CEREAL, FRUIT ----- SUNFLOWER BUTTER & JELLY SANDWICH, YOGURT, VEGGIES, FRUIT ----- BANANA BREAD MINIS, FRUIT	FRENCH TOAST, FRUIT ----- BEFF & GRAVY, MASHED POTATOES, ROLL, FRUIT ----- SOFT PRETZEL, SUNFLOWER BUTTER, FRUIT	CEREAL, FRUIT ----- CORN DOG, BAKED BEANS, GODLFISH CRACKERS, FRUIT ----- YOGURT, FRUIT
Monday- 21	Tuesday- 22	Wednesday- 23	Thursday- 24	Friday- 25

The Center is CLOSED for two weeks (and one day) for Winter Break.

Monday- 28

Tuesday- 29

Wednesday- 30

Classes for all programs will resume Tuesday, January 5.



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**

The Center participates in the
USDA funded program and is
an equal opportunity
provider and employer



Tree Safety Tips



Though fire-resistant artificial trees in general are safer than fresh-cut trees, some families find it's just not Christmas without a real pine or spruce, no matter what its size.

If your family insists on the real thing, be sure to follow these tips from the National Christmas Tree Association and the National SAFE KIDS Campaign.

1. Choose a healthy, fresh tree. Here's how: Grasp a branch between your thumb and forefinger, and slide your fingers down the branch. If the tree is fresh, very few needles should come off in your hand.
2. To ensure that your tree stays a vibrant green, make a cut straight across the bottom of the trunk (about a quarter of an inch above the previous cut) before placing the tree in the stand.
3. Keep the tree stand filled with water. As a general rule, a fresh tree will absorb more than a gallon of water in the first 24 hours and one or more quarts a day thereafter.
4. Place the tree away from household sources of heat, such as fireplaces, radiators, television sets, and vents.
5. Inspect lights for exposed or frayed wires, loose connections, and broken sockets before placing them on the tree.
6. Don't overload extension cords -- no more than three strings of lights per cord is the rule.
7. Never leave your tree unattended while the lights are turned on.

Note: Tips 4 through 7 apply to artificial trees too.



Community Connections

*From Mary Cannell,
Family and Community
Partnerships Manager*



CHP+ / MEDICAID

Application assistance available

719.486.6928

For more information, visit Room 9



What is WIC?

WIC was established as a permanent program in 1974 to safeguard the health of low-income women, infants, and children up to age 5 who are at nutritional risk.

This mission is carried out by providing nutritious foods to supplement diets, nutrition education (including breastfeeding promotion and support), and referrals to health and other social services.

Find out more!

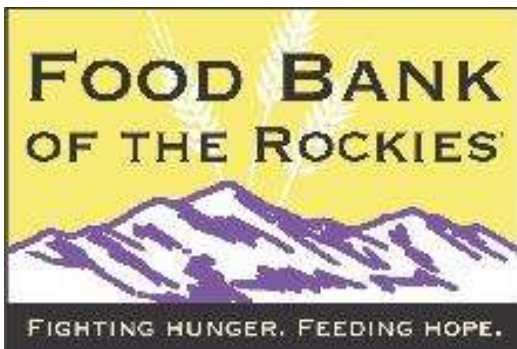
Call Delia at the Leadville WIC office at 719-486-2749.

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.

Holiday Gifts for Children

Instead of making a contribution to the broken toy pile in your child's room, give your kids gifts they can't break, like an excursion to a local event or children's museum, or some other "experiential" gift like the adoption of a wild animal at a wildlife organization or zoo. And instead of joining the stampede for the latest mass-produced gimmick, make a gift that fits the child you love: a web page featuring her, or a story with him as the main character. Make a voice recording of yourself reading a favorite book aloud (a gift that would be cherished by adult children, too). Or check out some of these ideas:

*Have you ever noticed that sometimes kids are happier
with the wrapping paper than the present?*

Often, *the less complicated a gift is, the more it engages a child's imagination.* So, consider stuffing a stocking with these timeless toys:

- a bag of marbles, polished rocks, sea shells or foreign coins
- a magnifying glass
- a telescope
- a stamp and stamp pad
- building blocks modeling clay or homemade play dough
- a homemade sock monkey
- a drawing pad and crayons or other art supplies

Some assembly desired

Gather materials that *appeal to a child's sense of play.*

- sock puppets made from old socks, single mittens and gloves, with buttons sewn on for eyes.
- empty food boxes, play money and a cash box for running an imaginary store
- old business forms, rubber stamps, file folders to play office
- scrap wood, cardboard, shingles, a small hammer, non-toxic paint, etc. for building a club house, and a map that shows where it can be built
- silk nightgowns, wild shoes, silly ties, and hats for playing dress-up
- a cookbook with simple, healthy recipes
- gardening tools, seeds, and pots of soil for indoor gardening
- a book of skits or plays
- a treasure hunt with a series of mysterious clues for children to follow
- a subscription to a magazine that explores the larger world, like Ranger Rick or National Geographic Kids
- ♦ offer to throw an "unbirthday" party in any month a child wishes, with a choice of party themes



These ideas are from the Simplify the Holidays booklet compiled by Center for a New American Dream.

More great ideas like this are available at their website (www.newdream.org).



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 November 11, 2015

Attending: Tasha Dunning, Alison Hoagland, Alyssa Gallegos, Jen Boeve, Thea Gab, Bethany Godsman, Maria del Socorro, Sandra Cano, Tammy Taylor. Guests - Tanya Lenhard, Jenny Mascarenas, Mary Cannell

Not attending: Skye Calvert, Itzel Saldivar, Kelly Martinez, Mari Spinner, Vanessa De Lira

The meeting was called to order at 5:20pm by the Treasurer, Alison Hoagland, in the absence of the Chair. New member Bethany Maher was welcomed; she signed a notice of confidentiality. Mary reported there were no notes in the suggestion box and no messages on the voicemail.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes: The agenda and minutes were reviewed. Jen moved to approve the agenda; Tammy seconded. The motion passed with all in favor and none opposed. Jen moved to approve the minutes from the last regular meeting in October; 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 \$616.99. A deduction for this month will be for the meeting meal. Mary noted that these funds must be spent completely by the end of January and gave some examples of appropriate expenditures. Thea recommended two parenting books that she had found helpful.

Committee Reports: Mary gave the School Board report on behalf of Harmony, who was unable to attend. The board is considering switching governance models and will have the first reading of the new policy at their December meeting. The Parent Summit on Monday was well attended, and the feedback from parents was productive and appreciated. Two members are ending their terms this month, and two new members are beginning terms. The Parent Activity Committee will meet this Friday to plan Winter Festival. The Education and Family & Community Partnerships Committees will meet in December, in lieu of a regular Policy Council meeting. LCECC will meet December 1. District Accountability is tomorrow at the district office.

Training: Mary led the group in completing the Policy Council quiz, which provided a review of Policy Council roles and responsibilities and shared governance. She also reported that a notice had been sent to all families explaining the rule prohibiting outside food at parties, as the Council had requested at the last meeting.

Director's Report: Tanya presented the Director's report, including information on enrollment and attendance. Currently 65 of the 68 Head Start spots in the building have been filled and recruitment efforts continue to fill the remaining three spots. She reported that a notice was received informing us that sometime after February 1, we will have an audit on environmental safety. Each year of the five year cycle has monitoring of a different area. She also presented the budget report and noted that with 75% of the fiscal year completed, we have spent just under 70% of our grant. We are in good shape to end the year strong. She also reported that we received a donation of several gift cards from a nearby WalMart that will be used to purchase supplies.

Unfinished Business: Tanya presented the Program Improvement Plan. She explained that this plan shows the same goals from the continuation grant, and identifies objectives and action steps to help us reach those goals. The document shows exactly what we plan to do, who is responsible for doing it, how we will show that it was done, and the timeframe for completion. This detailed organization helps keep our efforts focused and on track. Jen moved to approve the Program Improvement Plan; Bethany G seconded. The motion passed with all in favor and none opposed. Tanya presented the Strategic Plan and explained that it shows what happened at the Strategic Planning meetings in May and June. She reviewed the different ways data is collected, the sources it comes from, and how it is reviewed to inform a useful plan for the following year. Thea moved to approve the Strategic Plan; Jen seconded. The motion passed with all in favor and none opposed.

New Business: Mary presented the Program Planning Policy, which explains the system that we use for planning. Jen moved to approve the Program Planning Policy, and Bethany G. seconded. The motion passed with all in favor and none opposed. Tanya presented the Program Plan, which shows how the program intends to meet all of the Performance Standards and connects them to our program goals. Council members pointed out a few typographical errors to be corrected. Tasha moved to approve the Program Plan with the minor corrections; Jen seconded. The motion passed with all in favor and none opposed. Tanya reported that the Fall Outcomes report was not ready for presentation because of a difficulty in pulling our data from the bigger system. This info will be presented at the January meeting, and in depth at the Education Committee meeting next month. Tanya recommended Melina Compean as a new hire for a substitute teacher. Melina worked at the Center for 15 years, starting as support staff and working her way up to Child Care manager. Council members commented that they were very happy to see her here again. Jen moved to approve the hire of Melina Compean; Tammy seconded. The motion passed with all in favor and none opposed. The group reviewed the Employee Handbook with a scavenger hunt to look for particular facts. Members commented that it was a nice way to be introduced to the different sections. Thea moved to approve the Employee Handbook and Personnel Plan; Jen seconded. The motion passed with all in favor and none opposed. The Staff Qualification document was reviewed. Tanya explained the requirements set by the Office of Head Start for educational attainment of preschool staff and how waivers could be obtained for staff with an active and defined professional development plan toward a designated level. **There was clarification of what a "related" degree meant. The other items regarding staff and human resources will be addressed at the January meeting due to time constraints.**

Announcements: The announcements from the agenda were noted, including the ongoing enrollment for this school year, upcoming meetings and events, school vacations, and the next regular Policy Council meeting on January 13.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:55pm by Alison.

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

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

Head Start Policy Council

January 13 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.