

TRIBAL PROGRAM NEWS

The "News" from Siletz Tribal Head Start

Another year has begun at Siletz Tribal Head Start and as usual, we have lots to do and lots to share.

The program operates in four communities: Portland at Whitman Elementary, 7208 SE Flavel; Salem near the Chemawa Indian School, 3960 Chemawa Road; Springfield at Maple Elementary, 2109 'J' Street; and Siletz at Siletz School, 549 James Frank Road.

We have new and returning staff at each center and for your convenience, have listed the staff members along with their telephone numbers:

Siletz Admin Bldg. -

541-444-2532: Lori Jay, Siletz Family Service Provider/Co-Coordinator Family Services; Kristi Martin-Bayya, Parent Involvement/Disabilities Coordinator; Darcy Jones, Program Coordination Clerk; DeAnn Brown, Head Start Director.

Siletz Center - 541-444-8350:

Robin Limbert, Teacher/Education Coordinator; Jacque Swinford, Teacher; Vella Feller-Sorensen, Asst. Teacher/Bus Driver; Lori Case, Asst. Teacher/Bus Driver.

Salem Center - 503-393-6942:

Jenny Montgomery, Teacher; Carole Gardner, Home-based Teacher/Health Coordinator; Norma Jimenez, Asst. Teacher/Bus Driver (temp); Ronda Norris, Food Service Aide.

Springfield Center -

541-747-0161: Jayne Albrecht, Teacher; Michelle Summers, Asst. Teacher (temp).

Springfield Together Bldg. -

541-746-9901: Shannon Hoell, Springfield Family Service Provider; Trevor Trachsel, Transition Coordinator/Co-Coordinator Family Services and (temporarily) Springfield Bus Driver.

Portland Center - 503-771-8867:

Miranda Pickner, Teacher; Mara Katlaps, Asst. Teacher/Bus Driver; Mary Gregory, Family Services Provider.

Siletz Tribal Head Start serves more than 100 children and offers center-based and home-based preschool services to tribal children. It is designed to serve tribal children living in the Siletz, Springfield, Portland and Salem communities.

Enrollment preference is given to children who are Native American, low-income, 4 years old, and those with special needs. Applications are accepted year-round. Please contact the Siletz Tribal area office nearest to you to apply.

Our program offers a wide array of services that support and enhance the development of children and their families. Whether it's health screenings, parent training, community resource information, or cultural activities, our program strives to meet the needs of each child and family.

Each month, parent meetings are held to share information about the activities and services offered in the upcoming month. These meetings are for the parents' benefit, giving families the chance to meet and socialize, and provide an opportunity for them to share ideas about the services and activities that are offered. If you want to learn more about our parent meetings, please contact the Siletz Tribal Head Start classroom in your community.

Two parent representatives are elected from each center to serve as members of the Policy Council. This is one of the governing bodies that directs the Siletz Tribal Head Start program. It

meets every other month in Corvallis, usually on a Saturday, to discuss and approve policy, procedures, goals, objectives, and services for the entire program.

Throughout the year, all of the centers engage in a variety of fund-raising events for additional money to purchase supplies and provide activities for the program. Usually, each center will hold a raffle or a bottle/can drive. Other fund raisers are an annual auction in Siletz, Indian taco feeds, cookie grams, candy grams, 50/50s, and candy orders. The success of these fund-raising events depends upon the support they receive from the community. Please watch for news about Head Start fund-raising events and show your support by attending or helping.

An element that is critical to our programs' success is the level of involvement that we generate from parents and community members. Everyone is welcome and we need all types of volunteers.

Perhaps you want to spend an hour in the classroom, help out with a field trip, present a cultural activity, assist with production of the newsletter, serve as a community representative on the Policy Council, donate items, work on a fund-raising idea, or assist with the Health Fair. What else can you think of?

If you are interested in serving the children and families in your community, please volunteer in the Head Start program.

More Head Start News

Hello, my name is Lori Jay and I am the family services coordinator/family services provider for Siletz.

We have completed all of the registration home visits and had the parents sign a dozen forms. One of the forms pertains to speakers or training that parents would like to have for their parent meetings.

The first parents' meeting for all centers included speakers on dental care and head lice. With the dental information, parents are better informed on how to help their children prevent

gum disease and cavities. The head lice information helps parents better understand what head lice is and how to treat it and maybe prevent it from invading their family.

Other topics that parents will vote on are child guidance techniques (behavior), first aid, home safety, nutrition, gardening, canning, weight control, budgeting and health insurance, just to name a few. We have a fairly full agenda for our upcoming parent meetings. All family members are welcome and the food is great!