

September 2014

A Monthly Publication of PCCEO Head Start & Early Head Start

PCCEO



Advocate

PCCEO Head Start Has a New Communication System

Head Start has introduced SchoolReach, a program wide communication system which enables Head Start personnel to notify all households and parents by phone, email and text within minutes of an emergency, inclement weather, unplanned event or other school communication.

SchoolReach has already been used to notify Head Start parents of center orientations and enrollment dates.

PCCEO Head Start will also continue to report school closings due to snow or weather on **WEEK, WHOI, & WMBD** as well as social media including **Facebook**.

In an effort to ensure you receive these communications, please note the following:

- Please make sure the school's office has your updated contact information on file.
- **Caller ID:** This is the number that will be used for all SchoolReach calls: Head Start: 309-671-3960 & Early Head Start: 309-495-5254.
- **Live Answers:** **SchoolReach** uses voice detection technology so you only need to say "hello" once. The message will usually begin in a few seconds after it detects your voice. Please note that multiple "hellos" will delay the message.

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Parent Spotlight

PCCEO Head Start is a child and family oriented program that prepares children for a smooth transition into kindergarten as well as celebrates our parent's achievements. This month we are spotlighting a father that took advantage of the training opportunities that PCCEO offers our parents.



Andre Barber is a former Head Start graduate and also a former employee of PCCEO as a bus monitor. Mr. Barber is continuing a Head Start legacy. He is a father of three kids. Two were Head Start graduates, and one is a current Head Start student, E'Laina Barber, who is a student in Mrs. Bush and Ms. Young's Sterling Head Start classroom. Andre Barber has done some incredible things and continues to improve his life, being a constant, ever present and positive role model for his three kids.

Andre is a former student of White Middle School where he was a honor roll student and also where he tutored children at Bradley in an after school program. He is a graduate of Woodruff High School where he played basketball. For the past five years he has been working for Keystone Steel Refinery. Mr. Barber is a former Southern Illinois University student. Congratulations are in order to Mr. Barber for he is now engaged to Tanisha Johnson. We salute you Andre Barber!

Hispanic Heritage Month

Every year the United States honors the contributions that Latinos have made to our nation by celebrating **Hispanic Heritage Month** on September 15 to October 15. This month is intended to recognize the cultures and history of U.S. citizens whose ancestors originated from Mexico, Central America, South America, the Caribbean, and Spain. While this annual celebration began 21 years ago, some of us are unaware of the history behind this important month.

September 15 was chosen as the first day of the celebration because it is the anniversary of independence for Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and El Salvador. In addition, Mexico celebrates their independence on September 16 and Chile on September 18. Columbus Day also falls within this 30 day period on October 12.

Hispanic Heritage Month honors the impact and influence that Hispanic culture has had on American society in areas such as art, science, politics, and the economy. Throughout United States history, people have come from all parts of the globe and contributed to help build and grow our free nation. **President Obama** recently welcomed Hispanic Heritage Month saying that Hispanics have shaped and strengthened the fabric of our country, and served courageously as members of our armed forces. "This month, we celebrate this rich heritage and reflect on the invaluable contributions Hispanics have made to America," The President said. "As we celebrate these hard-fought achievements, we must also remember there is more work to be done to widen the circle of opportunity for the Hispanic community and keep the American dream within reach for all who seek it." Observing Hispanic Heritage Month is a great opportunity to celebrate and take pride in our ethnic roots and educate those around you about Latin American cultures.

PCCEO Early Head Start will celebrate with our families by sharing this day with Hispanic cultural activities, food and music on September 17. Head Start will celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month on September 25.

Healthy Eyes

Most children have healthy eyes. But there are conditions that can threaten good vision. Because you can't always "look" into your child's eyes to tell if they have eye health problems, set up some time today for an eye exam.

Your child's eyes should be examined during regular pediatric appointments and vision testing should be conducted around age three. Parents should be aware of signs that may indicate their child has vision problems, including:

- Wandering or crossed eyes
- A family history of childhood vision problems
- Disinterest in reading or viewing distant objects
- Squinting or turning the head in an unusual manner while watching television

Talk to your child's pediatrician if you suspect your child has any of the eye diseases below:

- Amblyopia (lazy eye)
- Strabismus (crossed eyes)
- Ptosis (drooping of the eyelid)
- Color deficiency (color blindness)
- Refractive errors (nearsightedness, farsightedness and astigmatism)

Let's Talk Eye Safety

More than 12 million children suffer from vision impairment, and eye injuries are one of the leading causes of vision loss in children. There are an estimated 42,000 sports-related eye injuries each year and the majority of them happen to children.

Children should:

- Wear protective eyewear while participating in sports or recreational activities
- Play with age-appropriate toys.
- Avoid toys with sharp or protruding parts

One of the best ways to ensure your child keeps his/her good vision throughout life is to set a good health example.

(New Message System, continued from Page 1)

- **Message Retrieval Line:** **SchoolReach** archives our school's messages for 30 days, just in case you miss them. Simply call -- from the phone number you have on file -- this number: 855-955-8500 and follow the prompts to hear any/all messages sent.
- **Parent App:** **SchoolReach** makes available to parents a mobile device "app" to help keep the lines of communication open. Parents will be able to manage contact numbers, email addresses, opt-in/out preferences -- all from the convenience of a smart phone. It's FREE and available on iPhone and Android stores as "**SchoolReach** Parents."
- **Answering Machines/Voice Mail:** The system also detects answering machines and voice mailboxes and will deliver the recorded message. Please note that the recommended number of rings for answering machines is four and be sure that recordings are free of any "pauses."
- **Message Repeat:** At the end of the message you will be prompted to 'press any key' to hear the message again. This is very helpful when a child answers the phone and hands it to a parent, who can then 'repeat' the message in its entirety.



Head Start Health Services

The main goal of Head Start Health Services is to help children and families meet physical, dental, emotional and nutritional needs.

All children who are enrolled in the Head Start Program are provided with comprehensive medical, dental, nutrition and mental health services. Hearing, visions and dental screenings are services available to all Head Start children. The Head Start staff assists in facilitating these services.

Health Services are offered by PCCEO Head Start through a collaborative partnership with Unity Point Health (formerly Methodist). The PCCEO Head Start In-School Health Center is located at the Webster Center. To contact the In-School Health Center Nurse Practitioner, you may dial (309)671-3960 ext. 228 or 229, fax 672-3985. The direct line to the In-School Health clinic is 309-495-1503.

The In-School Health Center is staffed by a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner and a Medical Office Assistant, on a part time basis. Head Start also employs a Health and Disability Services Coordinator on a full time basis.



Saturday, October 4, 2014 • 11 am - 3 pm
Glen Oak Park, Peoria, IL

FREE! ENTERTAINMENT

11:30 am	Julie K
12:30 pm	CCT's cast of Beauty and the Beast Jr.
1:00 pm	PICK Percussions
1:30 pm	Peoria POPs Dixieland



Performance by Julie K • PNC Mobile Learning Adventure • Peoria Zoo: pay kids admission • Touch A Truck • Children's Resource Fair • Photo Booth • Hook a kid on golf • Bounce House • Basketball • Obstacle Course • much more!

For more information visit www.peoriaparks.org



September 2014

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1 LABOR DAY ALL CENTERS CLOSED	2	3	4	5
8 Donuts with Dad @ Webster	9 Donuts with Dad @ Manual ESL 8:30am—Noon	10 Donuts with Dad @ Sterling	11 Donuts with Dad @ Trewyn Donuts with Dad @ Urban League ESL 8:30am—Noon	12
15	16 ESL 8:30am—Noon	17 EHS Hispanic Heritage Celebration 5—7pm	18 ESL 8:30am—Noon HS/EHS Parent Policy Council 6-7pm	19 Early Childhood Prof. Development All HS Centers Closed HS Offices Open EHS Closed at 11:30am
22 Mommy Moments Meet And Greet 10am—noon	23 ESL 8:30am—Noon	24 Dist. 150 half day	25 ESL 8:30am—Noon HS Hispanic Heritage Celebrations 10am and 2pm	26
29	30 ESL 8:30am—Noon Trewyn HS Hearing Screenings			

Join the Family

PCCEO Head Start and Early Head Start Programs are accepting applications. If you know someone interested in the quality early childhood education our programs offer please share this information:

Head Start

- Children Age 3-5
- Must meet income eligibility guidelines
- Full and Half Day Classes available
- Disability Services, including Speech and Language Therapy
- Hearing, Vision and Dental Screenings

Contact:

PCCEO Head Start
923 W. Millman Street
Peoria, IL 61605
(309) 671-3960
www.pcceo.org/headstart
facebook.com/PcceoHeadStart



Early Head Start

- Children Age birth to 3, & expecting mothers
- Must meet income eligibility guidelines
- Monthly Socializations & Educational Opportunities
- Developmental Screenings & Assessments
- Nutrition Education

Contact:

PCCEO Early Head Start
427 W. Main Street
Peoria, IL 61605
(309) 495-5254
www.pcceo.org/ehs
Search for us on Facebook!
PCCEO Early Head Start

