

PARENTS AS PARTNERS

AGENCY INFORMATION for AGM 2012

Welcome to ABC Head Start! As a parent, you are your child's first and most important teacher, nurturer and advocate. As a parent, you will be most familiar with your child's class and the parent group that you go to each week. Here are some facts about our agency as a whole that you may not know!

- Your child is one of 386 children that attend ABC Head Start
- Your child's class is one of 24 classes that we run in 13 different communities, including another program at Grace Martin that is focusing on English Language Learners.
- There are more than 120 people working for ABC Head Start
- We are a not-for-profit, charitable organization, which sometimes means that we have fund raising events. It also means that we have a Board of Directors who makes sure that we are providing you and your child with the best possible program. In the past two past ABC Head Start parents sit on the Board and they do their best to represent all of you.

Who are the board members?

- In the past, these have included people who are parents, home- makers, lawyers, social workers, educators, business people and other people who have an interest in the program.
- These people are committed to a maximum of 2 – two- year terms, and are asked to attend 70% or more of the scheduled meetings.

What does an ABC Head Start board member do?

- Participate in monthly board meetings
- Most board members participate as a member of a board committee, which typically meet once a month in addition to the monthly board meetings.

What are the roles of an ABC Head Start board member?

- To be part of a working board that sets ABC Head Start policy and direction and monitors effectiveness and efficiency of the agency through the Executive Director and management team.
- There are 7-13 people which includes an Executive Committee of:
 - Chair
 - Vice-chair
 - Treasurer
 - Secretary

The ABC Head Start Society bylaws say that one of the board members must represent our agency volunteers, one or two must represent families of our agency, and the rest are people who support ABC Head Start and have skills that benefit ABC Head Start. Staff cannot be board members.

What are the committees?

- Operations and Finance
- Service Improvement Committee

- Public Relations and Fund Development
- Parent Advisory Committee

How is ABC Head Start funded?

ABC is a multi-funded agency that receives funding from:

- The Federal government (Brighter Futures of The Public Health Agency of Canada)
- The Provincial government
 - Ministry of Education (Alberta Education)
 - Ministry of Children Services (Region 6 Child and Family Services)
- The City of Edmonton (Family and Community Social Services)
- Donations:
 - Private foundations
 - Individuals
 - Private/corporations
- Fund raising:
 - Grants
 - Magic & Masquerade Gala
 - Scarecrow Festival Endowment Fund

As a family attending ABC Head Start, YOU are a member of the ABC Head Start Society. This means that you can vote at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). You may already have received a package from us mailed to your home.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is scheduled for **November 27, 2012**. As a member of the ABC Head Start Society, you will receive an invitation to this meeting. We will provide child care and a light dinner. The meeting will be held at **Kameyosek School (250 Lakewood Road East)** starting at **6:00 p.m.** The meeting itself will take place from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm. There will be **child care provided** during the meeting and the children will be given a light supper. Following the Annual General Meeting from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm, supper will be available for the adults.

We hope that you will be able to attend the AGM. It is a great chance to meet our board members, administration staff and parents attending other ABC Head Start locations. We look forward to seeing you there!