

HEAD START HAPPENINGS

HEAD START READY FOR KINDERGARTEN

During the week of May 16, Head Start, Inc. students and their families will celebrate the end of another successful year in our program. Head Start children are busily practicing their kindergarten skills, strengthening their ability to follow directions, write their names, make new friends, manage emotions, solve problems, and identify letters, colors and numbers.

Head Start students have made wonderful progress in this year in developing important school readiness skills. Here is a look at our progress:

⇒ Fall 2015 Baseline School Readiness:

- ◆ 82% of entering students showed Beginning levels of school readiness skills,
- ◆ 14% were demonstrating Intermediate skills
- ◆ 4% were considered Advanced.

⇒ April 2015 School Readiness

- ◆ 18% of all students show Beginning levels of skills
- ◆ 40% are demonstrating Intermediate level of kindergarten skills
- ◆ 42% are showing Advanced school readiness skills

Congratulations to our all students and families who have worked so hard this year!

HEAD START FAMILY NIGHT AT ZOOMONTANA

To celebrate the end of the year, Head Start, Inc. will sponsor a Family Fun Night at Zoo-Montana on May 19, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. All Head Start, Inc. students, families, employees, and families of employees are invited to attend. Food, drinks, games, and animal encounters are in store for the evening. We look forward to celebrating a successful year with our entire Head Start family!

Thank you to the North Park Parent Committee for assisting in the planning, and to Zoo-Montana for partnering with us on Head Start Night at the Zoo!



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MISSION

Head Start, Inc. provides comprehensive services for young children and their families to achieve school readiness and lifelong success.

VISION

Encourage, Empower, and Educate All Children

VALUES

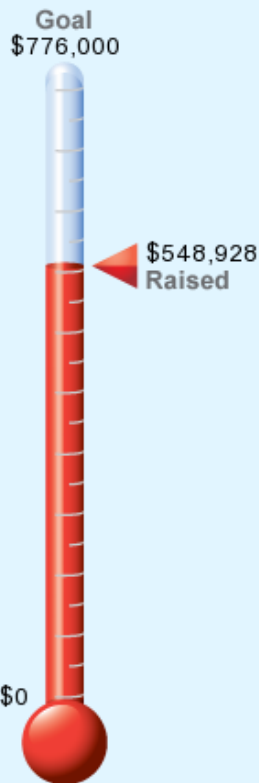
Children First
Respect
Positivity
Empathy
Competence

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Every year, Head Start, Inc. must raise \$776,000 in cash and in-kind services to deliver needed help to preschool children. We count on community support to help prepare young children for success in school. As of April 30, 2016, we are over 70 percent of the way to our annual goal. There is still time to help:

- Donate gas cards, gift cards, and gently used clothes/shoes to help families in need.
- Volunteer for Germ Annihilators on Saturdays
- Be a sponsor for our Rock2Raise concert
- Volunteer in the Garden

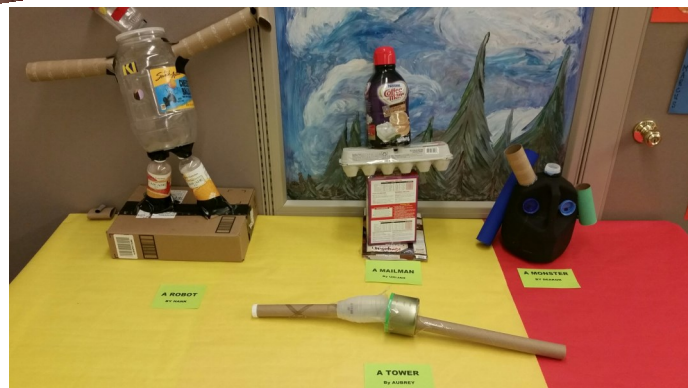
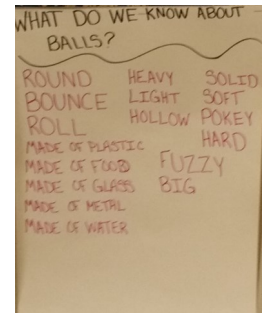
If you would like more information, please call Tera Clough at 406-245-7233.



PROJECT-BASED LEARNING A SUCCESS FOR HEAD START, INC.

During the 2015-2016 school year, Head Start, Inc. began shifting towards project-based learning for its program. Rather than using weekly themes or topics for instruction, Head Start classrooms instead conduct deep studies into a handful of topics over the course of the year.

Guided by the evidence-based *Creative Curriculum for Preschoolers*, Head Start students explore age-appropriate topics such as balls, clothing, music, roads, and recycling. The studies are designed to be child-driven, asking the students what they already know about the topic and then what they would like to learn. Each study lasts four to six weeks, and concludes with a meaningful experience related to the study — a field trip, a demonstration of learning, or a celebration.



PARENT CHALLENGE: WIN A DOLLHOUSE!

Head Start, Inc. depends on the support of parents and community members to make our program great. This spring, Head Start, Inc. is offering a special incentive to parents who volunteer their time at any one of our five sites—Billings, Lockwood, Laurel, Joliet, and Red Lodge. For every hour of volunteer service in the program, parents will receive one raffle ticket to be entered in a drawing for the beautiful dollhouse, pictured right, generously donated by Costco. The more hours volunteered, the more chances to win! **The challenge runs from April 4 to May 12, and the drawing will take place on May 13.**

Parents can volunteer time in the classroom, work on special projects at each site, help with garden planting, do administrative work, and more. Parents interested in volunteering can speak to their classroom teacher or call Tera Clough, Community Relations Director, at 869-1220.



Head Start, Inc. depends on community involvement to make our program a success. Thank you to all the businesses, churches, community groups, nonprofits, public agencies, and individuals who give so generously!

GARDEN PROJECTS UNDERWAY

As a part of our program's ongoing commitment to quality child development and health services, Head Start, Inc. invests valuable time and resources into developing Discovery Gardens at all of our program sites.

Every spring, Head Start students at all sites participate in Planting Day, learning about the parts of a plant and starting seedlings that they will cultivate until they can be transplanted outdoors. Students get the opportunity to learn about gardening and understand the origins of food.

The largest garden in our program, located at the North Park site, provides fresh produce throughout the summer and fall for use in our Nutrition program as well as given to families who may not otherwise have access to fresh produce on a regular basis. Our Nutrition employees work hand-in-hand with Education staff to plant the fruits and vegetables that

provide the most benefit, to develop activities around gardens, and implement harvesting and preserving strategies that allow Head Start to capture the most value from the project.

In the classroom, children also learn about healthy food choices, cooking, and composting — engaging students in a deeper understanding of the seed-to-plate lifecycle.

The garden effort depends on volunteers and community support. Donations of time and supplies allow Head Start to keep the Discovery Gardens alive. We are particularly grateful for the help and support of the Master Gardeners in Yellowstone County, who have provided wonderful guidance and energy to our gardens.

Volunteers are needed through the summer to tend gardens. If you are interested, please contact Emily at 406-245-7233.



HELP WANTED

⇒ NOW RECRUITING FOR FALL 2016! Head Start, Inc. is seeking teachers, teaching assistants, bus drivers and bus aides for program year 2016-2017. Details available at: www.billingsheadstart.org/employment-opportunities/

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

- ⇒ Teaching Assistant **Kenda Hill** received her Child Development Associate credential in April.
- ⇒ Congratulations to **all Head Start employees**—Head Start, Inc. received no findings on its recent federal review of Comprehensive Services and School Readiness. Way to go!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- ◇ May 2: Hawaiian and Polynesian Cultural Celebration
- ◇ May 3: Yellowstone Valley Give Local Day
- ◇ May 7: Montana Women's Run
- ◇ May 16-19: Year End Celebrations
- ◇ May 19: Last Day of School!
Head Start Night at the Zoo @4:30 p.m.
- ◇ May 20: Staff Appreciation Day

SAVE THE DATE: This year's annual Rock2Raise concert to benefit Head Start, Inc. will be held on August 26 at 6 p.m. at the Billings Depot. Music, food, drinks, and prizes will make this evening a must-see for the summer. Ticket available NOW by calling 869-1220!

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL HEAD START STUDENTS,
FAMILIES, AND EMPLOYEES!
HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER!**

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