

Beacon School News

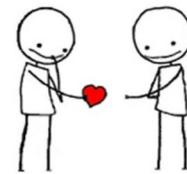
Notes from the Principal: Dr. Maryalice Turner

The year is going by quickly and we want to update you on a few important items. Our Alternative Assessment process has gone smoothly and we anticipate being completed by Spring Break. Speaking of Spring Break, be sure to see our school dates and events below.

On Sunday, Casa Nueva Restaurant, 4 W. State Street, Athens, will be showcasing our Preschoolers' artwork at a ceremony from 2-5. Try to come and see our beautiful art! The art will be on display through March.

We are starting to explore new ideas for our playgrounds. There are many wonderful new sensory options available for us to evaluate to use at Beacon.

Summer Fun Camp is coming in July. Be sure to hold July 18-July 29 for camp at Beacon. We will be sending more information along shortly.



Pay it forward

For Parents:

Jack Callem, wrote an article, **Autism Aids**, published in deliciousliving.com. His article promotes nutritional support to reduce symptoms in children with autism. To see the article, go to: <http://deliciousliving.com/supplements/nutritional-strategies-autism>

Upcoming things to know:

March 4—Dr. Seuss Day

March 15- No School Parent Teacher In-service

Teacher Conferences- 3:30-6:30 (note new ending time)

March 15 Disabilities Awareness Fair 6:30-8:00 (Athens Community Center)

March 28th- April 1—Spring Break

Notes from our Nurse: Ms. Megan Stack



The lull of winter, is still hanging around, so remember to have your children get up and remain active, even when they cannot get outside. Adequate physical activity for school aged children is 60 minutes (1 hour), or more, per day. This may seem like a lot, but it can easily be managed by incorporating it into play time fun. Make sure activities are age and intellectually appropriate. Be sure they are getting a variety of aerobic activity (e.g. brisk walking or running), muscle strengthening (e.g. gymnastics or push-ups), and bone strengthening activities (e.g. playing soccer or jumping rope). Exercising and staying healthy can be fun!



**Young Adults– Teacher: Ms. Sam Dunlap
Instructional Assistant: Mr. Carl Johnston**

The Young Adult Class has been busy this month getting our greenhouse ready. We have also really enjoyed practicing our music skills in Music Therapy and Choir with Mrs. Stephanie Morris. We have finished our Pete the Cat project in Art Class and we are looking forward to making a farm mural for our school cafeteria. Dr. Seuss day is coming up soon where we will have some special fun and we are excited to hear that Cat in the Hat will be making a visit to our school! We are also very excited to be taking a field trip to an adult day program where we will be taking a tour, meeting adult clients with disabilities and learning about what we can look forward to after graduating. We also get to go out to eat too, yum!



**Intermediate 2– Teacher: Ms. Karen Blaine
Instructor Assistant: Ms. Jennie Booth**

Intermediate II has had a busy February! We had quite a few snow days and the Ground Hog says we will have an early spring. We made paper lanterns and a dragon to celebrate the Chinese New Year and learned about their traditions. Our students are also studying various important African Americans for Black History month projects. They have been finding facts and pictures about people such as Rosa Parks, Jesse Owens and Martin Luther King, Jr. and why they play an important role in our country. They will be giving oral reports in class to present what they have learned. We are proud of their hard work!

**Intermediate 1–Teacher: Ms. Cindy Johnston
Instructor Assistant: Ms. Lyn Justis**

Intermediate One students are in the middle of Alternate Assessments. Please see that your child is getting enough sleep at night to be ready for school the next day. Our students participated in a Friends dance. Our students played games and danced. Refreshments were provided for the students. In art class the students made and painted a collage of “Pete the Cat”. Pete is a fictional character that takes many adventures. Students love learning about his adventures. Parent teacher conferences will be held, March 15, 2016. You will be receiving a letter about this soon, so that you may schedule at time to come in. Please check your child’s communication folder nightly, there is important information sent home every day.

Physical Education – Teacher: Mr. Chase Brackley



Every class has been working hard in Physical Education and having fun! We have been working on throwing, catching skills in the month of February as well as practicing our running form and following directions when starting a race. The students enjoy the time we spend in the gymnasium and are learning the benefits of teamwork and perseverance. Our time in the pool every Monday and Wednesday has been filled with strengthening students swimming abilities and also allowing time for the students to enjoy time in the water with games and activities.

Students were sent home with a permission slip that allows them to experience our new and improved climbing wall. Please contact myself or classroom teachers if you have not received a permission slip. There have been two new panels added on to our climbing wall to give the students a chance to improve their strength and confidence.

The Physical Education Department is gearing up for the Special Olympics in April and our students are extremely eager to participate! If you ever have any questions or concerns, please give me a call at school (740) 594-3539 or feel free to email me: cbrackley@athensbdd.org

Primary I– Teacher: Ms. Jennifer Trotta
Instructional Assistant: Ms. Susan Weaver



The Primary class continues to explore and learn many areas of academics within our classroom. We are continuing a rotation that enables each child to get individual lessons in reading, writing, math, and the alphabet. We use interactive eBeam activities for practice with calendar, weather, rhyming, colors, numbers, and shapes. Our week is packed with gym, swimming, and art, which are favorites among the kids as they learn to swim without floatation devices, and draw animals in art. This month we have added music therapy and creative expressions, which are presented by groups of Ohio University students, and we are looking forward to Dr. Seuss' birthday celebration and the spring festivities in the near future

Preschool– Teacher: Ms. Beth Maccombs
Instructional Assistant: Ms. Debbie Dixon



We are still working very hard on learning our alphabet in preschool. Next week we will celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday by reading his books and participating in activities geared around Dr. Seuss. March is National Youth Art Month, and we have the opportunity to partner with Sycamore Run and complete various art projects. The children's art will be displayed at Casa for the entire month of March. The children have worked very hard and are excited for this opportunity. The opening for the art show will be Sunday, March 6 beginning at 2:00pm and going until 5:00pm. Parents and children are encouraged to attend. There will be pizza and snacks for the children.

