



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 2007

- Wednesday, August 1
County-Wide Staff Pre-Service—Day 1
New Exhibit Hall
All Staff Returns
- Thursday, August 2
County-Wide Staff Pre-Service—Day 2
- Friday, August 3
County-Wide Staff Pre-Service—Day 3
- Thursday, August 9
EOC Management Training Session
- Monday, August 13
EOC New Hire Orientation
- Wednesday, August 15
County-Wide Policy Council Meeting
- Monday, August 20
EOC Take Action! Program Begins (8-weeks)
- Thursday, August 23
CD/TD Meeting Franklin Center
- Monday, August 27
EOC New Hire Orientation
- Thursday, August 30
Happy Birthday EOC!
Employee Appreciation Day

“Think left and think right
and think low and think high.
Oh the thinks you can think of
if only you try.”
Theodor Geisel (Dr. Seuss)



HS/EHS Leaders In Safety!

2006 - 2007

The Head Start and Early Head Start programs have proven to be true **Leaders in Safety** by substantially lowering the number of injuries sustained this last school year. We reduced the number of injuries by **36%** from the previous school year. Even more important, since 2001 we reduced the number of injuries by **70%**. Congratulations on the tremendous effort put forth by all employees, supervisors, managers and directors for achieving this important goal and for making EOC a safe and enjoyable place to work. Forty-three locations will receive a **Certificate of Achievement for being Accident Free in the School Year 2006—2007**. This is the largest number of certificates ever issued in recognition of a job well done. Look for the certificates on display at the August 1, 2007 Pre-Service.

*Run For the
Children of Rwanda:
To Help Save Lives*



Mitra Zakariaei, a Head Start Teacher at our Clovis Preschool Center ran in her first official marathon on Sunday, April 29, 2007. She was a participant in the **International Big Sur Marathon**, a 26.2 mile run. The primary goal of the marathon was to raise money for the hundreds of thousands of children orphaned by the Rwandan civil war in Africa. The path of the marathon wound its way through beautiful downtown Monterey to it's final destination of Carmel, California. Congratulations to Mitra for her efforts and dedication in raising much needed funds for the Rwandan orphans and the successful completion of her first marathon.

Focus on Safety!



August 2007—Safety at the Crossroads

Intersection collisions are deadly and account for as many as 25% of motor vehicle deaths. The rate of accidents caused by signal jumpers has risen dramatically over the past 10 years, and continues to rise. Evidence indicates the increase can be traced to the growing epidemic of aggressive driving, mostly likely due to a combination of life-stress and road overcrowding. But, whatever the reasons, intersections are unquestionably more dangerous than ever before.

Collision Avoidance Techniques:

- **Don't Take Chances**—Not every stop is the same for every driver. Some people stop as soon as they see a yellow light, while others enter the intersection on yellow and actually cross after the light is red. While each of these crossing styles is legal, the latter is more risky.
- **Watch for the Sneak**—Make a habit of waiting three seconds after the light turns green—scanning in both directions—before proceeding into the intersection when you are the first car at a light. Drivers who start into the intersection just as their light turns green are the ones who get broadsided. Injuries and deaths are two-times greater for parties that hit than for the red-light-runner that hits them.
- **How are You Doing**—If you find yourself accelerating toward an intersection hoping you can make it through, then you are not driving safely. You are probably going too fast to stop unexpectedly, have switched too much of your focus ahead to the intersection, and are not performing adequate peripheral scans. Maintain a safe speed at all times in traffic, and be prepared to stop at every light. Relax while you wait at intersections. Taking the time to be safe protects your vehicle, your passengers and you.



Welcome New Employees

Lourdes Ponce, Secretary I—Head Start
Leticia Ochoa, Mental Health Assistant—Head Start
Maria Marmolejo, Teacher Director I—Head start
Hope Aguirre, Teacher Caregiver—Early Head Start

*Please take a moment to welcome these new employees to the
Head Start/Early Head Start Family*

School Readiness Programs Host Annual Kinder Camps

Family Connections West Fresno and Westside School Readiness held the annual Kinder Camps at Ivy Head Start and Columbia Elementary. Funded through First 5 Fresno County, the overall purpose of Kinder Camp is to serve as a comprehensive kindergarten transition activity. Kinder Camp gave priority to children with no prior ECE experience, children who are at risk for school failure, children who are English Language Learners, and children who are within the school sites boundaries. Over a 4-week period, Head Start Teachers were hired to implement play-based learning with an emphasis on child interest. Teachers elaborated on children's interests by scaffolding their ideas, rather than rote memorization.

The Kinder Camps also provided parent involvement opportunities through parent workshops. The emphasis during these workshops was to promote fun, science based activities that encourage children's natural curiosity. Michelle Parker and Coco Read, Coordinators for the School Readiness Programs wanted to provide a safe, loving and



nurturing environment for the children to thrive. Our main priority was to prepare each child emotionally for the next chapter of their life. Family Connections West Fresno Camp ran from June 4th through June 29th, while Westside School Readiness Camp ran from June 18th through July 14th.



If you would like to contribute articles to Head Start HeadsUp, contact Mike Garcia in the Head Start Human Resources Office 263-1224 , 263-1287 fax, mike.garcia@fresnoeoc.org