



# SPEAKIN' ABOUT BEACON

February 2017

## A Note from the Principal

On February 14<sup>th</sup> some of the individual classes enjoyed Valentine parties in their classrooms. Students had fun decorating and exchanging Valentines with their classmates. Friday the 17<sup>th</sup>, the entire school participated in a Valentine Dance complete with music, food, cookie decorating and face painting. I would like to thank the staff Valentine Planning Committee members and Heather Jolley, Anna Heinrich and Rachel Szostek for volunteering their time to help make this event a special one.

It is officially Dr. Seuss Week at Beacon School! The staff has planned some fun activities for the week that will end with a special visitor at the school to read to the students on Friday. Here is the schedule for the week:

**Monday** – Fox on Socks – Wear your silly socks.

**Tuesday** – Green Eggs & Ham – Wear Green

**Wednesday** – Wacky Wednesday – Be Wacky! Wear your clothes on backward or mismatched to go along with some crazy hair!

**Thursday** – There's a Wocket in My Pocket – Bring a beanie baby or stuffed animal to school!

**Friday** – Cat in the Hat – Wear your favorite hat!



Spring Break is March 6<sup>th</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup>. Enjoy and be safe!

-Becky

## Nurse's Note

Although we are having unseasonably warm weather, there are still plenty of germs lurking. The number one way to keep yourself and children healthy is practicing good hand hygiene. Wash with soap and warm water often! Please remember to be sure to keep your kids home from school when ill, and for 24 hours after symptoms cease. This helps to prevent the spread of illness to others and allows your child the time needed to recover fully. Let's work together to make it through the cold and flu season!

## Dates to Remember

March 3—End of Grading Period

March 6-10—No School, Spring Break

March 16—Progress Reports

March 21—Parent/Teacher Conferences



## Preschool

We have been very busy in Preschool learning the Alphabet. We are learning the letters in our names, and learning to write our names. We had a great week of Valentines activities reviewing our numbers and colors. We ended the week with a party in the gym. We decorated cookies, listened to music, and had our faces painted. We are getting ready for Dr. Seuss Week. We have a lot of different activities planned, and a possible visit from our very own Cat In the Hat. The weather has been wonderful and we have taking advantage of that and been outside on our new playground.



## Primary I

The theme of the month in Primary I is geography, Natural or Man-made, which explores natural and human made features on a map. The students are learning about maps of school, town and state. Also students are busy working on several fun activities that we plan on continuing throughout the semester which include, writing practice, identifying letters in their names, counting, read alouds and fine motor activities.

The students continue to enjoy several weekly activities, swimming, gym, and art. We look forward every other week to the Ohio University Creative Expressions students. The group of OU students strive to work with our students on communication through organized activities. They may focus on problem solving, teamwork, and daily communication skills. We are happy to see the students bring interesting lessons incorporating our curriculum. We are enjoy seeing students' progress and will continue to help everyone.

## Primary II

This month was filled with lots of learning! We were able to continue our studies about differences from Martin Luther King Jr. Day as we learned about our families and all of our differences. It was so fun to see the students share about their families and how they compare and differ. Primary 2 also learned about making predictions and graphing which tied perfectly into Groundhog's Day! Predictions are a difficult concept to grasp so predicting if the Groundhog was going to see his shadow or not was a perfect way to teach the lesson! We have since predicted measurements in math. To finish out the month we will be studying about the great Dr. Seuss and all of his great works! We have been lucky enough to continue our time with Music Therapy and Creative Expressions through OU and Live Healthy Appalachia and look forward to what's to come in March!



## Intermediate I

The Intermediate One class has been busy learning about maps. Students are learning different land forms and pointing out waterways. Our students have the opportunity to participate in art class and the making of a paper mache pig. We are gearing up to start cleaning out our flower bed and looking forward to planting this spring. Our students will be taking Alternate Assessments over the next few weeks. Everyone in our room will be participating in these tests. Please see that your child is getting plenty of rest the next two weeks.

## Intermediate II

Intermediate II has been very busy this month. February is black history month and our students have been exploring what it means to be diverse. One activity that the students enjoyed was the comparison of brown and white egg. The student's noticed that the eggs looked different on the outside but when we cracked them open, it was difficult to tell the difference between the two. It opened a very thoughtful discussion of our own differences and uniqueness.

We enjoyed a fun Valentine's party where we spent time with all the classes, decorating cookies, eating snacks and dancing, dancing, dancing. It was a great way to catch up with all of our friends and see all the cool crafts that each class made for the party. This coming month we will be starting a science unit on the butterfly life cycle. So be on the lookout for cool bulletin boards and activities that are place on the walls outside of room 130.



## Young Adult

The Young Adult class has started working in the greenhouse this month! We will be growing a variety of flowers and vegetables this spring! They will be on sale at Beacon the entire month of May and we are trying to get a spot at the farmers market to sell too! We have been busy this month getting to know our new Transition Coordinator Brooke Schroeder. She has started working with our class and Intermediate 2 on Tuesdays and Thursdays. She will be working with our older students on transition skills needed for after graduating, such as extra help in job skills or daily living skills for around the home. Our student intern, Liana Carsner has also taken over the classroom and is teaching full time with Sam's guidance, and she is doing great! We have really enjoyed getting to know her this school year and the young adults are learning a lot from her!

## Speech

This month in Speech Therapy, everyone has been having fun talking about and preparing for Valentine's Day! Our school dance was a huge success as everyone was able to find something to do that they enjoyed- a wonderful language and socializing opportunity. We have also been talking about the ever changing weather outside since it doesn't match what we are used to! It has definitely been very confusing and frustrating for all of us. More fun to come as the end of the school year is starting to creep up!!

Here are some updated facts about Autism: Autism now affects 1 in 68 children and 1 in 42 boys, Autism is one of the fastest-growing developmental disabilities in the U.S., Autism costs a family \$60,000 a year on average, and Boys are nearly five times more likely than girls to have autism.

## Early Intervention

Early Intervention is currently serving 28 children and their families. We have added two new members to the Early Intervention Team: a Licensed Registered Nurse who is also a Mental Health Professional and another Mental Health Professional. We are continuing to learn the process for choosing a *Primary Service Provider* from among the team members who is responsible for building the capacity of parents/caregivers/other care providers to use every day routines to promote their child's development. The Early Intervention Program will be closed during the week of March 6<sup>th</sup> through the 10<sup>th</sup> in observance of Spring Break. If you or anyone you know has a concern in regards to their infant's or toddler's development you may contact Early Intervention Central Intake at 740-589-5132, extension 221 or 252. HAPPY SPRING !!

## Art on a Cart

After spring break some students will be going a field trip to our beloved Passion Works Studio. This will be our second year. Last year was a great success. The staff and artists are always so welcoming. We are looking forward to the activity they have planned for us. We are hoping for many more field trips there in the future.



BEACON SCHOOL VALENTINE'S PARTY 2017



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