

# Warm Springs Early Childhood Education Family Newsletter

January  
2024

Early Childhood Education is a department within the CTWS Branch of Health & Human Services. An ECE Steering Group is providing management of the programs as the transition to new management is in process.

If you have any questions or concerns you may contact ECE Steering Group Members:

- Caroline Cruz, [caroline.cruz@wstribes.org](mailto:caroline.cruz@wstribes.org)
- TJ Foltz, [taw.foltz@wstribes.org](mailto:taw.foltz@wstribes.org)
- Sue Matters, [sue.matters@wstribes.org](mailto:sue.matters@wstribes.org) or
- Tiana Northrup, who continues to provide supervision to staff, [tiana.northrup@wstribes.org](mailto:tiana.northrup@wstribes.org)

## Welcome to Winter!



Travel, Schools, Activities, Work, can all be impacted when weather conditions make travel unsafe or winter storms keep folks close to home.



ECE is a department within the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Government and so when delayed openings or early closures occur for the Tribes it occurs for ECE as well.



If the Tribes are open but 509J is closed then Head Start is closed however our Preschool Child Care kids can attend.



We are currently assessing our notification systems and policies and look to making some improvements, so stay tuned in the not too distant future.



Healthy Habits learned in childhood will last a lifetime. Kids who are physically active and who eat healthy foods - will become healthy adults.

- Families can influence healthy eating habits by including vegetables, fruits and whole grains with meals or snacks. Every day try and eat 5 or more fruits and vegetables
- Kids should get in at least an hour of physical activity every day so encourage them to put down their phone or gaming controller and go for a walk.
- Avoid sugary drinks in favor of drinking water is always a healthy choice. Keeping some cold water in the fridge and having water bottle ready to fill up is one way to encourage water over soda or other drinks full of sugar.

# January UPCOMING DATES

23rd

## POINT IN TIME HOMELESS COUNT

The Warm Springs "Point in Time" homeless count will be conducted on Tuesday January 23rd from 9am - 4pm at the old Warm Springs Elementary gym. The PIT Count aims to provide a snapshot of the individuals and families experiencing homelessness in a geographical area over the course of one night.

- Any family or individual that may be experiencing homelessness should participate in the survey.
- This could be living in unsheltered locations such as vehicles, tents, RVs without hookups, streets/sidewalks - and sheltered locations such as a homeless shelter, transitional home, multi-family home, sofa surfers.
- Incentives for participation and a meal will be provided.

24th

## FAMILY ENGAGEMENT Winter Solstice & New Year

Wed, Jan 24, 5-7pm.

All Families are Invited for an evening offering information about the Winter Solstice which is Indian New Year that occurs in December each year.

An activity and meal will be provided.



New Head Start Classroom opened last week in room A5. The teachers are Natalie Fuiava and Ruby Pacheco. They have been talking with parents/guardians who may be interested in serving on Policy Council and they will be doing voting January 24-31, 2024 also.

Head Start created the Policy Council as a formal leadership and policy-making role for parents. Today, every Head Start and Early Head Start program must have a Policy Council as part of its leadership structure. Through the Policy Council, parents have a voice in decisions about how the program spends money, what children do in their classrooms, and how the program works with community partners.

Once parents/guardians are sworn in to serve on Policy Council, initial training will be provided. Typically the Policy Council will meet a minimum of once a month.

## HEAD START POLICY COUNCIL ELECTIONS CONTINUE JAN 24th-31st, 2024

Congratulations to Elicia Hicks and Shania Tom who were elected to our Head Start Policy council by families in classrooms A1 and A4 respectively.

Three other classrooms votes resulted in a tie so there will be more voting January 24-31, 2024 as a runoff election for the top two vote getters in those 3 classrooms.

Those nominees are:

- Classroom A2 - Nakia Caldera & Lupe Garcia
- Classroom A3 - Jaycelene Brisbois & Savannah Holliday
- Classroom A6 - Krysta Rhoads & Cheyenne Wahnetah.