



KHSA Newsletter

Winter Edition, 2011

“Growing the Future World Together”

The 2011 KHSA Annual Conference is approaching quickly. The theme for this year’s conference is “Growing the Future World Together”. We hope you plan to attend this wonderful event filled with lots of fun and entertainment. Don Monopoli will entertain us on Tuesday during the keynote session while Bryan Townsend will motivate us on Wednesday of the conference. We look forward to seeing you there!



KHSA
April 11-14
CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL
 Louisville Kentucky
 Growing the Future World Together



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Family Fest



Lincoln County Head Start families enjoy a free meal and an evening full of fun at the Program’s recent Family Fest.

The **Lincoln County Head Start** program recently hosted a Family Fest for program participants and their families. The event, held in November, offered families a free, festive, fun-filled evening which promoted partnership building, resource and community collaboration, and family togetherness. Families enjoyed a free chili supper, a free family photo as a memento of the evening, free games and activities with prizes, and a packet full of parenting information, handouts, community resource information and giveaways. Approximately 200 participated in this fun filled evening.

Jennifer Barrett, Lincoln County Head Start Assistant, enjoys nail and face painting with MaKenna at the Program’s Family Fest.



Points of Interest...

- ◆ **Staff**
- ◆ **Family Involvement**
- ◆ **ARRA**
- ◆ **Head Start Body Start**
- ◆ **Pride**
- ◆ **Enrollment**

LKLP Head Start

We are very sad to report that Head Start and especially children with disabilities lost a true advocate for children and families. Sharon Holbrook, Disability Specialist passed away on November 6, 2010. We will miss Sharon very much. She began her career as a teacher in Head Start at the Mountain Heritage Head Start Center at Blackey, KY under the tutelage of Katrina Back. She left Head Start to work for the Jenkins and Letcher County school systems as a teacher. Sharon returned to Head Start, her first love, as a Disability Specialist on August 2nd 2004. Since that time she has been involved in the Special Quest Project and has been active in PPIC.



ARRA EXPANSION

We are very excited at L.K.L.P. Head Start — we have received funding to expand our Early Head Start Program. Twenty nine new people were hired for our Early Head Start and trained in Infant/Toddler fast track CDA. This all came about with hard work by the Head Start staff, Hazard Community Technical College, East Kentucky Concentrated Employment, and L.K.L.P. Community Action Council. Besides the twenty-nine Early staff, we hired four people to replace staff who transferred from Head Start to Early Head Start.

Thanks to ARRA, we are serving 72 more infants/toddlers and their families as well as providing meaningful work to 29 more employees.

Thanks to everyone and especially Jimmy Keen, Randy Fugate, Gary Begley and Charlie Cornett as well as many others, Perry Early Head Start new doors have opened. The staff at Perry Early Head Start has composed a poem to celebrate the occasion.

Walls have been painted
Furniture is in place
Curriculum established
Centers theme based
Home based visits
Will soon be in the past
As we hold and cuddle
Our babies in laps
Books to be read
Toys to explore

HEAD START ENROLLMENT 2010-2011

We are pleased to announce full enrollment with many centers having a waiting list. We have identified services needed and family demographics. The services delivered are determined by the needs of the families. Head Start partners with various agencies, such as Protection and Permanency, Community Based Services, the Health Departments, County Extension Offices, local Fire Departments, local School Districts, Family Resource Centers, Kentucky River Community Care, Kentucky River Area Development District, Good Will, local ministries and various medical organizations to provide these services. These partners also offer a lot of support with our recruitment. Full funded enrollment for Head Start is 618 pre-school children and 112 Early Head Start children.



Funding Opportunities

Middle Kentucky Head Start has received funding for Lee and Wolfe County Centers from the “Head Start Body Start National Center for Physical Development and Outdoor Play” to purchase additional playground equipment and replace the assisting shelters used for shade. With this funding we were able to purchase double basin sand and water tables with lids, four seated teeter-totters, sky ward summits and clubhouse climbers for each of the two counties. As

soon as weather permits we will begin construction of our new structures for shade.

In addition we will continue to receive grant funds from the Personal Responsibility for a Desirable Environment (PRIDE) program. Through this funding we have implemented outdoor learning centers in each of the three counties-Breathitt, Lee and Wolfe. Our Head Start children also have the opportunity to form PRIDE Clubs. These clubs participate in various activities related to preserving our environment including recycling

and purchasing energy saving light bulbs for our families. Middle Kentucky Head Start received a third place trophy for having the most participants in a PRIDE Club activity



Thankful for Another Year of Prosperity

We were happy to be awarded two \$5,000 grants through the Head Start Body Start (HSBS) National Center for Physical Development and Outdoor Play. The National Center was created through a federal grant to the National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE) and the American Association for Physical Activity and Recreation (AAPAR) from the Office of Head Start.

The two grants will serve to refurbish and enhance outdoor areas in our Bath and Morgan County service areas. A previous \$5,000 grant received last year, also from HSBS, allowed us to add a tricycle path and additional equipment to the outdoor area in Rowan.

These grants compliment the work we have done and continue to do to promote increased physical activity and raise awareness of the importance of healthy eating and exercise habits in the very early years. Our outdoor areas serve as an extension of our classroom. Children are offered opportunities to play organized games, paint, use sand and wa-

signs “**Gateway Head Start** Outdoor Learning Center” to accurately depict how we use the outdoor areas, modeling for parents that outdoor time can and should be dedicated to learning through exploration and capitalizing on those wonderfully unplanned teachable moments.

I Am Learning I Am Moving (IMIL) has been an integral part of this process. Teaching staff incorporates IMIL into daily activities, IMIL has been introduced during parent committee meetings, and we have been known to dance to some Choosy tunes during policy council meetings! Childhood obesity is a growing concern in our service area so we are joining arms with the community, hoping to be the catalyst to raise awareness and effect change. The HSBS funding has allowed us to recognize many of these goals much earlier than anticipated.

In other exciting news here at Gateway, just before Thanksgiving, we hosted our second annual

“Picturing America,” incorporating some of our own Appalachian pride into the event. All of our teachers were stationed at tables throughout the hall displaying the picture they had chosen to highlight accompanied by parent and child activities that depicted the art work. In addition, our partners at the Extension Office offered demonstrations on gardening, canning, and making butter. We also enjoyed bluegrass music and a down home dinner of brown (soup) beans, cornbread, and onions. Just doesn’t get any better than that!

The event brought out 104 families and each one took home a folder of information about Picturing America, instructions on simple interactive parent – child science activities, and the materials needed for their children to make hand turkey centerpiece for their Thanksgiving table.

We hope for ourselves and wish for everyone else a new year filled with success and good will!