



Notes from the Principal: Dr. Maryalice Turner

Greetings!

Many exciting things are happening at Beacon School. We appreciated having 39 people come to our first Grandparent and Special Friends' Day! We heard many positive comments and enjoyed meeting so many family members.

As you know, our school day is 8:15-2:00 pm. The best way to communicate that your child will be tardy or absent is to call 594-3539, ext. 221, so that Ruth Robertson can let everyone know. Thanks for your help with communication!

We had our first Friends of Beacon with five in attendance. We discussed AF-CADRE, a local autism support group- <http://www.af-cadre.org/>. Materials regarding their work have been sent home to you. We also discussed fundraisers for the year. Our candle sale has kicked off and those materials went home on Friday. We also have an on going T-Shirt and Sweatshirt sale for the year.

We also want to thank all of those who came to our Parent Teacher Conferences. Over half of our parents came to meet with our teachers. This school year, we are

holding these meetings near the Progress Report timeframes, as shown on the calendar, in order to keep in touch with parents and guardians regarding our students' progress.

We have now had two Parent Advisory meetings and have received information from parents about what is appreciated and what needs work at Beacon. One request is for more communication. We have a Beacon Facebook page- <http://www.facebook.com/beaconschoolathens> as well as a Beacon page on the Athens County Board of Developmental Disabilities website- <http://athenscbdd.org/> We have also added multiple resources to our agency page, so that you have more information regarding other agencies that provide services.

We have an upcoming presentation on 11/11, from 6-7. See details under *Dates to Know*.

Be aware of our Early Intervention Program for birth to 2 year olds. Listen to a recent radio show that shares details- <http://woub.org/2014/10/22/early-intervention-care-children-developmental-disabilities>

Dates to Know

November 11, 6-7 PM– Friends of Beacon, PTO meeting with a presentation by Marsha Willan, Using Sensory Strategies with Autistic Children
November 27-28– No School - Happy Thanksgiving!

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

The Young Adult class has been working hard this fall, so we celebrated the end of our 1st quarter with a field trip last week. We visited the Athens Farmers Market and Ponderosa, where we completed a fun scavenger hunt all about the different food groups we eat. We really enjoyed Ponderosa too, where we got to be in our community and some of us even tried new foods! We have been focusing on coins this month, as well as working on identifying beginning word sounds, numbers and counting.

Intermediate 2– Teacher: Ms. Karen Blaine, Instructor Assistant: Ms. Letha Conner

Intermediate II is beginning a unit on the armed forces in the United States, in honor of Veteran's day. We will be marching in the parade, we felt that it was important for our students to know why we will be marching . We have also been working hard on the Edmark Reading program, and the students are really enjoying it. In math, we have been using the calculator to solve simple addition and money problems.



Intermediate 1– Teacher: Mrs. Cindy Johnston, Instructor Assistant: Ms.

The Intermediate one class has been working very hard using the Unique Curriculum. The month of October we learned about heroes and how they helped our country. During the month of November we will be learning about our weather and different climates. In math, we have been practicing writing our number to 100 and using the calculator. Encourage your child to practice their writing every day. Our class will be participating in Thanksgiving activities and sharing a Thanksgiving feast with other classes. Please check your child's folder nightly because important information is sent home daily. Our students also have a communication book, which shares important information as well as how your child's day went.

Primary II– Teacher: Mr. Ryan Detty, Instructional Assistant: Ms. Joyce Bowers

Primary 2 has been keeping busy in the fall season. Our class has been working on learning about how life was different in the 18th century when compared to today. We have been reading stories and recalling about a day in the life of pilgrims and indians. The students have been learning about teepees and working to build their own teepees in the classroom over the past couple of weeks. For the month of November, we will be learning how weather works through both stories and science experiments. We recently began performing weekly science experiments and learning about the scientific method. The students have been working on learning the numbers 1 through 12 so that we can begin work on telling time and we will also begin working on addition of single digit numbers the first week of November. Everything has been busy and the students are doing a great job!

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

We just wanted to wish you all a happy fall and give you some updates on what's been going on in the classroom. Currently, the kids are all working on several fun activities in honor of the season. For the reinforcement of counting and comprehension practice, we've been reading fall stories and answering questions based on those stories. For fine motor practice, we've been working on seasonal coloring sheets and decorating pumpkins with glitter and shapes. The music therapy group that comes in on Thursday mornings has also been getting into the fall spirit. The children love the silly October songs they've been learning, and they especially enjoy having the opportunity to play instruments. The kids seem to like playing the drums and strumming the guitar best of all; they are always very attentive when these instruments are distributed. The students are also becoming more involved in movement activities such as yoga and dance. They are getting better and better at following instructions during these times. As always, we've been tailoring lessons the individual needs of each student and we are constantly changing those lessons as your child grows academically.

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

The Preschoolers have been very busy learning about bats and how they are different from birds. We have been doing lots of pumpkin activities, learning about how pumpkins grow, counting pumpkins, and making Jack O Lantern faces. We enjoyed our Halloween Party we were dressed up in our costumes and parading around the school. We will soon be doing activities for Thanksgiving learning about the Pilgrims and the Indians and the first Thanksgiving.

**Highlight on Therapy– Ms. Alania Harper, Physical Therapy Assistant:
Alania Harper**

Physical therapy tip:

Obstacle courses are a great way to give children opportunities to develop their gross motor skills, as well as, improve their balance, coordination, and body awareness. You can build obstacle courses out of every day household items. For example, have your child crawl under a row of chairs, walk along a string or chalk line, jump over obstacles, and hop in and out of a hoop. The possibilities are endless!



Notes from our Nurse: Ms. Megan Stack , RN

November is already here, which means we are planning for our Thanksgiving feast. As much fun as it is to indulge with high carbohydrate, fatty, and sugary treats, remember, a balanced diet keeps the body healthy and feeling refreshed! So, remember to also eat your fruits and veggies, drink plenty of water, and go for a walk before or after indulging in your Thanksgiving meals. Have a great Holiday!



Beacon School has been selected for the artist-in-residence program for the fourth year. The program is sponsored by VSA Ohio, the state organization on arts and disability. The adaptation, Integration and the Arts (AIA) residency program partners teaching artists and educators in classroom inclusive students with and without disabilities to enhance teaching and learning through an arts-integrated residency and curriculum. Residences are academic content standards-based, utilized Universal Design for Learning strategies, cross all are mediums, and reach grade PreK-12. The primary goals are to improve academics achievement; better prepare students for life, work and post-secondary education; better prepare educators to support learning and inclusion for students with disabilities.

Early Intervention-Ms. Mary Ann Smathers, Ms. Jodi Mitchell

Early Intervention welcomes a recent influx of new referrals. Another exciting addition to EI this month is the opportunity to consult with Katy Linscott, Speech Language Pathologist. Katy is able to join the Early Intervention Specialists on home visits to serve families who children who would benefit from this service. Early Intervention families continues to have access to in-home physical and occupational therapy services as well. Therefore, EI now has a full team of individuals now available to serve the birth to three population who are experiencing a delay their development and are enrolled in the Help Me Grow Program. Additionally, Early Intervention has recently been involved in trainings to improve the Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP). Lastly, EI is collaborating with The Athens County and Children First Council/Children's Trust Fund in regards to expanding Strengthening Families Framework throughout the county. Indeed, it has been a busy and productive month in Early Intervention!

Service Support Specialist– Ms. Betty Churchheus:

We have discovered a special resource for families, supplying free diapers. It is called, HDIS (home delivery incontinence supplies), **1-800-2myhome**. When you call, you will be connected with the Medicaid department who will send samples for your selection. Let them know which one is best and they will call the doctor for a prescription. You then will have to reorder each month. Simple...and free!

Adapted Physical Education – Ms. Gloria Whipple

We are using a traverse climbing wall to host many exciting activities. At it highest point, the wall measures eight feet and is approximately 4 feet long. Participants climb horizontally (traverse) across the wall and their feet should never be higher than three feet off the ground. We sent permission slips home, and those who are approved will be taught the safety rules and will climb under the careful supervision of an adult instructor at all times.

News from our Business Manager, Steve Kramer:

I would like to remind you that effective this school year, Beacon has a Pre-Pay meal program system. Each month you receive a statement indicating the balance in your child's account. A negative balance is indicated by (). Please maintain a positive balance in this account to meet your child's needs. To assist you in planning for your child's expenses, below is the cost of meals served at Beacon School.

Breakfast - \$1.50 (\$0 for students eligible for free/reduced price meals)

Lunch - \$2.65 (\$0 for student eligible for free meals/ \$.40 for students eligible for reduced price meals)

Therefore, for example, *a child eating breakfast and lunch each day at full cost would require \$20.75 per week*, or approximately \$83 per month in their account.

If you have difficulty in meeting this requirement, please contact me at 740-594-3539, Ext. 224. Thank you for your adherence to this process.

*Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember.
Involve me and I learn.*

~~Benjamin Franklin

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>



School Telephone Number: 740-594-3539
Address: 801 W. Union Avenue, Athens, Ohio 45701