

## The Office for Children Joins the Department of Neighborhood and Community Services



Fairfax County  
NCS  
Neighborhood and  
Community Services

We are pleased to announce that effective July 1, 2019, the Office for Children will become part of the Department of Neighborhood and Community Services. This opportunity was identified by County Executive Bryan Hill, who recognized the value of aligning OFC with NCS to provide a continuum of quality, affordable, equitable child and youth development programs and services (birth-21) where children, families and communities thrive.

Building upon long term partnerships with Department of Family Services, Fairfax County Public Schools, county agencies and community partners across the county,

together, OFC and NCS have a clear and strong trajectory for the future of children and youth services in Fairfax County. We are excited to build on the connections, strengths and expertise of staff, and the depth of programming in each organization. OFC programs focus on the care, education and healthy development of children in partnership with families and the community, and as such are directly aligned with the work of NCS. OFC's services will be further supported by NCS's successful community engagement, development and outreach work as well as shared focus on improving outcomes for children and youth in our community.

OFC and NCS staff have been working together the last few months to ensure a seamless transition for families and communities. We are inspired to be part of this forward-thinking plan, and all that the future holds for children and families in Fairfax County.

## Early Head Start Embraces New Outreach Strategy

Enrollment Opportunities Advertised on Fairfax Connector Buses

Be on the lookout as you are driving around Fairfax County this summer. Bold, colorful ads for Fairfax County Early Head Start just might be on the back of the Fairfax Connector bus in front of you!

These ads are currently on the rear panel of 34 buses in the Alexandria, Herndon and Annandale areas of the county. Fairfax Connector runs seven days a week and buses rotate their routes so the message can reach the widest audience.

The bus ads, which feature an adorable infant and toddler, remind the public about the option of Early Head Start affordable child care for income-eligible families.

The ads will be on buses for a few months over the summer to raise awareness. Early Head Start Family Child Care Manager Duan Shankle explained, "Many of our children transition to Head Start in September, so now is the perfect time to let families know Early Head Start slots will be available.

"We are really excited to gauge public reaction to this new promotion," said Head Start Director Jennifer Branch. "We thought this would be a great opportunity to reach out into the community in a very visible way."



# The Crowd Goes Wild!



Children and teachers with Greenbriar East SACC show their joy and enthusiasm at the meet!



Children try a modified version of the javelin toss.



The shot put is one of the field events at this annual meet.



Children and teachers from Floris SACC proudly march in the parade after the track and field meet.



Children trained for the 50- and 100-yard dash for months leading up to the meet.

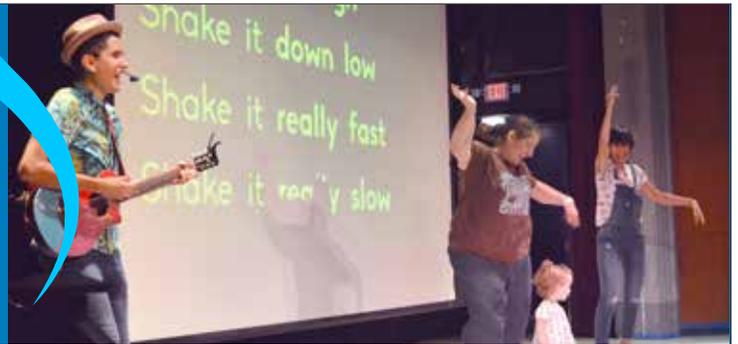
## SACC Children Soar at Annual Track and Field Meet

Close to 700 children from 41 School Age Child Care centers raced to the finish at the SACC Annual Track and Field Meet held at Lee High School on Saturday, May 11. Family and friends cheered from the stands as the children showed their determination in four events – the 50-yard dash, 100-yard dash, javelin throw and shot put. Throughout the spring, SACC teachers emphasized skill development, conditioning, good sportsmanship and fun as they worked with children to prepare for the meet.

This was an exciting day for everyone, as family members were eager to get involved and assist SACC staff by helping to coach and encourage the children throughout the day.

The event culminated with all the participants taking a victory lap around the track. SACC teachers and children from each center proudly carried parade banners they had designed for this Olympic-style closing ceremony! The event was a huge success for each child and their proud families.

# ITC Hosts Exciting 123 Andrés Concert for All Ages



On May 13, 2019, the toddlers of Infant & Toddler Connection were treated to a special music concert hosted by local celebrity children's music artists 123 Andrés. Husband and wife, Andrés Salguero and Christina Sanabria are a Latin Grammy winning duo and international children's music stars most famous for their hit song "Salta Salta."

Salguero has been a musician since childhood and went on to earn his doctorate in music. Sanabria who studied theatre and dance as a child, earned her master's in education and has a background as a



123 Andrés brings ITC children and families on stage to dance to their popular songs.

classroom teacher. 123 Andrés is the perfect fusion of their love of music, performance and learning.

Nearly 150 ITC families attended the free 123 Andrés concert. The action-packed concert on the stage of James Lee Community Center in Falls Church featured songs in both English and Spanish. "Parents, the most important voice in the room is YOUR voice. Now let's all sing together, as a group, and you're going to sing your child's name," Salguero encouraged during the opening song "Hola Amigo." The concert culminated with the families joining 123 Andrés on stage to jump and dance to a favorite song.

One ITC parent shared, "This was Zachary's first concert, and it was such a memorable experience. He loved wiggling to the music and climbing onto the stage. And I loved the audience participation, especially when we did the conga line around the theater!" ITC Family Support Liaison Ilse Rothenberg noted that this was her favorite event of the year. "I loved seeing our families get to have so much fun, and it was a great way to celebrate both Spanish and English languages!"

## Head Start Health Services Advisory Committee Spring Meeting

On May 3, 2019, The Office for Children's Head Start program held its Spring Health Services Advisory Committee meeting. This committee includes family members of children enrolled in Early Head Start and Head Start programs, staff, health professionals and community partners.

The Health Services Advisory Committee meets twice a year as a requirement of the federal Head Start Program Performance Standards. These standards outline program governance, program services, and aspects of federal administration of the program.

The committee's goal is to assist Head Start programs in developing and improving health services, and to guide staff in delivering services while responding to the needs and resources of both the program and the local community.



Meeting topics vary and often address current health trends, parent health concerns and general health education. This spring, the meeting covered exciting new details about Medicaid Expansion for the state of Virginia. As a result of this expansion in Virginia, income eligible adults ages 19-64 now have access to quality low-cost and no-cost health insurance.

Community outreach representatives from Neighborhood Health, Partnership for Healthier Kids, Anthem Healthkeepers Plus and United Healthcare Community Plan participated in a panel discussion on the many benefits and services being offered for adults in Virginia. These health insurance benefits are critical to Head Start families as they will offer preventative care and increased access to care, which lead to overall improvement in health and decreased ER visits.



# SACC's Third Annual STEAM Fair Expands to Two Locations

## Children "Question, Try and Share" Scientific Experiments

Saturday, May 4, the School Age Child Care program hosted its third annual STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) Fair at Providence Community Center, and its first annual STEAM Fair at James Lee Community Center. The two events took place simultaneously, with 19 SACC centers represented and over 90 children participating. In preparation for the STEAM Fairs, SACC teachers introduced the scientific method, and guided children as they formulated hypotheses, conducted experiments, documented their observations, and formed results-based conclusions.

At each fair, children enjoyed demonstrating their experiments and presenting their findings to the audience of family and friends! Presentations included topics like exploring circuitry, experimenting with electric motors, creating rainbow rain and making elephant toothpaste. Following the children's presentations, everyone enjoyed exploring STEAM through fun and educational activities offered by a variety of exhibitors such as 3D Me, Clubhouse Network (Neighborhood and Community Services), Code Ninjas, Nike, Play-Well, Ozobot, Stemtree Education Center, Thinkabit Lab, Verizon and the Smithsonian National Zoological Park.



Fairfax County

**O F C** Office for Children

This employee newsletter is published by the Office for Children, a division of the Fairfax County Dept. of Family Services. If you have any questions, contact Angela Morlu at 703-324-7528 or Nancy McDonough at 703-324-8042. [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ofc](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ofc).



A Fairfax County, VA Publication



Where a TTY number is not indicated, use 711/ Virginia Relay. Reasonable accommodations made upon request; call 703-324-8000.