



Beacon School News

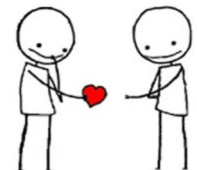
Notes from the Principal: Dr. Maryalice Turner

The 2015-16 School year started with a new addition to the school, a new school library. Our spotlight for this newsletter is on the person who has worked the hardest to help create this special space, Starla Chiki, our Paraprofessional from the Athens Meigs Educational Service Center. Starla has a passion for reading and has helped our school build a library in a former storage room. She has gathered books at yard sales, used book stores and has accepted donations from staff, friends and family. The books are used

at school and some are sent home for reading practice, and then returned. We also had a book drive organized by a local girl scout troop. The library is becoming a favorite spot by the students, they can check out books or just sit and look at the books and enjoy some quiet time. This is important because not all of the children are able to go to the library at Morrison – Gordon Elementary School. We appreciate having this resource for our students! Special thanks to Starla for her vision and her passion!



Special thanks to : Heaven’s Healing Hats owner, Barbara DeLong, who made a hat for every student at Beacon! We would like to help her cause by collecting yarn, buttons, and cash donations for her next round of hats that are going to Nationwide Childrens’ Hospital. Help us Pay It Forward!



Pay it forward

Upcoming things to know:

- February 5- No School Preschoolers
- February 12- No School Preschoolers
- February 15—No School All Students
- March 2—Dr. Seuss Day
- March 15- Parent Teacher Conferences- 3:30-6:30 (note new ending time)
- Disabilities Awareness Fair 6:30-8:00 (Athens Community Center)

Notes from our Nurse: Ms. Megan Stack



The world of nursing, here at Beacon School, is always busy! We are working hard to keep germs at bay by sanitizing and washing hands regularly; to keep our students and staff healthy! Please remember, if your child is ill with fever greater than 100 degrees Fahrenheit, vomiting, diarrhea, severe sore throat, or copious nasal drainage, please refrain from sending him/her to school, until symptoms subside.



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

The Young Adult class has been busy this winter with new activities around school. We have welcomed our new adapted PE teacher and Speech Language Therapist into our school and we are now all receiving adapted PE twice a week and individual speech sessions to get to know Ms. Kendall. We are still enjoying Art Class with Ms. Ery and have been reading and drawing Pete The Cat and the many things from his fun stories. We also enjoy dancing to his music while we draw. The Young Adults also started the Beacon School Choir last week with the Intermediate 2 and Intermediate 1 classrooms. Ms. Stephanie Morris is our music therapist and we have really enjoyed singing on Friday mornings. We are looking forward to working hard with her to practice for our concert during our Celebration of Learning in May. We are excited for a new quarter and this week we will be getting our Greenhouse ready for the spring as we try to stay warm in this winter! ☺

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

Our class is learning about resolutions this month and how it is a promise that we make to ourselves. They came up with ideas like being kind, using nice words, telling the truth and helping our families. We are also starting a new unit about tools and helping around the house. They will learn life skills such as changing a light bulb in a lamp, doing the dishes and safety using basic tools. We hope to have the students work on a project of building a bench that we can put on our new playground.

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



The Intermediate One classroom has been doing experiments to learn about solids, liquids and gasses. The students seem to be really enjoying these experiments. We have also been completing lessons using Unique Curriculum to learn about animal habitats and living and nonliving things. Our class has been gearing up for the Alternate Assessments that will be given to our students in February. Students have been participating in art classes every Friday. They are learning to draw Pete the Cat characters. Just last week our class started taking part in the new choir program at Beacon School. Our students love to sing. When you are out in the community and see signs, please have your child to identify what these signs are. Everyday your child brings home many important papers and their communication book, please review it nightly.

Physical Education – Teacher: Mr. Chase Brackley



Every class has been working hard in Physical Education and having fun! We have been working on bowling and golfing skills in the month of January. The students enjoy the time we spend in the gymnasium and are learning the benefits of teamwork and perseverance. Our 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 Physical Education Department has acquired some new musical equipment in the forms of a portable boom box as well as a giant floor piano that the students are enjoying. We are also gearing up for the Special Olympics, with specific event practices beginning in February. It was a pleasure to meet so many parents at our Conferences in January.

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@athenscbdd.org

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



The Primary class has brought in the New Year with smiles and hard working attitudes. Currently, we are working on several fun activities that we plan on continuing throughout the semester which include writing practice and identifying the letters in their names, counting, reading, and fine motor activities. We will be implementing a new rotation so the students are provided with more one-on-one work based on their individual needs. This rotation will include all core subjects and a station focused on individual practice after teacher time to reinforce what was just learned. The kids love learning new games and skills in gym, and are continuing to advance their abilities in the swimming pool- a favorite special among many of our kids. We are excited to start Music Therapy with some of the OU students in the next few weeks and continuing to enjoy the winter weather and upcoming holiday themed activities.

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



The Preschool Classroom has been busy learning the letters of the alphabet. They are enjoying learning the letter sounds and making various art projects to go with each letter. They are enjoying learning to write the letters in their names, and also spelling their names. We are getting ready to begin Music Therapy with our Ohio University Music Students. We are going to begin cooking once a month with the Live Healthy Appalachia Team. We will be cooking different types of healthy foods for the kids to enjoy. The fun part about it is that they will be involved in the preparation.

Speech Therapist – Ms. Kendall Lehrman



This month in speech, we have been focusing primarily on ordering and receiving high tech communication devices (AAC), heavy duty cases, and key guards. We will be providing training for all Beacon School staff on the LAMP approach, for AAC, and basic communication device programming/maintenance. Several of our students have made great improvements, as shown by decrease behaviors and increase participation throughout the school day, using the LAMP communication application. We have also received new books to help focus on increasing our student’s understanding of their feelings, the volume of their voice, and their personal space. The Occupational Therapist and I have been doing additional research about the Zones of Regulation in hopes to implement the approach in the near future. The Zones of Regulation is “cognitive behavior approach used to teach self-regulation by categorizing all the different ways we feel and states of alertness we experience into four concrete zones. The Zones curriculum provides strategies to teach students to become more aware of, and independent in controlling their emotions and impulses, managing their sensory needs, and improving their ability to problem solve conflicts.” Stay tuned for more!