

Beacon School officially adopts new logo, mascot



Beacon School has officially adopted its new logo and mascot—the Beacon Rays. This decision came after hundreds of people—including current and former Beacon families and the community at large—participated in the voting process. We are so grateful for the community’s help.

The search for our new mascot started earlier this school year. For years, our school and alumni have been represented as The Beacon Blue Devils. While we look back fondly on the history of the Blue Devil mascot, we wanted to represent our school in a new light.

The process started with letters being sent home with each student asking for ideas for a name, a description, and how the mascot represents Beacon School. From there, students voted and selected the top four best options. We then used online voting through our Facebook page to select the top choice, which

was by far the Beacon “Rays.” Our last voting cycle asked stakeholders to help us pick whether our rays would be those from a lighthouse or from the sun.

With a large margin of victory, the new logo and mascot that was presented to our Board for Beacon School was the “Rays,” as in rays from the sun. The Board unanimously approved it.

Zonez, who helped us design the logo options, quickly responded by offering spirit items for sale in their store, with more to come. This is the first time our Beacon families have had this opportunity. An added perk to keep in mind is that with every “Beacon Ray” item purchased, 10% will go back to our school. A true win, win!

Thank you to everyone who helped make this happen.

ACBDD hosts 5th annual Staff Appreciation Breakfast

We had a great turnout for our annual end-of-year Staff Appreciation Breakfast. Every year, our managers coordinate this event to say a collective "thank you" to our staff. We couldn't do what we do without our staff. We have a great team!



Community Singers receive fall funding

We are pleased to announce the recipient of the Fall 2019 ATCO Legacy

Fund is the Athens County Community Singers.

They will receive funds for the continuation of the Community Singers and the Beacon School Choir. We are grateful for the service the Athens County Community Singers provides to Athens County.

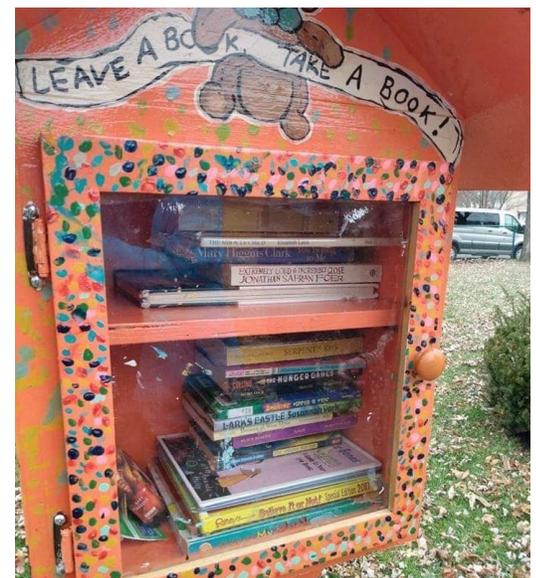
Congratulations Community Singers and to the Beacon Choir!



Sech-Kar finishes project with help from ATCO Legacy Fund

Individuals served at Sech-Kar recently completed a "little free library" in Nelsonville. The funds to complete this project were in part provided by the ATCO Legacy Fund Spring 2019 funding cycle.

Be sure to check it out the next time you are in Nelsonville. It is located in the Nelsonville Commons Park by the swimming pool.





A Thank-You Note From Mom:

A Developmental Specialist received a wonderful message in a thank-you note from a family whose son exhibited characteristics of Autism Spectrum Disorder and who recently moved to another state after receiving early intervention services in Athens County. The mother wrote:

“Thank you so much for everything. The support, advice, encouragement, patience and most of all your guidance with our son. He’s improved and grown so much since we started our home sessions. Now, I’m so much more confident in his future. That’s the most amazing thing anyone has given me. A thousand times, thank you.”

Baby “J” Makes Progress

Baby “J” was born testing positive for several substances. In addition, her biological mother had minimal-to-no prenatal care. “J” was placed in kinship care with a relative and was enrolled in Early Intervention services due to a mild gross motor delay and concerns regarding her prenatal and birth history. Her development has flourished within the past few months. At just under 7 months old, she is maintaining her sitting balance independently while playing with toys, getting up on hands and knees and rocking, commando crawling, holding an object in each hand and interacting beautifully with her kinship care parents and siblings!

Help Me Grow Holiday Party another huge success

Our Early Intervention and Help Me Grow program held their Holiday Party again at Beacon School.

Participating families had a great time. They enjoyed food, refreshments, gifts, games, swimming, and even a visit with Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus!





Beacon School's annual Breakfast with Santa event helps bring in festive mood



Beacon School's fifth annual "Breakfast with Santa" celebration was another huge success. Over 200 people enjoyed a pancake breakfast, a visit with Santa, raffle, crafts, and treats made by staff/students, along with live music by Rarely Herd and Catfish.

This is a much-anticipated family friendly holiday event that everyone enjoys. It is also one of the school's biggest fundraisers. The event broke last year's record by over \$3,000 for the school. A huge thank-you goes out to the staff at our school who make this event happen every year.





Save the date: 2nd Annual Polar Bear Plunge scheduled for January 25

One of Beacon School’s biggest fundraisers is coming up soon (see details listed on the right). The Polar Bear Plunge at Lake Snowden has brought in over \$8,000.00 for the school’s PTA. These funds are used to pay for school field trips, special events like Water Day, and celebrations throughout the school year. We hope you can join us!

Polar Bear Plunge
Date: Saturday, Jan. 25
Time: 10 a.m.
Location: Lake Snowden
Registration:
Visit www.athenscbdd.org for details

Beacon School staff provides students Thanksgiving feast

We had a full house of students enjoying Thanksgiving Dinner at Beacon School! A special thanks goes out to all the staff and helpers who put it all together. Here at the ACBDD and Beacon School, we have so many reasons to be thankful.

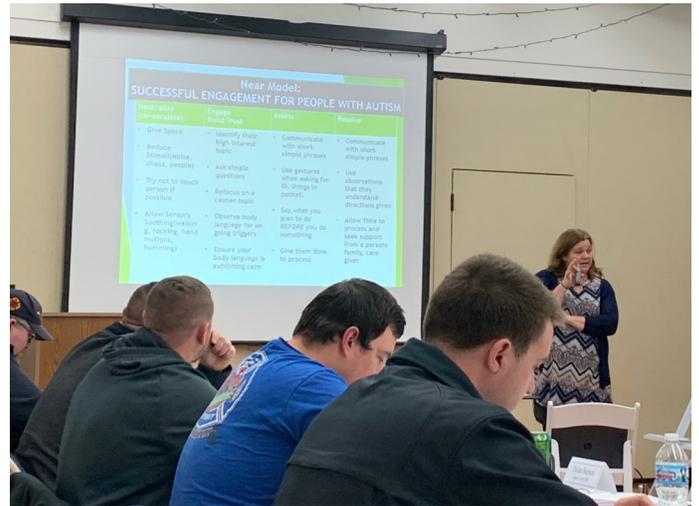




ACBDD participates in CIT training for area

Autumn Brown, Director of the ACBDD’s Office of Integrate Athens, recently led a training on how to engage successfully with an individual

with autism. This was provided to our region’s first responders as part of their Crisis Intervention Team training. CIT training is focused on helping first responders engage with individuals who may have a disability, or mental health or addiction disorder. It also promotes safety for both the responder and the individual in crisis.



ACBDD in the news

Local Spotlight on Blane Morris

Live Local—December, 2019



Community News

Local transit programs expand due to sustained funding

Thanks to the support of the ACBDD and others, Athens Public Transit was able to implement the Line 7 Pilot Project on August 1 of this year, extending service to Albany and Nelsonville. In addition, the Ohio Department of Transportation has doubled its funding to this transit program. This means Line 7 is completely funded for full operation in 2020 and will continue beyond the initial six month pilot project phase.



It is important to note that transportation is the number 1 identified barrier for the individuals we support. A thriving public transit system is a win for everyone, particularly those with disabilities.

Work Anniversaries for January

Beth Graham — 24 years

Cale Hagen — 4 years

Dick Suehrstedt — 3 years

Amy Fronck — 3 years

Heather Buckley — 3 years

Tim Jones — 3 years

Lisa Fierce — 1 years

More pictures from the Staff Appreciation Breakfast



More pictures from Beacon's Breakfast with Santa

