



## Notes from the Principal: Dr. Maryalice Turner

First of all, I hope you will welcome our new Superintendent, Kevin Davis. He has a long history of working for those in our community that have disabilities. We are off and running with a fresh start and new thinking and it is a very exciting time!



It is also a busy time of year and our students are learning, growing and having enriching experiences. We had our Breakfast with Santa event last weekend and are most grateful to our staff, volunteers and community

members for their hard work in preparing. We are also grateful for the immense support that we have seen from the community, from volunteers and from those who have made donations. Our students benefit when we all pull together to ensure that their needs are met.

Welcome to Kendall Lehrman, our new Speech Therapist and to Chase Brackley, our new Physical Education Instructor! Great things are happening at Beacon School. Let me know if you have questions, needs or issues as we are always looking for ways to meet your needs.



### Speech Therapist – Ms. Kendall Lehrman

We have been busy in the speech therapy room! One of the biggest developments in my first 3 weeks has been that I have sought out purchasing dedicated Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) devices for the school and adapting classroom iPads to become dedicated speech devices. This will be an ongoing process this year, but ideally we will have dedicated speech generating devices for each classroom. This will increase the opportunity for independent communication and participation throughout the school day and hopefully assist with decreasing behaviors. I have also begun to introduce the Language Acquisition through Motor Planning (LAMP) approach to the classrooms. Their AAC app called Words for Life has been very successful for some of our students and I will continue to evaluate the appropriateness for other children here at Beacon as well.

### Notes from our Nurse: Ms. Megan Stack



Tis the season...for staying warm! It's getting colder outside, so remember to bundle up! During the winter months, your kids are susceptible to colds, viruses, infections and the flu, but it's not just illnesses that can harm your children. Winter sports and the cold winter weather can do some damage too. Wintertime offers plenty of outdoor activities for kids, so be sure your child is wearing the proper attire (helmets, warm clothes, hats, gloves, etc.) when participating. Also remember that even in cold weather, kids (and adults) need to drink plenty of fluids and wear sunscreen whenever outdoors.

You should also make some changes to your child's skin care routine in the winter. Consider changing your soap. Most traditional bar soaps strip the skin of moisture and oils. Look for milder soaps; like oatmeal-based soap. Avoid moisturizers and lotions with questionable ingredients, and try to find natural products to avoid irritation, coconut oil is one option. Hot water can deplete skin of its protective oils, so reduce shower and bath times, and turn the temperature down a bit.

### Upcoming things to know:

- School fieldtrip to Athena Grande 12/17/15
  - Last day for students- 12/18/2015
  - Winter holiday - 12/21- 1/3/16
  - First day back for students- 1/4-16



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

The Young Adult classroom has been very busy so far this holiday season. We have continued to work on our money, telling time and number skills in math. In reading we have been learning about different holidays from our school curriculum. But the most exciting thing our class has been working on has been Job Club. Job Club is a

partnership that we have started with Personnel Plus and the Intermediate 2 classroom. We have learned about different jobs and talked to adults with disabilities who are working in our community. We have also started the Bow Wow Bakery. On Friday afternoons, our classroom works alongside Intermediate 2 to make dog biscuits, we cook them, package them and are bringing them out to our community! Currently we are accepting donations of \$4 a bag, one bag includes 24 delicious dog biscuits! Our bags of biscuits are available at all of our county board locations; Beacon School, Atco, Passion Works, Personnel Plus and the Service and Support building. We also have plans for branching out and hitting the Farmer's market next! We are excited for this opportunity for our students to give back to their communities and work on many important life skills! Interested in trying a bag for your canine friend? Call Beacon and place an order and the Young Adults will get to work! ☺

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

Intermediate II class has been looking at different holiday traditions this month. So far, we have learned about Hanukah, Christmas and Kwanza. Each of the students have collected information about their own family traditions and will be putting them into their oral presentation projects that they will share with the class. They are also counting down the days until Christmas with the Elf on the Shelf and are getting excited about the holidays!

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



Our class has been working hard on counting and writing numbers to 100. In math the students are learning how to use calculators to add and subtract. The students have been working hard on learning their phone numbers and addresses. We will be sending our holiday cards soon. Intermediate One, Intermediate Two and Young Adult had a wonderful Thanksgiving lunch, thanks to all that participated. Our classroom has been enjoying music therapy, from students of Ohio University. We are gearing up for the holidays.



## Physical Education – Teacher: Chase Brackley



I just wanted to share with you what our schedule is for PE each week. On Monday and Wednesday we do strength and conditioning exercises along with activities in the pool.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays we have been doing physical fitness and wellness activities.

These have included obstacle courses, riding the trikes/bikes and also taking classes outside to run/walk the track.

Starting in January, Fridays will be days where some students will be individually pulled to ensure their Physical Fitness IEP goals are being met.



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

In November, the Primary Class attended the Veterans Day Parade. We enjoyed watching the parade with the many bands, soldiers and floats. As the year progresses, the students continue to be busy learning the letters of the alphabet, beginning sounds, letter formation and spelling words. Several students participate in beginning reading activities, learning new vocabulary words, signing and reading short stories. This year, students are enjoying a weekly art class lead by the resident artist. They are learning to form shapes, lines, and follow step by step directions. We are excited to see every student making progress as the year progresses, and will continue to help everyone meet their goals.

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

We are working very hard in Preschool! We love learning. We have recently started do Visual Arts with Barb Iriy. The children love doing art with her and look forward to going each week. We did a unit with activities surrounding the Pete The Cat Books. Preschool loves Pete The Cat! We are working on different fall activities, and will be starting to get ready for the Christmas Season. We are updating our classroom creating more centers for the children to enjoy. We have a writing center, a math center, and a science center. The children love having various activities at their fingertips.



*We wish you and your families and friends  
a holiday season filled with love!*