



Speakin' About Beacon

April 2017

A Note from the Principal

The end of the year is fast approaching and our students are busier than ever! In addition to daily academics, many of our students were preparing for and participating in the 2017 Special Olympics. The Beacon team brought back a lot of medals and ribbons. Congratulations to all of the participants! Thanks also to the staff for all your hard work to make sure the day went smooth.

We are excited to share all of our students' accomplishments from this school year with you and your family at the 2017 Awards Ceremony and Graduation. The preschool ceremony will be on May 18th beginning at 10:00 a.m. All other students will be recognized on May 19th starting at 10:00am. The Beacon Singers have been working hard this year and will kick off the awards ceremony on May 19th. Please join us as we celebrate our achievements!

Beacon School will host its first Prom on May 5th. The Intermediate II and Young Adult classes have been shopping to pick out their clothing and are looking forward to attending. A special "Thank You" goes to Hiede and Krystal for all of their hard work to make this day special for our students.

The Young Adult class will be selling plants they have been growing in the greenhouse at the Athens Recreation Center Pavilion on May 3rd and May 10th from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. Stop by to stock your garden! Proceeds from the sale will benefit the Beacon PTA.

The Columbus Zoo will be coming to Beacon School on the morning of May 17th. We are looking forward to seeing the different animals and learning about the environments in which they live. It should be a wonderful experience!

The last day of school for students is May 24th. We will celebrate with a cookout and water day!

Wishing you all a safe and happy summer vacation!

Becky Martin

Important Dates

May 2—No School for Students

May 9—IEP Meetings

May 16—Celebration of Learning 3:30-7

May 18—Preschool Graduation

May 19—Graduation/Awards Ceremony

May 24—Last Day for Students

Preschool

The preschool has been learning about plants. We learned about the parts of a plant and what plants need to grow. We used an old sand box out on our playground and planted flowers in it making it a flower box. We will be learning about insects next and talking about the different kinds of insects we see. We will be doing a unit on Caterpillars and we are going to have caterpillars in our classroom and watch them turn into butterflies. After they hatch we will release the butterflies. That is always a fun activity for the preschool children. We are also planning a field trip to the ODOT Garage. This has become a yearly event. The employees at ODOT are very kind to us and the children really enjoy going on this field trip. We usually wrap up the field trip by eating lunch at Burger King.

Primary I

As the weather warms, the flowers bloom, and April showers arrive, the students of the primary one classroom are blooming just as brightly as the flowers outside. Students continue to complete lessons using the Unique Curriculum. This month students are learning about working and making money. Students are mastering academic goals such as new vocabulary, writing their names, and counting. Some of the goals are being exceeded! Our students continue to learn and enjoy the interactive activities that we project on the eBeam. The activities challenge the students, involving counting, identifying letters of the alphabet in a fun game format. Though the students did not participate in the Special Olympics this year, as they are not old enough, they cheered on the other students and enjoyed being a part of the day! We all are excited for the nice weather and fun spring arts and crafts that we will be doing in our classroom.

Primary II

April has been a month full of preparation for Special Olympics! We have watched videos, read books, created charts, and practiced our events all month! The students learned appropriate phrases to say such as, "good job" and "good luck!" On top of our preparation, we incorporate sight words on a daily basis. The students have done a wonderful time spelling the words with magnets and using them in complete sentences with subjects and predicates. It's amazing to see the growth from the beginning of the year! On top of Special Olympics we celebrated Easter, continued practicing our phone numbers, addresses, and birthdays, and worked on appropriate social skills and interactions with peers. IEP meetings are coming up quickly. I look forward to seeing you all soon to discuss the amazing process we have seen during the 2016-2017 school year!

Intermediate I

The Intermediate One classroom has been taking advantage of our new playground equipment. We have also been cleaning out our flower bed, getting it ready for spring. Students have been practicing their new songs for our spring concert. All of our students completed their alternate assessments and did a great job. We will be busy the next few weeks, preparing for the end of the school year. Our class is looking forward to the visit by the Columbus Zoo. Please check your child's communication notebook nightly. There will be a lot of important papers coming home. If you ever have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at 740-594-3539 ext. 258 or email cindyjohnston@athenscbdd.org.

Intermediate II

It has been a busy Spring for Intermediate II class! We have had field trips to Kroger's and Lowe's to explore jobs in the community . They were very nice to us and showed us all around their facilities. We also colored Easter eggs and then had an Easter egg hunt at the shelter house. After finding eggs, we answered questions to earn candy for our goodie bags. In our classroom work, we have been talking about money and how people earn money in their jobs.

We planted some herb seeds in pots and have watched them start to grow. It has been nice enough for the class to go outside most afternoons for some fun on the playground. Last Friday was Special Olympics at Alexander High School and we had a really great day! We have been practicing the Special Olympics oath and the students said it loud and proud when it was time! The weather was nice and all of our students did their best and earned a lot of medals. Good job, everyone! Thank you to all the extra volunteers who came out to help and cheer on the students!

We are looking forward to our prom coming up on Friday, May 5th. Our theme will be "Under the Stars". The students are getting excited about the event. They picked out their outfits last month and will get ready at school that day. The school year has gone by so quickly and the students are looking forward to their summer break.

Young Adult

This month the young adults have enjoyed working in their new bin activities and celebrating great friends. We said goodbye to our OU students with a make your own sundae bar and a pizza party for our student teacher. We are also getting ready to start selling our flowers and veggies soon. We planted them back in February and we are very proud of how they've grown! Come out and see us on May 3rd at the Athens Recreation Center Pavilion to help get your garden started!

Beacon Singers



The Beacon Singers are looking forward to the end of the year performance on May 19th. The performance will be in the cafeteria at 10:00 a.m. during the graduation and awards ceremony. We hope you can all attend and see how our hard work is paying off! We have 7 special selections prepared so you do not want to miss it! Some students are singing duets and everyone gets to play instruments. It is going to be great!

Beacon Singers is supported by Athens County Community Singers, "a choir for all voices." This non-profit entity makes it possible for students to participate free of charge. Thanks to support from Athens Foundation Grant and Athens County Board of Developmental Disabilities, Beacon Singers is completing its first full year during our May 19th performance. Plans are being made for this transition choir to continue next year. Stay tuned....

Art on a Cart

How do we open more doors for people with disabilities?

And why do this? Because it's the law and because it's the right thing to do.

Here are a few questions for you to think about. What makes you feel welcome?

- 1. Place is clean**
- 2. Place is organized**
- 3. Adequate parking**
- 4. Staff takes time for you**
- 5. Friendly**
- 6. Adequate signage**

A lot of places are making the arts and culture more accessible to all. One place to check out is the Decorative Arts Center of Ohio, Lancaster.

Admission is free!

We at VSA Ohio enjoy the arts and culture and want all people to have access to the arts. Thanks for opening doors at Beacon School for the arts and me Barbara Ery and VSA Ohio.

For more information check out *Increasing Access: Opening Doors for People with Disabilities* by Erin Hoppe.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3WKcJ8L8VYM&list=PL-oWcjkBm-Qegy0u8eivbK7W0Boryxddb&index=2>

Nurse's Note

Protect your skin from the sun this Spring and Summer by using a broad spectrum sunscreen with at least SPF 15 before you go outside, even on slightly cloudy or cool days. Cover all exposed skin and remember to reapply if outside for more than two hours, you are sweating or get wet. Other ways to help protect skin is by wearing clothing to cover skin, including long sleeved shirts and long pants when possible, hats, and sunglasses. When all else fails, find some shade to cool off. The sun feels great and gives us much needed Vitamin D, but like most things, is better in moderation. Stay safe and have some fun in the sun!



CONGRATULATIONS

Samantha Dunlap, the Young Adult instructor, was nominated by the student Teacher, Liana Carsner, for the Mabel Olsen Bell Memorial Award through Ohio University.

Sam's nomination letter read, "You were among a select group of mentor teachers nominated by their professional interns for the Mabel Olsen Bell Memorial Award. This award was established in 1988 to recognize outstanding professional work of mentor teachers. Your nomination was no small gesture, as your professional intern had to write a detailed essay describing how you have contributed to her professional growth, as well as the special qualities you exhibit in the classroom."

Although you did not receive the award, your intern chose to take time out of her busy schedule to reflect and write about her experiences in your classroom, about how your mentorship motivated, educated, and inspired her to go above and beyond to become a superior teacher and leader.

We think your nomination is something to be honored and recognized. We thank you for your service. Best of luck to you in your career as an outstanding educator. Please continue to go out and do great things! You are definitely *Called to Lead!*"

We agree, congratulations Sam, we are proud to have you as a part of Beacon School!



Kevin Davis, ACBDD Superintendent, was recognized this month at the Children's Services 4th annual Champions for Children Breakfast as Athens County's "Outstanding Champion for Children". Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication, Kevin. We are proud of you!



Special Olympics 2017

