

Communication Link

CESA #11 Head Start

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CHIPPEWA VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS VOLUNTEER IN THE HEAD START PROGRAM

When Mr. Schaller told the student body that we'd have a chance to volunteer at Head Start on the opposite side of the building, I was ecstatic.

Originally, six students were selected, but one moved back to her original school. Each of the five students (Austin R, Ross M, Marcus E, Shaina K, and myself) help out in a specific class twice a week for one class period.

"I love working there," says Ross. *"Seeing their (the kids') happiness brings me joy."* Ross shared a story with me about a girl in his assigned class. *"She's shy around males, but she told her teacher that she was going to give me a hug."* The next day, without saying anything, the little girl came up behind him and gave him a big hug.

The Head Start program is for lower income families that can't afford pre-school or day care. Being able to play with children who aren't used to having much is a wonderful thing, both for the child and for the student.

When asked how he felt about the program, Marcus had this to say: *"Walking into that classroom brings a smile to my face every time. I know as soon as I walk in, there will be 17 five-year-olds yelling my name. It's crazy to think that I make a difference just by going in the classroom and playing with play-dough, trains, or Legos. It humbles me, to be honest."*

It seems that helping out in the classes has a strong effect on the males of our group. Being in the role of caretaker to small children is a non-traditional role for most males, but they really love it.

Overall, everyone enjoys helping out immensely, and most find it hard to leave on time to get back to their regular classes.

I believe that this is a great opportunity for students to learn to be compassionate and help out the younger generation; the next leaders of our world.

By Samantha Sullivan
Submitted by Cindy Cross

PARENTS ARE THE HEART OF A CHILD

Alice Sterling Honig, PhD, a professor emerita of child development at Syracuse University, a licensed psychologist who specializes in working with families with child custody and child development issues, asserts that parents are young children's most precious resource. She states, ***"Family is the first school for young children, and parents are powerful models"***.

As we work to teach children in our classrooms, many times it is difficult to develop the partnership with the child's first teacher, his/her parents. We try, but still we do not have them on our Head Start team; they have too many times become spectators to our teaching. This results in less than positive outcomes and many times not so positive feelings.

The Head Start Performance Regulations require a family partnership with Head Start staff - not just Family Resource Providers. 1304.40 of the regulations contain the entire requirement of parental involvement, but beyond what Head Start requirements are, science tells us, and we *"just know"*, that without the parent involved in their child's growth and development, positive outcomes are difficult to achieve. Family impact is huge and includes parental distress, lack of routines, sleep issues, health, and nutrition issues. These issues are too important not to be addressed in order to help the child succeed.

What can we do to increase our parent involvement - especially the parents of the center-based children?

That is the question we have asked for at least the past five years. *"Do you have the answer?"* We must try something different - it's too important to give up.

We are hopeful that parental involvement in our classrooms will be one of our areas of growth in the 2011 - 2012 school year. Know that we are planning to find ways to bring the parents into the classroom as helpers, observers, playmates, and readers. If you have any ideas, please send them my way. My e-mail is susies@cesa11.k12.wi.us. Your help is needed. Get ready to involve parents!

Have a great summer!

Sue Schultz, EHS/FS Coordinator





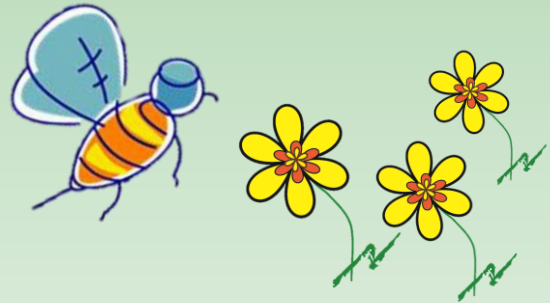
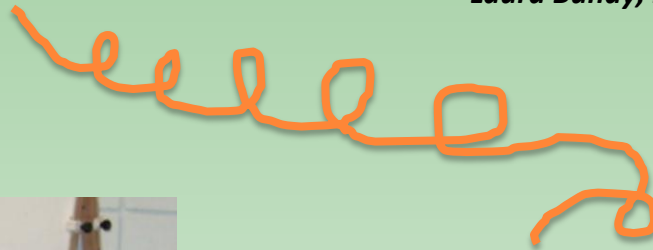
“GO GREEN”

Menomonee Head Start proved to "go green" this school year as the parent group decided to collect & recycle plastic caps for their annual community service project.

With over eight boxes collected and packed, they were shipped to Aveda, who recycles the plastic caps to use in their product containers.

In the picture, Dian Anderson's Three Year Old classroom shows off all the caps, as they also enjoyed playing with them!

Laura Bundy, Family Resource Provider



Tommy and his mother, Sally, who are enrolled in the Head Start Home Visit Program in Menomonee, shared five science experiments for our April 19th Socialization. Our favorite was Fuzzy Foam.

Tommy let his friend, Sean, have a turn too.

Kate Manning, Home Visitor



“THANK YOU TO THE SENIOR CONSTRUCTION CLASS AT THE HIGH SCHOOL IN STANLEY”

Last fall, the Head Start Program in Boyd was awarded the Head Start Body Smart (HSBS) Grant to improve the playground. It was decided that it would be nice to have a playhouse for the children, so the Stanley High School construction class teacher was contacted to see if his class would like to build a playhouse as one of their construction projects, and he graciously agreed.

The grant paid for the materials, and the high school seniors went to work and built the playhouse; it was delivered to the Head Start Center the second week in May.

The children are so excited to have this wonderful addition to their outdoor space, and truly appreciate, along with the Head Start staff, all the hard work and effort that these seniors put into this project.

Pictured are the “big kids” who built it, and the “little kids” hanging out in it.



Karen Phelps, Center Director

EMPLOYEE CORNER – COMMITMENT MILESTONES

Commitment is such an important virtue in our program that we rejoice in the recognition of employees that have accomplished recognizable commitment milestones in the following months.

During the Month of June, the following employee has been with Head Start for **35 years**:



Connie Voeltz
Anniversary Date: June 1, 1976
Central Office, Turtle Lake

During the Month of July, the following employees have been with Head Start for **5 years**:



Laura Bundy
Anniversary Date: July 17, 2006
Menomonie Head Start Center



Jill Lindell
Anniversary Date: July 20, 2006
New Richmond Head Start Center



Kim Rasmuson
Anniversary Date: July 20, 2006
New Richmond Head Start Center



Angie Welch
Anniversary Date: July 30, 2006
Menomonie Head Start Center

It has been our pleasure to work with all of you.

Janet Ramis, Admin/HR Coordinator

2011 HEAD START AND EARLY HEAD START PARENT SURVEY RESULTS

Each program year, our Head Start (HS) and Early Head Start (EHS) parents are surveyed to assess their satisfaction with the services they received. The results provide useful information for our Community Assessment, and ensure that CESA 11 is providing quality services. Seventy-two percent of EHS families and fifty-seven percent of HS families returned the survey. These numbers reflect a slightly higher return rate than 2010. The survey is quite extensive, and addresses many areas including parental satisfaction with staff, location of centers, educational services/school readiness, transportation, nutrition, health services, disability, and family services. In addition, parents are asked what their biggest stressors were during the year. This information helps us to seek out relevant resources and provide services that are responsive to the needs of the families we serve.

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE RESULTS OF THE DATA THAT WAS COLLECTED THIS PAST SPRING:

Head Start Families:

Head Start parents report their biggest stressors were: financial (44%); employment (22%); and marital/personal (26%). Two other stressors that were identified were transportation, and medical/dental needs. Interestingly, financial and employment stressor numbers are lower this year than last, but marital/personal stressors are on the rise.

<u>Topic Area</u>	<u>Percentage of Satisfaction</u>
Convenient center location	96%
School readiness	95%
Staff provide quality information	98%
Resources on health/dental, disabilities, and mental health	84%
Family Services	96%
Transportation	77%
Classroom staff	100%
Male involvement - materials/information	54%
Information on parent involvement	94%

Early Head Start Families:

Early Head Start parents report their biggest stressors were: financial (50%); employment (32%); and marital/personal (24%). The financial and employment numbers are very close to last year. The marital/personal stressors are lower by about eight percent.

<u>Topic Area</u>	<u>Percentage of Satisfaction</u>
Home visits - time/value	98.5%
Information provided by staff	85%
Information on health/dental	95%
Child development knowledge	91%
Male involvement	88%
Information on parent involvement	84%

As we look forward to the upcoming year of services, we need to consider all areas that are below eighty-five percent, and work to improve these necessary services for children and families.

Sheri Norgard & Suzanne Schultz, EHS/FS Coordinators

CESA #11 HEAD START STAFF

Please record the date below for the **Head Start All Staff** on your calendars. There will not be any notices sent out prior to the event. Please make travel arrangements with your Center Director.

Monday, August 29, 2011 at the **Das Lach Haus** in Cumberland.

Bring your book *“Life Would Be Easy If It Weren’t for Other People”* if you would like the author to sign it.

See you there!
Laurie

AUGUST 2011						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29 CESA #11 ALL STAFF	30	31			



CESA #11

HEAD START

STAFF

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