



Monthly Newsletter

December 2018 | Volume I | Issue 01 | Darlington County Community Action Agency Newsletter

Agency Reminders

Dec. 17: 5:30 pm	Policy Council Meeting
Dec. 20: 5:30 pm	DCCAA Board Meeting
Dec. 20 - Jan. 1	Head Start Winter Break
Dec. 21	Holiday Brunch
Dec. 24 - Dec. 26	Christmas Break
Jan. 1	New Year's Holiday
Jan. 2	Professional Development
Jan. 3	Students Return
Jan. 21	MLK Holiday
Jan. 24	Early Dismissal
Jan. 28	2 nd Assessment Reports

Inside This Issue

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Where did MG Burno get its name?
Butler Head Start's
Motheread/Fatheread presentation!

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November is Family Literacy Month.
See how our Head Start centers
involved our children.

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Darlington Christmas Parade!

Executive Director's Note

2018 has come and is almost gone! It has been a year of challenges and wonderful opportunities for Darlington County Community Action Agency (DCCAA). We have taken advantage of this time to reinvigorate and strengthen our team and to enhance our program delivery system. This has included identifying and implementing new strategies to build our capacity in response to the ever changing needs of our communities. We will continue this process into the future and will strive to consistently provide exceptional services to the low income citizens of Darlington County and to provide our employees with a positive place to work, grow and thrive.

Thank you to our governing Board and Head Start Policy Council and to our parents, teachers, assistants, center managers, and to the staffs of our family services, transportation, nutrition, community services and administration departments for your dedication and commitment to excellence. My prayer is that everyone will enjoy a safe and enjoyable holiday season and a productive and exciting 2019!

~ Ms. Jacquelyn James Slayton



Meet Our New Head Start Director

Ms. Diane McIver began her Head Start career at the Archdiocese of New York Head Start located in Bronx, New York as a parent volunteer. After becoming the Education Director diligently working between the Bronx and Manhattan for 22 years, Ms. McIver relocated to South Carolina. After being employed with South Carolina First Steps as a Literacy Coach for five years, Ms. McIver found her way to DCCAA's Head Start Program.

Ms. McIver worked as a Mentor Coach for three years at Darlington County Community Action Agency before serving as Education Coordinator for three years. As of June 2018, Ms. Diane became the newest Head Start Director for Darlington County Community Action Agency. We are certain her expertise will assist in helping our agency move onward and upward!



Ms. Diane McIver, Head Start Director





Mrs. Mildred G. Burno and Ms. Regina Jett, MG Burno, Family Services

MG Burno Head Start Center

Meet Mrs. Mildred G. Burno! “Sounds familiar, right?” Known throughout the community as the woman who has dedicated her life to advocating for and helping the children in Darlington had the added honor of being the person after whom the MG Burno Head Start Center was named and dedicated in 2006.

Mrs. Burno’s legacy of dedication, love, joyfulness, encouragement and community leadership has set the bar for others to follow. We need but to look at the example she has set to ensure that MG Burno Head Start and all other children’s programs flourish throughout Darlington County!

Regina Jett, MG Burno, Family Services

Butler Head Start Center

Motheread/Fatheread is a literacy program started by Darlington County First Steps in partnership with DCCAA Head Start in an effort to help bridge the reading gap between families and children by promoting fun and exciting ways that encourage parents to read and help bring books alive as they read with their children.

Pictured to the right are parents from the Butler Head Start Parent Committee with Mrs. Linda Edwards (center) as they presented her with a bouquet of flowers in appreciation for her dedication to improving the Hartsville community through literacy.

Jennifer Walker, Butler Head Start Teacher





Cedell Campbell (top left), Margaret Gattison (top right), Don Hall (bottom left), and Carl Moore (bottom right)

School Transportation

Our transportation staff has a total of 65 combined years of driving experience and have traveled over 425,000 miles with Darlington County Community Action Agency. We safely transport 140 students to our Head Start Centers daily and have been accident free for the past 8 years.

Transporting students to each of our three centers, Butler Head Start Center in Hartsville, MG Burno Head Start Center in Darlington, and St. Joseph Head Start Center in Hartsville, can only be done with our buses and their state of the art audio and video installed systems that ensure the safety of our students and staff.

Our transportation department always strives for excellence!

Don Hall, Transportation Supervisor

Family Literacy Month

In support of Family Literacy Month, each classroom participated in a door decorating contest in their Head Start center. Each teacher was tasked with identifying a theme that not only promoted literacy, but also allowed their students to participate and assist with the decorating. Each teacher decorated their door with a literacy theme of their choice. Ms. Martin and Ms. McCain's (teacher/assistant) class was the contest winner at MG Burno! "If You Give a Mouse a Cookie" by Laura Joffe Numeroff was the title of the book Martin and McCain chose as the theme for their classroom. The children did an amazing job coloring and creating their cookies. Thumbs up!!

Edna Pettigrew, Center Manager, MG Burno



Fostering Connections between Home and the Classroom!

Family Literacy Month in our Head Start Centers enabled the staff at Butler Head Start Center to create dioramas, miniature models, representing different scenes from a variety of books read over the month. Books ranged from “One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish” to science themed books like “When Dinosaurs Lived.” We had a total of 38 families to participate in our Diorama Project. All dioramas were completed at home and brought into the center to display for a few weeks. We are very proud of our parents and students.



A few Diorama Projects from Butler Head Start Center!

CHRISTMAS PARADE



On Sunday, December 2nd, the MG Burno Head Start Center participated in the 2018 Darlington Christmas Parade. This event was planned by the MG Burno Parent Committee and was a great success!

Several parents brought their children to ride in the parade and took part in the festivities that the city of Darlington offered on that day. The smiles on the children’s faces show how happy and excited they were to take part in what has become an annual tradition for our MG Burno children and staff!

Happy Holidays from MG Burno!

Finance Highlights!

Looking back at 2018 financial highlights, our agency was awarded \$2,270,096 from the Office of Head Start. As part of this award, a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) in the amount of \$67,428 was approved by our Board of Commissioners to increase the salary scale of all Head Start personnel. Our agency received \$675,024 in in-kind contributions from community partners, parents, and volunteers which increased our final grant award to \$3,375,120. As we close 2018, we thank our parents, volunteers, staff, Board of Commissioners and Policy Council. We are thankful for your enduring commitment to our organization!

~ Brandi Samuel, Chief Fiscal Officer



“Head Start is designed to ensure that all children – regardless of their family’s income, race, or ethnic background – are able to enter kindergarten ready to learn.”

~ Lucille Roybal-Allard



Making mathematical ideas “real” by using words, pictures, symbols and objects is an important block in a child’s foundation.



Science teaches children about the world around them and how to relate to real-life situations.



Remember our children should get at least 60 minutes of physical activity each day!



Music and movement helps develop and refine social skills in children.

Wellness Corner

The body achieves what the mind believes.

~ Unknown

Keep an eye on the wellness corner for upcoming classes, wellness ideas and activities to keep you engaged with your overall health!



Staff Birthdays

December 2018

Rosa McLeod, Community Services	5
Gloria Ward, Butler	9
Monica Davis, St. Joseph	17
Jennifer Walker, Butler	20
Isadoris Blair, Butler	25

January 2019

Carolyn Murray, HR	8
Malcolm House, Facilities	14
Tiffany Hines, MG Burno	15
Albert Wingate, Butler	19
Tyrone Garner, Facilities	19
Sheneeka Sansbury, St. Joseph	21
Christopher Smith, Family Services	27



Thank you to everyone that has contributed to our first newsletter! For those that didn’t, there is always next month. Get your submissions in by the 10th of the month. If you have any ideas, articles, suggestions or contributions, please feel free to email Q at lgoodman@dccaa.net or Kesha Jackson at kjackson@dccaa.net. We will make sure your input is acknowledged. Our newsletter is only as good as we make it so don’t hesitate to let your voice be heard!

