

# HEAD START BULLETIN

## CUTE THINGS KIDS SAY

We are often reminded of how much we learn from the children...each day!!! It was during a “friendship activity” at Chahk Ha Chee, that we received an important and refreshing message. Children often see things so much more simply, while adults often complicate even the simplest things!!! The children were tracing their arms and hands, and then cutting them out for a bulletin board project about “friendship”. The children were also cutting out hearts to incorporate into their design. Ms. Christine was then speaking with the children about friendship...and how to be a “friend”? Their responses were ...”play, play together, share, take turns, give hugs, shake hands, hold hands, smile, and give help”!!!!☺ It’s just that simple and uncomplicated...thank you kiddo’s for this reminder!!! Never forget the important lessons children teach every day!!!!

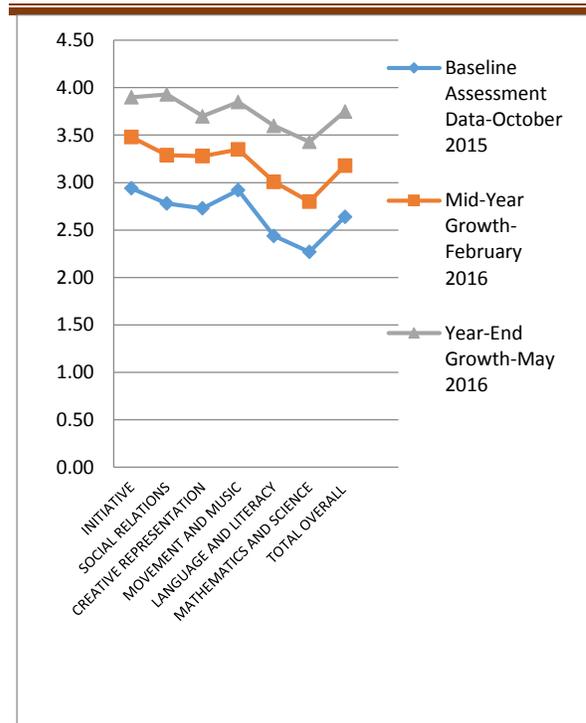


## LOOK WHAT OUR KIDS ARE UP TO

Our 118 children have been busy with discovery and exploration...and of course with preparing for their yearend celebrations!!! With the year end, you would have found the children reviewing all of their colors and shapes, learning all about the number 0, and the letters d, and x. In the spirit of discovery and exploration, they learned all about spaceships, rockets, boats and ships. The children have been studying the value of HONESTY☺, and the opposites of sink and float.

It is a bittersweet time of year, when the centers become strangely quiet...and only the echoes of the children learning and playing remain. We miss them already!!! To our children heading off to Kindergarten, we know you are prepared and ready to take on the big school, and we hope you have loads of fun learning even more new things!!!! For those children who will be coming back to us in the fall...WE CAN’T WAIT to see you again!!!!

The children have worked very hard this year...as evidenced by the chart of growth throughout the year!!



## SPECIAL EVENTS

Field trips to explore “for real” the concepts we are learning.

Yearend celebrations...the participation by our families was outstanding...400+ celebrated with the children their last day of Head Start!!!

The review of the Child and Adult Care Food Program by USDA, May 3 and 4, had extremely good outcomes, because we have amazing food service staff, and an amazing Coordinator and Accountant, that make sure everything is done and done well!!!! The auditor was very complimentary of the high degree of organization!!!! Thank you all very much!!!!

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We are very excited to announce that we will be hiring Ho-Chunk Language Teachers for the start of the 16/17 school year!!!!!! Please watch for the postings in July!!!!!!

## WHAT'S NEW IN HEALTH AND NUTRITION

**Together, with multiple community partners, we are planning amazing Parent Orientation/Child Screenings events for the fall!!! They will truly be second to none!!!!**

Our amazing Food Service staff served up 1,532 breakfasts and 1,583 lunches, for a total of 3,115 delicious and nutritious meals in the month of March.

To date, only 5 children are missing a well-child checkup and 9 are missing a dental examination. Together with the Ho-Chunk Nation Health Department, we are once again working hard to make sure that all children receive the screening in fine fashion during the fall 16/17 orientation/screening days!!!

## THANK YOU NOTES

There are sooooo many people to thank, because they are so kind and generous to us!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Please know we are so thankful for all of those who provide resources and assistance to the children and families...and if you are not highlighted this month...keep watching!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

We would love to say a GREAT BIG THANK YOU and CONGRATULATIONS to Mr. Rob Voss!!! What you have offered to Head Start in guidance, grants, advice, tireless dedication to children and families, time, training, and expertise has been nothing short of amazing!!!! We will miss your thoughtfulness on the Policy Council, and your presence at the Centers for inspections...but wish you all the best as you fulfill the duties of your new position!!!! As is typical for Rob, he has made sure we are left in very capable hands!!! We look forward to continuing our looonnggg relationship with Ms. Pam Thunder, and extend a great big welcome to Ms. Candace Green!!!!!!

## SPECIAL INVITATIONS

We have already received a high volume of applications for enrollment for the 16/17 school year. If your child will be 3 by September 1, 2016, PLEASE contact us, so we can meet with you to complete an application for your child!!☺

## "THEN AND NOW"

We are so lucky to have the opportunity to work with children. What could possibly be more fun!!!!!!??? When they "graduate" from Head Start, we don't always get to know what they did after....? So we are looking for former Head Start students...to highlight in the future!!!! We would love to have a story to share each month!!!! If you would love to share your story, please email me at [laurel.meek@ho-chunk.com](mailto:laurel.meek@ho-chunk.com) or call me at 715-284-4915 X 1175!!!!!!

Often times, we find ourselves concerned about the day to day bills, the "issues" at work, the "issues" at home, the high cost of living, what is being said about us on social media, the cost of fuel, where will our kids go to college, and so much more...yet seldom do we find ourselves discussing..."at what price...freedom"!!!!

In thinking about the significance of the Memorial Day Holiday, it was amazing to catch up with a fine young man, who just happens to be a 2003 graduate of the Head Start program. We chatted for a bit about his days in Head Start and his memories of Gaga Ardella and Ms. Sharon. It turns out this young man loved to talk...but didn't like to sit much!!! He remembered spending some time every day but one..."on the bench"!! There was this "duck pond", and every child had a duck on the pond. At the start of each day, every duck was on the pond. As the day progressed...some ducks began to move to the edge of the pond...and as kids became more conversational with each other during a lesson...the ducks would "wander" out into the grass!! This young man remembers one day..."my duck stayed on the pond the whole day!!!! My Teacher took a picture of the pond with my duck on it...and I still have the picture!!!!"☺

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This young man went on to Black River Falls High School, where he was a baseball player, a football player and a hockey player. One day, during his junior year...something changed that set him on a new path. He met with a military recruiter, set up a meeting with him that day, and he and his mom had a 2 ½ hour meeting. His senior year, he gave up sports and began to focus his energy on preparing for boot camp. Two times per week he went to Tomah, where he had PT training with a recruiter. Upon graduating from High School in 2015, he headed off to San Diego, for Marine Corp Boot Camp. When I ask him what it was like...he said "it was hard to be that far away from home for the first time...it was an adjustment...but it was fun"!! He graduated from Marine Corp Boot Camp, May 20, 2016. We who live in freedom and under the protection of these fine young men and women...can only imagine the rigor, the dedication, and the intensity it takes to accomplish such a feat. Each of these graduates earns the utmost honor and respect. Yet he spoke of his graduation, almost as if he was unaware of the significance of this accomplishment!!!

When asked what next...he will be returning to San Diego for Marine Combat Training for four weeks, after which he will be going to Oklahoma for up to eight weeks for Artillery School. He has signed a contract for four years of service, but plans to give at least eight years.

When I hung up the phone after our conversation, I couldn't help but be in awe of his humility...what a fine young man, so full of honor, selflessness and respect...willing to do whatever it takes for all of us. I feel lucky to know this young man that we used to call "Honas man"!!

THANK YOU MR. JONAS WHITEGULL, FOR  
EVERYTHING...WE ARE FOREVER IN YOUR DEBT!!!!  
**"SEMPER FI"**