

Volume 5, Issue 3

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Beacon School News

Notes from the Principal: Dr. Maryalice Turner

Spring is finally here and we are excited to see flowers and green leaves! Many of our students have spent time in our greenhouse, growing seeds that will become flowers, herbs and vegetables.

We are delighted to have a top-notch substitute teacher in our Young Adult Classroom. Susie Cablish-Kristofco has been here since Sam Dunlap went on maternity leave. Sam is enjoying her time with their new son.

This is the last quarter of the school year, and with it, many fun and interesting events for us to experience. The Columbus Zoo will be bringing animals from the Tropical Rainforest, for a visit with our students. Our Celebration of Learning is on 5/17, with a carnival from 5-6 and a concert from our Beacon singers from 6-7. Come see and celebrate with our students. Our preschool graduation will be on 5/24, with a concert from the Beacon Singers at 9:00. This will be followed

by an Awards Ceremony for our Primary through Young Adult Classes at noon. Field and Water Day will be on 5/26, with a cookout. That will also be the last day of school for students.

Start your plans for summer with the Summer Fun for Special Kids Camp, July 18-29, from 9:30-2:30 at Beacon School. More details will follow, or contact summerfun@af-cadre.org

Our staff is beginning plans for next school year, with new ideas on helping students through Zones of Regulation and our LAMP communication system. More info will be sent soon. We are also working on plans to convert our playgrounds to sensory playgrounds.

Have you been watching Pete the Cat? Our students made a giant paper mache' Pete and he has been visiting places all over the county. There has been a lot of interest in Pete the Cat as he prowls around town and we are excited that he will visit local libraries this summer!

Upcoming things to know:

April 22—Special Olympics

April 25-29—IEP Meetings

May 3— Professional Development, NO SCHOOL

May 9-13—IEP Meetings

May 17—Celebration of Learning- 5-6 Carnival, 6-7 Concert

May 24—Preschool Graduation

May 26—Last day of School for students

Notes from our Nurse: Ms. Megan Stack

Special Olympics is just around the corner, so I'd like to provide a few health and safety tips to remember for this special day. 1. Please be sure your student is wearing appropriate sports gear the day of the event. They will need clothing that is flexible and well fitting. 2. Have your student hydrate the night before the event. This will aid in prevention of dehydration. 3. Talk with your student about the importance of stretching before and after his/her event. This helps to prevent injury and reducing soreness from exercise. Most importantly let them know to HAVE FUN!

There will be vegetables, herbs, and assorted plants available to purchase from the Beacon Greenhouse. Stop by and see what we have to offer!

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

The young adults class has returned from spring break with enthusiasm, and we are ready to work. The students are continuing to work with Carl in the greenhouse, and it's really beginning to blossom. Before break our class watched the Disney Pixar movie *Inside Out*. We will be discussing the characters in the movie, their feelings, and what it means to control our own emotions. Our speech therapist, Kendell is working on an instructional program that will aid students in identifying and controlling their emotions. We hope to implement the program in the coming year. This unit ties directly with this movie. Our class has really responded well to the work she has done, and we are excited to continue working on this with her. Our big event is coming up. Yes, that's right! It is time again for the Special Olympics that will be held on April 22 this year. The students have begun their training regimen with Chase and are in full-on preparation mode for the big day. The YA Staff is working right along with your kids to ensure that the Olympic day is a fabulous, fun fitness event.



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

Welcome back from Spring Break, everyone! Intermediate II came back ready to learn and work hard!

In class, we have been working on reading new words and talking about emotions and feelings. We are excited about Special Olympics on April 22nd. Chase has been helping us practice running and throwing the ball in gym class so that we will be ready.



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

The Intermediate One classroom has been working hard in our school's green house. We planted several flowers, fruits and vegetables. The students are excited to watch our seeds grow. We will also be cleaning and planting in our outside flower bed. In gym class the students are gearing up for Special Olympics that will be held on April 22, 2016. All of our class will be participating in several events. Hope you can come and cheer us on. If you have any balls at home please have your child practice throwing them as far as they can. You can also practice running. IEP meetings are coming up soon, if you haven't returned your IEP invitation paper; please do so as soon as possible.



Physical Education – Teacher: Mr. Chase Brackley

Every class has been working hard in Physical Education and having fun! We have been committed to Special Olympics events, practicing both in the gymnasium and outside. We have also enjoyed the new addition to our climbing wall, which has tripled in size! Our student's 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.

The Special Olympics will be held at Alexander High School on April 22nd. We encourage anyone to come and spend the day with our amazing athletes and cheer them on! The students at Beacon have been passionate and focused during their time practicing and deserve all the support we can give them at this wonderful event. See you on the 22nd!!

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



As spring approaches, the students of the Primary classroom are blooming just as brightly as the flowers outside. We are excited to be mastering our academic goals such as new vocabulary, writing our names, and have even begun addition and subtraction. Some of our goals have not only been met, but are being exceeded! Our kids are thriving during our new and fun interactive activities that we project on the eBeam. The activities involve fun characters that challenge the students in activities that involve sorting different objects, to number sequence and even positional phrases. We are also preparing to dominate at Special Olympics this month with practice every week in gym class. We will have 3 participants this year and are very excited for each of them! We are also continuing to progress in the pool and start swimming occasionally without flotation devices which is a huge accomplishment for the kids. Not only are we excited about Special Olympics and meeting our goals, but we are excited for the nice weather and fun spring arts and crafts that we will be doing in our classroom.

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



Preschool is busy learning about bugs. We have been studying about all kinds of insects. We are going to be getting some caterpillars to watch them change into butterflies, we are very excited about that! We will release them when they are ready. In May we will be going on a field trip to ODOT. That is always a fun trip. We get to see the big trucks and play on the salt pile. We will be going to Burger King for lunch that day too. We are gearing up for all of the end of the year activities and looking forward to summer.



Speech Therapist – Ms. Kendall Lehrman

This past month has been filled with some huge milestones for Speech! First, I gave an in-service presentation for our teachers and teacher assistants about LAMP and AAC devices. They are all very excited to use the devices in the classroom! We will also have another training the first week of May for ALL staff, including the paraprofessionals, on the same topic so that everyone feels very comfortable with using the devices throughout the day. Next, the Occupational therapist and I gave another in-service presentation regarding emotion self-regulation. We watched the movie Inside Out as a school to help relate the concept of our feelings to the students- they really responded well to the movie and we plan on implementing a feeling/emotion curriculum in all of the classrooms next year. Lastly, we are excited that Beacon School has been looking into purchasing each child an Alert Me band with donation funds to increase safety in all environments. “Alert Me Bands, like the ICE campaign, believe that we need to take responsibility for our own safety and the safety of our children and do everything we can to be prepared in an emergency situation. We want to make this effort easier on First Responders, bystanders, classmates or parents who might find a child who has been separated from their parents.” These bands are fully customizable to communicate medical needs, special needs and/or allergies. Such a great way to ensure the safety of our kids and young adults! Stay tuned for more exciting things to come!