

Summer 2019 Newsletter

SMART BEGINNINGS WESTERN TIDEWATER

Southampton Meadows Family Picnic

Sunday, July 28, 2019 several area churches including Celebration Church, First Baptist, Franklin Baptist, and High Street United Methodist Church along with Smart Beginnings Western Tidewater, Food Bank, Southampton County Department of Social Services, and Southampton County Sheriffs Office kicked off a Family Picnic at Southampton Meadows. The churches prepared food and brought cornhole boards for the children to assemble and paint for community activities. Outdoor games were provided by Smart Beginnings Western Tidewater to promote a healthy, active lifestyle.

Website & Data Portal to Launch Early Fall

The Western Tidewater Early Childhood Collaboration Bulletin Board & Data Portal plans to launch early fall 2019. Each partner organization will have a tab on the webpage to share and display information as well as access to data that will increase the efficiency of services for families in Western Tidewater. Stay tuned for the official launch announcement!

This project is supported by the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation.



Angie Turner, Dr. Gwendolyn Shannon, and Lorraine Greene Whitehead at the Southampton Meadows Family Picnic



Deputy Megan Stewart on bubble duty at the Southampton Meadows Family Picnic

**Empowerment & Uplifting Foundation
Community Back to School Bash
Saturday, August 17, 4-7pm
College Drive Playground-Franklin, VA**

Magic in the Mailbox: Books-by-Mail for FCPS Students

Submitted by Teri Zurfluh
Franklin City Schools
Parent Community Engagement Specialist

Smart Beginnings and Franklin City Public Schools have teamed up this summer to provide the magic of reading to 80 K-2 S.P. Morton students through their program, Books-by-Mail. In an effort to increase access to books for these students who scored below the reading benchmark during the last school year, this partnership provided five mailings that included books, activities and community resource information. During July and August, these mailings will ensure that these students receive books to keep them reading during the summer in hopes of mitigating the dreaded “summer slide.” Summer reading is critical for students to retain knowledge and skills learned in the previous school year. Students who don't read are at risk of falling behind their classmates. These Books-by-Mail care packages also include activities that parents can do with their children to encourage their positive summer reading habits, giving parents more tools to engage and support their students. World-renown author of the Harry Potter books J.K. Rowling once said, “I do believe something very magical can happen when you read a good book.” Thanks to SBWT for sharing the magic with our students at SPM!!!

Early Childhood Collaboration Distributes Smart Beginnings Toolkits

Members of the Western Tidewater Early Childhood Collaboration convened at the Franklin Business Center on July 25, 2019 to assist with the distribution of Early Learning Toolkits, Books-by-Mail, and community resource information to 80 SP Morton students, grades K-2. The delivery team included the following: The Children's Center, Franklin City Public Schools, Guiding Young Girls, Sedley Woman's Club, Southampton County Sheriff's Office, and Western Tidewater Health District.

Special thanks to the Rotary Club of Franklin for its donation towards this project!

Save the Date!

Virginia Quality Day

Fall ECE Extravaganza!

August 24, 2019

8:30AM-12:00PM

TCC Workforce Development Center

September Provider Workshop

Setting Up a Classroom for Success

September 4 & 5, 2019

6:00PM-8:00PM

PDCCC Smithfield Campus
& Franklin Business Center

Early Childhood Collaboration

Community Presenter: United Way

September 11, 2019

9:00AM-10:30AM

Franklin Business Center