

Message from the Executive Director



The school year is winding down. What a year it was! Your children have enriched the staff and Board of Directors of Head Start of Rockland, Inc. with their enthusiasm, energy and excitement. Watching them learn and then apply their learnings has been pure joy.

We want to remind you that learning never ceases. Use the weeks of summer to further your children's education through everyday experiences

such as walks in the park, working on an arts projects or by just taking a trip to the library together to find a book and read. It will be well worth the time.

Kindergarten readiness is a goal of Head Start. This year has proven your children are well on the road to success. Thank you for sharing them with us. On behalf of the staff and Board of Directors of Head Start of Rockland, Inc., have a safe and wonderful summer!

Sincerely,



Ouida Foster Toutebon,
Executive Director



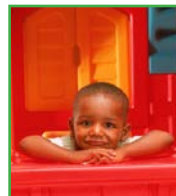
Tara Gales
Board President
Head Start of Rockland, Inc.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Moving Up Ceremonies 2018:

- ☀ Haverstraw – June 18
- ☀ Nyack – June 19
- ☀ Spring Valley – June 20
- ☀ Haverstraw – June 21

Our Mission is to provide high quality early childhood education, health, nutrition and family services to low income children and families in Rockland County, while being responsive and sensitive to a variety of cultures, traditions and practices. We help children and their families reach their optimal potential.



Head Start Happenings

Here's what's been happening around our Head Start sites!

Spring Valley



Maya St. Hillaire is definitely ready for kindergarten – is kindergarten ready for her?

Haverstraw



Dariana M. Duran, of Haverstraw, NY, walked into Emma Cruz's Head Start class as a toddler in 1998. Now, look at her today - a graduate of St. John's University, with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice. Need we say more about measuring the value of the Head Start advantage?

Nyack



In April, Head Start of Rockland organized the **Annual Community Health Fair** in Nyack. **The goal of this event was to connect with and serve the Nyack community by promoting a healthy environment and providing awareness of the services available to assist residents in their daily lives.** More than 25 vendors participated by providing educational materials, demonstrations and hands-on activities. More than 80 Head Start families and Nyack community residents turned out for the day. There were also amazing door prizes donated from local company sponsors, including **Abbey Water, AMC Theaters, Cabot Cheese, Lucky Strikes, The New York Red Bulls**, just to name a few. Musical entertainment was provided by Hot 97's Street Team. We look forward to next year and hope to see you there.

Foster Grandparents Keep Head Start Humming



Foster Grandparent Program Director Keyana Jack loves "hanging" with her grandparents! She poses with a few of them, but she wants everyone to know how much Head Start depends on the love and support these Foster Grandparents bring to the sites. They are true gifts for children!

Our children aren't our only source of talent! **Head Start of Rockland Inc. staff members** are quite artistic in their own right. Read staffer **Gregory Roman's poem about his Rockland County village, Pomona.**

Pomona



A village named for the goddess of bountiful gardens and orchards, populated by fields once served as pivotal stages: the battle for this country's Independence and the secret passageway known only for those brave enough to escape cruelty and bondage, while brothers fought brothers in this nation's civil war.


Houses, stores, and churches of Colonial, Federal, Swiss, Dutch, and Victorian design abound. Such as the home shared by the famous three: Penguin the overlord of emperors, Mikey the trainer of fighters, and Ammon the chronicler of mythic heroes. The one-room schoolhouse, long ago a foundation of learning, transformed into the corner stone of art and music cultures from the world over.

Mile long fences half shrouded in leafy vines and ivy separates grassy fields where horses graze, and hardened roads where cars tread. Stone borders line the land between the residential neighborhoods and the overgrown emerald forest.

Rushing streams of water flow without end to the great elsewhere.

In a yard of two acres a boy plans his Saturday afternoon adventures beyond the backyard, accompanied by his canine companion; while the boy's father lays fast asleep in bed, as the radio on the nightstand plays music by a band, led by their conductor, a sergeant who goes by the name of Pepper.

Greg Roman
2017



2017

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Coming up in our next issue

- Health
- Head Start Happenings
- Program and Planning

Please consider a donation in 2018!

Your tax-deductible contribution to Head Start of Rockland
will help us assist more children and their parents

___ \$10 ___ \$25 ___ \$50 ___ \$100 ___ \$250 ___ Other

Name: _____

Address: _____

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Checks should be made to: Head Start of Rockland, 117 Route 9W, Haverstraw, NY 10927

Thank you!