

# Monthly Family Newsletter

October 2020



## Meet The Cummings Family!

Vicki Cantrell is a lead teacher for early head start. She has worked at Cummings for 4 years, since they opened, starting as support staff and worked her way up. Vicki loves nature and does a lot of boating. One of her favorite things to do in the classroom is to teach the life order of the monarch butterfly, from eggs to release and is known around the halls as "the butterfly lady". She loves arts and crafts, the color red and her favorite meal is steak and potatoes. Vicki enjoys the outdoors and loves to teach lessons that bring the outdoors in. Every summer she does lessons on boater safety with the kiddos, where they sing pirate songs and work on their motor skills. What she really loves about Cummings is the families, and the community- feel.

"Cummings has such a strong sense of community. It makes my heart happy. I've learned a lot from the parents. We are a team; we are in this together."

## From our Executive Director

JA'NEL JAMERSON

The Head Start and Early Head Start Parent Policy Council are looking for 2020-2021 Parent Members! We need parents who can commit to:

- Provide leadership to build our Early Head Start and Head start Programs
- Meeting once a month through Zoom
- Service as an elected Chairperson, Vice Chairperson or Secretary
- Vote on reports, financials, grants, etc.
- Help interview and select new Head Start Personnel
- Participate in the Head Start Self- Assessment
- Serve as a member of the Health Advisory Board & Much more!

Please see your Family Engagement Specialist for more information.



Scan this QR code to complete the health check survey each morning.

Cummings Family,

We would like to remind you about Car Seat Safety.

### Why should parents learn about car seat safety?

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of preventable death for all young people. Appropriate car safety is one of the most important things parents can do to keep their child safe. At each stage, kids are at risk in different ways and require different safety considerations.

### Types of Car Seats at a Glance:

This chart is a quick guide on where to start your search. It's important to continue your research to learn about each seat you use.

#### Age Group

Infants and Toddlers	*Rear-facing-only *Rear-facing-convertible	All infants and toddlers should ride in a rear-facing seat until they reach the highest weight or height allowed by their car safety seat manufacturer. Most convertible seats have limits that will allow children to ride rear facing for 2 years or more.
Toddlers and preschoolers	*Forward-facing convertible *Forward-facing with harness	Children who have outgrown the rear-facing weight or height limit for their convertible seat should use a forward-facing seat with a harness for as long as possible, up to the highest weight or height allowed by their car safety seat manufacturer. Many seats can accommodate children up to 65 pounds or more.
School-aged children	*Booster Seat	All children whose weight or height exceeds the forward-facing limit for their car safety seat should use a belt-positioning booster seat until the vehicle seat belt fits properly, typically when they have reached 4ft'9 in height and are 8-12 years of age. All children younger than 13 years should ride in the back seat.
Older Children	*Seat belts	When children are old enough and large enough for the vehicle seat belt to fit them correctly, they should always use lap and shoulder seat belts for the best protection. All children younger than 13 years should ride in the back seat.

For more information on car seat installation information, please visit:

<https://tinyurl.com/z8v3txc>

CUMMINGS GREAT EXPECTATIONS

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## Mark Your Calendars:

### Important Dates



- Virtual learning will start Monday, October 5th
- Oct 31st - HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

## From our Family Engagement Coordinator

MIKE KILDEE

Nurturing Fathers & Dad's Cafes! We have a free 6 week program for any male actively involved with raising kids in Genesee County. This program is for men who want to explore parenting through a father's perspective. This program helps men strengthen their fathering skills to build nurturing relationships with their own children or any child under their care. Fathers will also talk about ways to effectively co-parent with their child's mother. Be the Father that YOU choose to be for your children. For more information or questions, please contact Mike Kildee at **810-591-5126** or Autumn Bagley at **810-591-5126**.



To see the session options and registration information, please visit <https://bit.ly/3g6APHU>

## From our School Director

MICHELLE TOWNSEND

Babies are born learning. Very young children are learning through play, the active exploration of their environment, and, most importantly, through interactions with the significant adults in their lives. Learning to read and write doesn't start in kindergarten or first grade.

Developing language and literacy skills begins at birth through everyday loving interactions, such as sharing books, telling stories, singing songs and talking to one another. Learn how adults—parents, grandparents, and teachers—play a very important role in preparing young children for future school success and helping them become self-confident and motivated learners.

I am pleased to announce our new PA Team Leader, Latrese Brown! Ms. Brown works as a Public Health Navigator for the City of Flint and will surely be an asset to the Parent Navigator program. She is a community resource guru and enjoys connecting families with the right organization to assist with their needs. Ms. Brown has shared information about the PA program throughout the community. Ms. Brown is honored and looks forward to serving the families and staff of Educare Flint and Cummings Great Expectations as our new Parent Ambassador

Here are some other ideas for nurturing early literacy skills in your baby or toddler:

- Talk or Sing About the Pictures
- Let Children Turn the Pages
- Show Children the Cover Page
- Show Children the Words
- Make the Story Come Alive
- Make It Personal
- Ask Questions About the Story, and Let Children Ask Questions Too!
- Let Children Tell The Story
- Create Books Together
- Make Books a Part of Your Daily Routine



**THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING US TO BE A PART OF YOUR FAMILY!**