

## Director's Desk

Janet Parker, Site Director

Becoming NAEYC Accredited has been the most exciting time for the Ford Heights Early program! This school year has been such wonderful experience for the children, parents, and our staff. The children had the opportunity to go on many field trips, and parents were also welcomed enjoy some of those trips as well.

As I reflect on the learning experiences in the classrooms; the children explored how to choose healthy food first (instead of not-so-healthy food like chips, candy and sweet drinks). During the Week of the Young Child in April, we learned about the culture of dance, and how to prepare smoothies using fruit and yogurt.

As our children transition on to kindergarten we will truly miss them. We are excited about their new journey to learning experiences, though! Remember to use this time over the summer to reflect and review what your child teacher has discussed with you during Parent Teacher Conferences goals...and also remember to take time out to have fun with your child over the summer months!

### The Parking Lot Policy

- Children under age 3 should always be carried. Children under age 5 should have their hands held at all times while outside the center and in the parking lot.
- Parents should never drive more than 5 mph while in the parking lot and always be cautious of their surrounds by looking all ways to ensure children are safe.
- We understand that parents are rushing to get to work and other places. Please be mindful that there are always children close by and we have to govern ourselves safely and accordingly.

Also, please remember to provide extra clothing to store in your child's cubby (enclosed-toe shoes, two pants, two shirts, two pairs of socks and two pairs of underwear). Don't forget the parent meeting which will be held the first Thursday of each month at 9 a.m. We want to continue having great turnouts, so remember to tell a fellow parent and see you there!



### UPCOMING EVENTS - MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**Thursday | 7/4/19 | 4th of July (closed)**

**Thursday | 7/11/19 | Parent Meeting & Social Skills Workshop at 9:00 am**

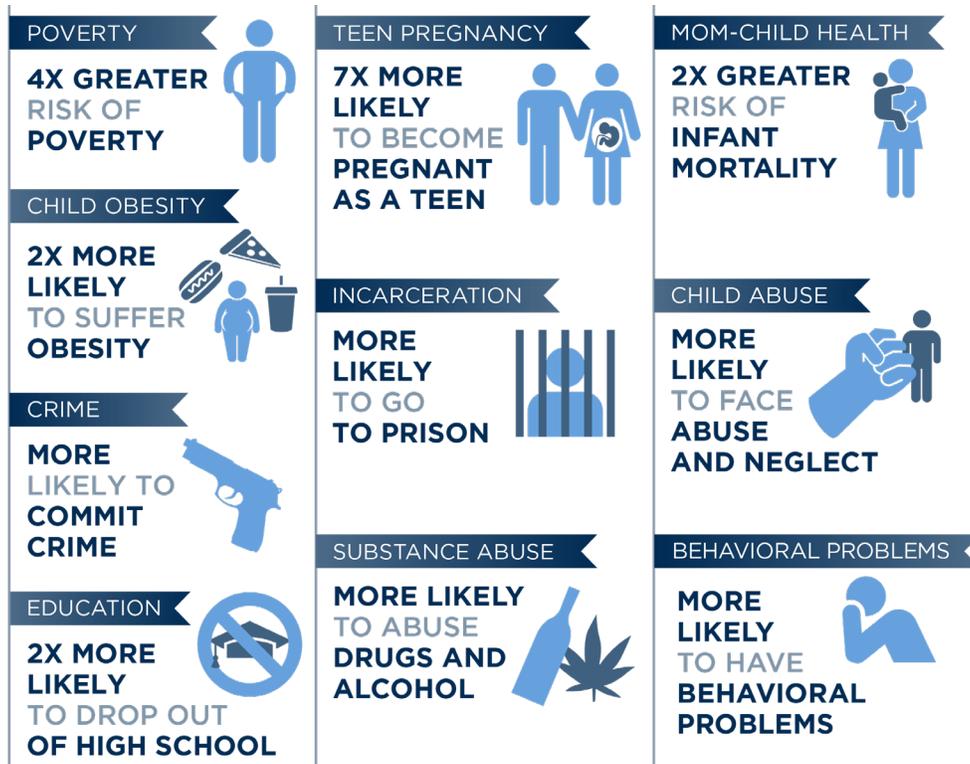
**Tuesday | 7/30/19 | Last day of school for students and teachers**

**Wednesday | 8/28/19 | First day of new school year for students**



# THE FATHER ABSENCE CRISIS IN AMERICA

There is a crisis in America. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 19.7 million children, more than 1 in 4, live without a father in the home. Consequently, there is a “father factor” in nearly all of the societal ills facing America today. Research shows when a child is raised in a father-absent home, he or she is affected in the following ways...



**19.7**  
**MILLION**  
**CHILDREN**  
**WITHOUT**  
**THEIR**  
**FATHER AT**  
**HOME**

Visit: <http://bit.ly/fatherfacts7>  
for more facts on father  
absence

★ Catalina Torres, Parent Involvement Coordinator

**Around Town**

**Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH)** and the **Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)** are working together to inspect homes and fix lead paint hazards in homes of families who meet eligibility in different areas of Cook County. For more information in the South area call Neighborhood Housing Services at (773)329-4146 or visit [www.cookcountypublichealth.org](http://www.cookcountypublichealth.org)

**Highway Construction Careers Training Program** has been implemented a 12 week free program to increase the number of minorities, women, and disadvantaged individuals working on IDOT highway construction projects. To register, please visit [www.ssc.edu/hcctp](http://www.ssc.edu/hcctp) or call 708.596.2000 (ext. 3219).

**Free healthy and nutritious summer meals** for all children 18 and under when school is out. For locations near you call 800.359.2163, text FOODIL to 877877 or visit [www.SummerMealsIllinois.org](http://www.SummerMealsIllinois.org)

**The Greater Chicago Food Depository's Summer Lunch Bus** travels to locations throughout the South and West Suburbs each weekday to serve nutritious meals to children and teens (18 and under) from June 10 - August 16, Monday-Friday (except July 4). For information on a location near you call 773.247.3663 (ext. 4050) or visit [www.chicagosfoodbank.org](http://www.chicagosfoodbank.org)

**Family Christian Health Center** on 31 W. 155th Street, Harvey, IL will hold the **KidFest 2019 Back to School Festival** on July 17, 2019 from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Free immunizations, \$15 school physical and \$10 dental screening or free with current medical card. There will be games, activities, prizes, music, refreshments, clowns, and face painting! For more information call 708.915.2273