

Beacon Summer Camp 2019 a huge success



Top: Camp Director Makenzie Lowe poses with a camp participant during petting zoo day. Below: A camp participant shows off art she made during one of the arts and crafts sessions.

This year's summer camp was another huge success, thanks to the hard work of our staff. This is the third summer in a row a four-week-long camp has been hosted at Beacon School, all for free for the participating families. For the first time, the ACBDD has managed the camp, in collaboration with Kids on Campus.

Each week of camp had a theme, like sports, animals, or music. And each theme included a special visitor, like a petting zoo, athletes from Ohio University, and musicians. Campers also had the opportunity to do arts and crafts and swim in the school's heated pool.

The ACBDD is grateful to be able to offer these opportunities to the young people with developmental disabilities in our community. We hope to do it again next summer!



Beacon Summer Camp, cont.



Attention Beacon Summer Camp staff!



The Beacon Summer Camp of 2019 would not have been possible without our camp staff, under the supervision of Becky Martin. We appreciate their hard work in creating positive experiences for nearly 40 campers this summer. Special thanks goes out to Mackenzie Lowe, who served as our Camp Director this year.

Thank you!

Superintendent packs a punch as “Beacon Bomber”

The ACBDD frequently looks for ways to give back to our community that is so supportive of what we do. This year, with the invitation from one of our county commissioners, Supt. Kevin Davis will be participating in the annual Boxing for Books event, a fundraiser that supports a local school district. Kevin will be boxing as the “Beacon Bomber.”



This event, coordinated by the legendary Sam Jones, has raised over \$600,000 for the Trimble Local School District over the past two decades or so. Funds have been used to purchase updated textbooks, iPads, smartboards, and other needs for the district.

Sam is well known in the community, but not just for his status as a world heavyweight kickboxing champion or for creating a gym where countless amateur and professional fighters converge. He is also known as a man who has given back to his community and helped raise generations of kids through the art of boxing. Boxing for Books will certainly be a part of his legacy.

The ACBDD and its Superintendent are proud to be a part of this event. It will be a fun community-building experience that will have a positive impact on the students with developmental disabilities who attend Trimble Local.

Competitors talk smack in dueling videos on social media

Speaking of building community—both competitors are building their own fan base on social media. Kevin and Chris have published their own videos talking smack about each other in the lead-up to the November match.

The verbal smack-downs are all in good fun and all for the cause. They are both hoping their good-natured competition will bring in a large crowd and ultimately raise funds for the Trimble



Local School District. If you are not already following their training, be sure to look up on Facebook both Kevin Davis and Chris Chmiel, who is boxing as “Commish Chris.”

Staff volunteer with PB&J Project as part of annual tradition



Staff of the ACBDD were grateful to once again take part in the annual PB&J Project, coordinated by Athens County Children Services. This is such an important resource to our community, and we are honored to play a small part. This is the third summer in a row the ACBDD has volunteered with a distribution day and served as a collection site for supplies. This is one way we give back to our community that is so supportive of what we do.



BACK TO SCHOOL BASH 3pm to 7pm
August 1, 2019
 at The Market On State
 1002 E. State Street, Athens, OH
 Athens County Children PreK - 12, are eligible for a free backpack with basic school supplies, free hair cuts, health screenings, info & services from Area Community Partners and much more!
 Sponsored by Athens County Area Community Partners

For more information contact: Athens County Department of Job and Family Services (740) 797-2523

Come see us on at the Back To School Bash!

Beacon School, PersonnelPlus, and the ACBDD will be there.



Evelyn’s Early Intervention Success Story

Check out this wonderful story from Madison Hamon. It’s about her journey to help her daughter, Evelyn, walk independently. With support from Adrienne Nagy (our wonderful physical therapist), our amazing Early Intervention Staff (MaryAnn Smathers and Jodi Mitchell), and the Help Me Grow Program, Evelyn recently took her first steps by herself! Thank you for sharing your story, Madison.

“I remember the very first day we started physical therapy with Adrienne Nagy. My little lazy baby who was just so content with sitting up on the floor and never moving to grab toys.

I was very grateful that Evelyn’s pediatrician recommended Help Me Grow to come make a visit to our house. I knew that when Evelyn wasn’t standing, walking or crawling by 10 months old that it was probably time to see what was going on.

The first time we met with Adrienne and the lovely staff of Help Me Grow, I felt at peace because I knew Evelyn would get to where she needed to be developmentally.

Our goal was simple: walk independently. She achieved that today! There were a lot of moving parts to achieve that goal. She had to do a lot of things before she could walk independently, and she did them all.

Evelyn was just sensitive to change and loved to stay inside of her comfort zone: never deviating away from it. Adrienne (lovingly) pushed her outside of her comfort zone each visit we had with her. After each visit, I noticed improvement.

Adrienne has without a doubt helped us get to where we needed to be, and I am forever grateful for her. She is a WONDERFUL woman, to say the least. Every time Evelyn would hit a milestone that we were working on in PT, I would immediately share it with Adrienne. In fact, when she took her first couple of steps today, Adrienne was the first person I shared it with.

Adrienne, the point that I am trying to make here is that you are so appreciated. You make a difference in each child’s life & their families that you have the pleasure to work with. We are SO grateful for you!! I will always shout it from the roof tops, Help me Grow is an absolutely WONDERFUL service. Early intervention is key!”



Madison with her daughter Evelyn.



Gearing up for another school year

While it is hard to believe, the start of the 2019-2020 school year is just around the corner. We are eager to see everyone again and have another great year at Beacon School. We hope you will join us for our annual Open House on Tuesday, Aug. 20, from 5-7 p.m. This evening will give teachers, students, and families a chance to meet each other again (or for the first time), see their classrooms, and get reacquainted with the school. Below are some scenes from last year's Open House, where students played games and enjoyed yummy treats. The first day is on Wednesday, August 21 for Beacon students and Monday, Aug. 26 for Preschool students.

Scenes from last year's Open House. We hope you will join us this year!



Open House 2019
Tuesday, Aug. 20
5 p.m.—7 p.m.

First day for Beacon students
Wednesday, Aug. 21
First day for Preschool students
Monday, Aug. 26



Upgrades to building during summer break improve safety for students, staff

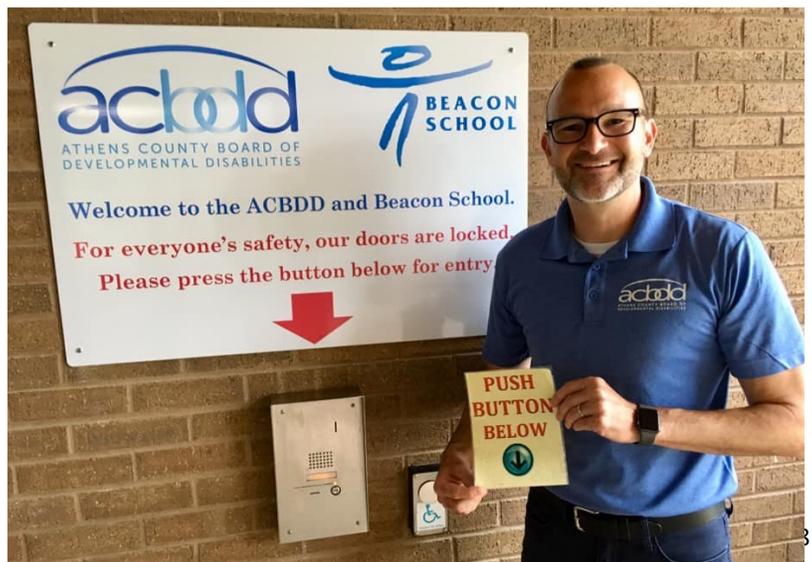
If you have not visited Beacon School/the ACBDD Administration office lately, you will notice a few changes to the building the next time you do.

First off, all of the windows are now covered. Those who are in the building can see out, but those who are outside the building cannot see in. To make the covers more aesthetically pleasing, they are shaded in our traditional shade of blue (which we call “Beacon blue”) and have our Beacon and ACBDD logos.

Secondly, the building is now set up with a swipe card system. Previously, when the door was locked, someone at the front desk (usually Ruth) would have to buzz you into the building, even staff. Now, staff will be issued a swipe card, which will automatically unlock the door.

Lastly, we upgraded the “button” sign. Visitors without a swipe card will still need to be buzzed in the building, but this new, welcoming sign makes the button more visible.

All of these measures add a layer of security for our students, staff, and any community members using our facility. Visit us soon to check out these changes in person.





Elks of Athens donate \$8,700.00

We are grateful to the Athens Elks 973 for their recent donation to Beacon School. They donated \$8,700! The funds will be used to support people who have been diagnosed with cerebral palsy. Thank you Athens Elks!



This generous donation will be a tremendous asset to our programming and will greatly benefit the students we support.

Pictured, from left to right, are: Blaycee, student; Kevin Davis, Supt.; Tim Lairson, Grants Coordinator of Athens Elks; Jim Balding, Trustees Chair of Athens Elks; Rich Russell, Exalted Ruler of Athens Elks; and Ian, student.

Teachers of West Elementary donate books

We also want to extend a “thank you” to the teachers of West Elementary in Athens. They recently down-sized their library and generously donated their entire big book collection to Beacon School.

Thank you for thinking of our teachers and our students. These books are a great addition to our school library.

Pictured, from left to right, are: Sam Dunlap, Susan Cablish-Kristofco, Debbie Dixon, Carissa Trunzo, and Cindy Johnston.



Employment Options &



Summertime youth-focused programs in full swing!



PersonnelPlus Job Trainer Steven Westfall, Emmett, Brayden, Brooklyn, Andy, Jimmy and PersonnelPlus Job Trainer Carson Gainey gear up for another work day at the Athens High School.

The PersonnelPlus and the Employment Options Division of the ACBDD provide a number of employment-related programs specific for our area youth. These create unique opportunities for young people to experience work life and prepare for adulthood.

Step Into Work is a brand new program specifically designed for Transition Age Youth with complex needs. Thank you to the Market on State for serving as a work site.

Summer Work Experience is a five-week program that provides students on-the-job work experience. Thank you to Athens High School Principal Chad Springer for providing the work site at Athens High School.

Career Exploration is a service that provides an opportunity for participants to con-

sider a variety of different types of work offered in Athens County. Participants then spend class time devoted to discussing likes and dislikes as well as what skills are required to be employed in that particular job.

If you or someone you know is between the ages of 14 and 22 and is interested in our youth-focused employment services, call (740) 592-3416 to get more information.



Employment Options &



PersonnelPlus
Employment Services

Still the one in Athens County after 30 years!

Ohio University employee celebrates 17 years at WOUB

 **Congratulations to Holly Kasler** 

Holly is celebrating 17 years of employment with Ohio University's WOUB Public Media. Holly, pictured below in the center, receives employment supports from PersonnelPlus, one of our divisions at the ACBDD. Pictured with Holly is Joan Butcher and Jackie Casey from Ohio University. Congrats, once again!



PersonnelPlus helps Lydia land job at Steak & Shake

Congratulations to Lydia for securing a job at Steak n' Shake here in Athens. We would like to thank our new business partners, Jim and Todd, for this opportunity. We look forward to continuing to help fill the business needs in the Athens community.

If you have a position to fill, chances are PersonnelPlus / Employment Options has the individual to fill it.





“Pop-up Fun Days” at West State Street Park

As a way to help individuals with and without disabilities connect in the community, staff of the ACBDD’s Office of Integrate

Athens are hosting “Pop-up Fun Days.” These events are free and open to the public. Participants play games (like corn-hole, Frisbee), talk with friends, meet new ones, and just hang out. They are hosted in the late mornings at the West State Street Park in Athens. For more information about “Pop-up Fun Days,” contact Tina Wilson at (740) 541-9600.



**Pop-up
Fun Day!!!**



Next “Pop-up Fun Day”:
Date: Thursday, August 15
Time: 10-11:30 a.m.
Location: West State Street Park

Special Olympics Bowling team competes in Columbus

Congratulations to the county's Special Olympics Bowling Team for another successful competition at the summer games in Columbus.

Team members walked home with several medals and demonstrated impeccable sportsmanship.

Special thanks to Janet Wallisch for continuing to help coordinate the team and the trips.





Service & Support
Athens County Board of DD

SSAs make progress on Wait List assessments

Thanks to the hard work of our Service & Support Administration Division, we are on target to complete all of our new wait list assessments in 2020. As you may recall, a statewide effort was launched last year to fix the overly complex wait list system for Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS). The new system and the new list is a much better reflection of an individual's need. Congratulations, SSA Team!



Work Anniversaries

July

- Carol Janes-Tinkham** — 39 years
- Cindy Rector** — 20 years
- Karen Hynes** — 11 years

August

- David Sincoff** — 17 years
- Letha Conner** — 17 years
- Alania Harper** — 12 years
- Lyn Justis** — 9 years
- Sam Dunlap** — 9 years
- Cindy Johnston** — 6 years
- Tina Wilson** — 5 years
- Gwen Brooks** — 3 years
- Becky Martin** — 3 years
- Bethany Rivera** — 2 years
- Leslie Lazio** — 1 year
- Carissa Trunzo** — 1 year

September

- Leslie Perry** — 30 years
- Sue Orth** — 18 years
- Doug Mitchell** — 17 years
- Greg Grimm** — 16 years
- David McNelly** — 5 years
- Emily Finsterwald** — 5 years
- Heather Clemons** — 4 years
- Connie Davis** — 3 years
- Wesley Kline** — 3 years
- Janet Wallisch** — 2 years



Community News

THAS “Fun Run” just misses the rain! Next race: POTH

Team Heart and Sole had another great race recently along the bike path, called the Fun Run. The next big race is during Nelsonville’s Parade of the Hills on August 17. THAS is always looking for more community members to join the team. If you would like more information about THAS, contact team coordinator Paul Richard at paulrichard@columbus.rr.com.



ACCS has record attendance at Patriotic Concert

The Athens County Community Singers (ACCS) had record attendance at their Patriotic Concert at ArtsWest. ACCS is a choir for all voices and includes participants with and without disabilities. If you or anyone you know is interested in getting involved, contact Stephanie Morris at stephanie@ohiomt.com.



More photographs from Beacon Summer Camp 2019

