

SPEAKIN' ABOUT BEACON
October 2016



A Note from the Principal

It's hard to believe that we are almost through the month of October! Time sure flies when you are having fun, and we are having fun learning at Beacon School!

The students enjoyed Fire Prevention Day with activities provided by the Athens Fire Department. The firefighters spoke to the children about fire safety, stop, drop and roll, took some through the smoke house, practiced dialing 911 and the favorite as always was sitting on a real fire truck. It was an exciting learning event! Thank you to the Athens Fire Department for providing such great activities for our students!



The Halloween Party will be held this Friday, October 28th. There will be food, music and dancing. It promises to be a good time! Letters will be coming home with details by this Wednesday.

I would just like to take a moment to let everyone know that the next meeting of Beacon PTA will take place on Wednesday, November 16th at 5:00 in the cafeteria. I am very excited to get this started and look forward to meeting and working with all of you on projects that will help make our school even greater for our kids and families! Hope to see you there!

I have really enjoyed being a part of Beacon School and I hope your experiences have been the same. If at any time you have questions, suggestions, or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Becky Martin

Dates to Remember:

- October 28— Halloween Party
- November 8—No School, Election Day
- November 11—Veteran's Day Parade
- November 16—PTA @ 5:00 Beacon Cafeteria
- November 16—Picture Retake Day
- November 18—Fun Friday
- November 23-25—No School, Thanksgiving Break



What's New in the Classroom?

Preschool

Beth Maccombs

We are having a blast in Preschool! We have been busy cooking with Live Healthy Appalachia. The kids enjoyed making their own snack. We had Fire Safety day and the children had fun talking with the fireman, and learning about stop, drop, and roll. They were able to sit in the fire truck. We went in the smoke house and learned how to get out of the house if it was filled with smoke. We are enjoying Barb Ery coming into our classroom and doing art with us. We also have fun when music therapy comes into the classroom. We get to play different musical instruments. We are excited about the Halloween Party next week!

Primary I

Jennifer Trotta

The Primary I class continues to be engaged, learning and experiencing new things. Besides having specials in music, art, and dance, throughout the week, we have the opportunity for Creative Expressions to come, every other Thursday. They are a communication and speech organization, whose focus is inclusion through the arts. The group presents lessons that use technology, music and sounds to provide the opportunity for all students to participate in the arts. The students enjoy the activities and all participate when they come. **Happy autumn everyone!**

Primary II

Ciara Jenkins

Primary II is continuing to have great success this school year! We have been continuing our review of the alphabet, sounds, shapes, numbers, and counting. The students have been able to use these skills to apply them to graphing and patterns, as well as being able to answer questions about them. All of the students have built up their attention and work time this year, as we are up to 30 minutes or more of sitting during academic activities with minimal prompts! Primary II has enjoyed spending time in the model apartment to have cooking classes and try new foods. We learn about safety, hygiene, and math during our cooking times each week. We are also practicing turn-taking, social skills, and direction following in our time in the model apartment. Soon, we will begin having cooking classes with a great organization called Live Healthy Appalachia! In addition to Live Healthy Appalachia, we have been able to have Creative Expressions come into our classroom to teach some lessons on sign language and fall. Our collaborative science projects with the Intermediate II classroom have been a great hit for all of our students! They enjoy spending time with the older students at Beacon, and applying new skills to fun, hands on, experiments. We look forward to seeing what the next section of this semester brings!

Intermediate I

Cindy Johnston

The Athens County fire department visited our classroom. Students were taught fire safety, as well as getting to sit in a real fire truck, some of our students participated in the smoke house and dialing 911. Materials were sent home with the students to share with their parents. Our students are doing great working on their goals for this school year and will continue to learn new material as the year progresses. Thanks to those parents who attended our Parent Teacher conferences. If this time did not work for you, please let me know and we can meet another time.

What's New in the Classroom?

Intermediate II

Karen Blaine

Intermediate II is in full swing as we approach the Fall and Winter months. We have been busy practicing job and life skills that we use every day. We were fortunate enough to have a "skill board" donated to our classroom. It has several locks that the kids practice opening, a toilet paper holder that the kids have to change, as well as a lightbulb that the kids practice unscrewing. We are currently studying the Milky Way solar system. The kids are having a blast learning facts about the planets. Did you know it would take over a million Earths to make the sun? That's BIG news!

Young Adult

Sam Dunlap

This month, the Young Adults have been wrapping up their 1st quarter activities and getting ready for 2nd quarter! We have started our cooking program with Live Healthy Appalachia and we love music class with our OU student therapists and Ms. Stephanie from choir! We have also been making beautiful art with Ms. Ery. We have been learning about how colors can mix together to make different colors and we painted some sheets to use as tablecloths for our Thanksgiving feast in November! We are also perfecting our swimming skills with Mr. Chase, working with money, and next month we want to take a field trip around our community to review the signs we have been learning about!

Speech

It's that time of year. This month in Speech, we have been completing hearing screenings!! Everyone is doing a great job participating and results and notes will be sent home if it was your child's turn to get tested. If anyone has any questions, always feel free to contact me! I am Extension 236. As a reminder, hearing loss can also occur later in childhood, after a newborn leaves the hospital. In these cases, parents, grandparents, and other caregivers are often the first to notice that something may be wrong with a young child's hearing. Even if your child's hearing was tested as a newborn, you should continue to watch for signs of hearing loss including:

- • Not reacting in any way to unexpected loud noises
- • Not being awakened by loud noises
- • Not turning his/her head in the direction of your voice
- • Not being able to follow or understand directions
- • Poor language development
- • Speaking loudly or not using age-appropriate language skills

Kendall Dearing



Progress in PT/OT

Physical Therapy

Alania Harper

Roles of the Physical Therapist and Physical Therapist Assistant in the School

The Physical Therapist evaluates gross motor development, or ways in which children move and what interferes with typical motor behaviors. Physical Therapists and Physical Therapist Assistants can help children move around the school and playground, as well as recommend adaptive equipment to help children learn at school. Physical therapy services are delivered according to the IEP and include direct treatment, helping families and teachers or specialists learn to facilitate age-appropriate functional activities, acquisition of positioning and mobility equipment, and using bracing systems to improve muscle tone and promote acquisition of developmental milestones. PTs and PTAs also develop plans to improve muscle strength, coordination, balance, and endurance.

Occupational Therapy

Jennifer Brown

The first nine weeks have flown by and students have adjusted to the new occupational therapist. As I said last month, the students and staff have been so welcoming and helpful. In occupational therapy in the schools, we are addressing fine motor skills looking at the way students grasp objects such as pens/pencils/utensils and the way they use their hands and vision together in tasks such as lacing, cutting, beading, and writing. Occupational therapy addresses sensory processing and techniques/strategies to calm and ease transitions throughout daily routines. Finally, occupational therapy addresses adaptive skills for daily living tasks such as the ability to feed oneself, dressing, and brushing teeth and grooming. The last week of October in occupational therapy we will be combining these skills while exploring pumpkins and seasonal crafts. We will use tweezers to pick up seeds, explore the insides of pumpkins using spoons to scoop, and complete seasonal crafts and writings to address each student's individual goals. I encourage you to include fine motor and sensory activities at home while encouraging your students' independence at home. During the holiday season, some activities to consider to address these areas at home include: raking leaves and playing in the leaves outside, allowing students to assist in baking tasks feeling the dough, stirring, and pouring and measuring items, having students help cut out coupons, and writing grocery lists or writing their name to sign in or out of favorite activities.

Nurse's Note

Happy Halloween! Fall fun and activities can also mean Fall germs and illness. Good hand washing is the first line of defense against the spread of many illnesses from the common cold, to more serious infections such as bronchiolitis and the flu. Here's how to scrub those germs away. Teach this routine to your kids, or better yet wash your hands together often so they learn how important this good habit is:

- Wash your hands in warm water. Make sure the water isn't too hot for little hands.
- Use soap and lather up for about 20 seconds (antibacterial soap isn't necessary — any soap will do). Make sure you get in between the fingers and under the nails where germs like to hang out, and don't forget the wrists!
- Rinse and dry well with a clean towel.
- Don't underestimate the power of hand washing! The few seconds you spend at the sink could save you trips to the doctor's office.

Megan Stack

Staying Active in APE

Every class has been working hard in Physical Education and having fun! With our wonderful weather over the last few weeks, we have been enjoying time outside on the trails at the Land Lab and exploring the property here at Beacon. The students enjoy the time we spend in the gymnasium and are learning the benefits of teamwork and perseverance. Our instructional 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.

Each class has also been taking advantage of our free swim time every Thursday and Friday. Our friends from ATCO have been coming and swimming every Friday with the Young Adult class as well as the Intermediate II class and everyone is having a BLAST!

If you ever have any questions or concerns, please give me a call at school (740) 594-3539 ext. 232 or feel free to email me: cbrackley@athensbdd.org.

Chase Brackley

Beacon Singers



The Beacon Singers have been working diligently on preparing music for our holiday concert which will be coming up before we know it on **December 16th at 10:00 a.m.!** This month, we've learned how to play new instruments, sing new songs, and some of us have bravely volunteered to sing a duet with a friend. We're having a great time and you are always welcome to join us for rehearsal on Fridays at 10:30 in the gym!

Stephanie Morris & Sarah Sigman



