

# Beacon Learning Academy

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December 2017

As 2017 comes to an end, it is tradition to reflect on the year. We are proud of the student's growth and accomplishments this year. We work hard through-out the year to not only teach them cognitive skills such as letters, numbers, shapes, and colors, but also the importance of respect and love for themselves and others. Our community outreach program always provides the opportunity to talk about helping others. In October and November, we collected socks to share with a local charity called "Note in the Pocket" that helps clothe area children for school. We donated a total of 69 socks (21 more than last year 😊) to warm the toes of triangle children! Thank you to those who contributed to this wonderful cause.

In December, our students will be busy creating beautiful artwork such as hand-print wreaths, snowflakes, Menorahs and more! These masterpieces will be given to a local assisted-living facility to help decorate their walls for the season! Our goal is to make at least 1 piece of art from each student. We hope this will brighten the holidays of those who get to enjoy them!

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### Teacher Wish Lists:

As the holidays approach, many find it a time they like to give. If you are considering a gift for your child's teacher and would like to see a wish list of the items she may enjoy, please stop by the front desk. We have a form that I can copy for you to make your shopping easier;) Of course this is voluntary, we just have a teacher wish list to make things easier for those interested.



### Parent's Morning Out:

**On Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> Beacon will host our "Winterfest" Parent's Morning Out from 10:00-1:00. This is offered free to our current families. You **MUST** sign-up at the front desk (there is limited space per age-group). Once all enrolled children have signed up, siblings may sign up if space allows. **ALL** children must bring a packed lunch and drink. We have many fun activities planned such as a snowball toss, ornament creations, games, and a special showing of "The Grinch Who Stole Christmas". Parents- we hope you enjoy this time to shop, dine, or rest together. This is our gift to you from your Beacon family to show you our appreciation for your support this year.**

## **Farm Friends (1/2s):**

The Farmyard friends are having so much fun we didn't notice how fast November flew by! We enjoyed learning about cultures from around the world, pilgrims and Native Americans, and Thanksgiving. Our friends enjoyed creating many art projects to go along with our theme such as turkeys and tee-pees. Our Pie party was a terrific way to celebrate Thanksgiving with the class. We will start December with our royalty theme where we will play kings, queens, prince, and princesses. How fun is that? We will celebrate our winter holidays with crafts, games, and books! One important skill we are currently practicing is putting our coats on all by ourselves. Please practice this at home! Ask me and I'll show you an easy tip to teach your child how to flip their coat on 😊

Mrs. Crystal

## **Pond Pals (2/3s):**

What an amazing month it has been for the pond pals! We started our month finishing up Halloween fun. We enjoyed learning about different places around the world. One of our favorite activities was painting while listening to music from other countries and playing with the boomerangs we made. The following week, we learned about Pilgrims and Native Americans as we prepared for Thanksgiving. After the holiday, we had fun exploring cartoons and game shows. We created pac-man faces, and paw patrol art!

December promises to be an exciting month as we prepare for the upcoming holidays and explore our Royalty and STEAM themes.

Mrs. Marianne

## **Ocean Explorers (3/4s):**

Our ocean explorers had a busy month! We sharpened our letter recognition through games and hands on activities such as letter matching, flash cards, tracing, and playdoh letters.

We begin the month learning about countries from around the world. The following week we discussed Pilgrims and Native Americans, and why we celebrate Thanksgiving. Our friends shared all the many reasons they are thankful and what they were excited about doing for our Thanksgiving break. Following the break, we

explored cartoons and gameshows.

We are all excited about December and learning about the different holidays the month has to offer. Royalty week promises the opportunity to dress-up and reign;)

Lastly, thank you to all our ocean explorer families for working on skills with your child at home. I have noticed a big improvement in the children's independence and self-help skills. Keep up the good work!

Ms. Becky

## **Rainforest Rangers (4's):**

The Rainforest Rangers had such a wonderful November, it will be hard to top! We finished out our Halloween crafts, and moved into learning about different parts of the world. The children loved doing their own personal world and decorating it. Next, we learned all about the Native Americans and Pilgrims by decorating our own Mayflower, making a turkey headband and bracelet about the first Thanksgiving. We had a wonderful time eating pie and pizza, too! Our month was finished out by doing lots of cartoons and game show games! December is going to be filled with so many wonderful activities, it is my favorite month!!

Mrs. Debbie

## **Forest Friends (4/5s):**

What an amazing month it's been for the Forest Friends. The class enjoyed learning about countries and continents. We created beautiful art, matched the continents, worked on syllables and played games from several countries. The children had a wonderful time learning about Native Americans, Pilgrims, Squanto, the Mayflower, and the first Thanksgiving. The class had a blast making their very own Native American outfits and disguising Tom turkey, from the farmer.

We closed the month out by learning about cartoons and gameshows. The class had a blast playing jeopardy and family feud.

Mrs. Kristi



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**DECEMBER 1ST:** THE STUDENTS WILL CREATE HAND-MADE ORNAMENTS TO DECORATE THE HOLIDAY TREE IN THE LOBBY 😊

**DECEMBER 7TH:** DRESS LIKE YOUR FAVORITE QUEEN, KING, PRINCE OR PRINCESS.

**DECEMBER 9TH: WINTERFEST-10:00-1:00PM:** PARENT'S MORNING OUT: FREE FOR CURRENTLY ENROLLED FAMILIES. **MUST SIGN-UP AT THE FRONT DESK, LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE. CHILDREN WILL ENGAGE IN WINTER-RELATED ACTIVITIES, GAMES, A SHORT MOVIE, AND FUN! PLEASE PACK LUNCH.**

**DECEMBER 11-15TH:** PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU ARE WILLING TO COME IN AND TEACH THE CHILDREN ABOUT YOUR FAMILY'S WINTER HOLIDAY. WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE HANUKKAH, KWANZAA, AND ANY OTHER HOLIDAY REPRESENTED WITH THE HELP OF OUR FAMILIES WHO CELEBRATE THESE HOLIDAYS.

**DECEMBER 11-13TH:** THE STUDENTS OF BEACON WILL CREATE SPECIAL ART PROJECTS TO SHARE WITH A LOCAL ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY. WE HOPE THESE WORKS OF ART WILL BRIGHTEN THE DAY OF LOCAL FAMILIES DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON.

**DECEMBER 18-21ST:** WE ARE LOOKING FOR PARENTS WHO HOLD SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ARTS OR MATH TYPE CAREERS WHO ARE WILLING TO COME TALK WITH THE STUDENTS ABOUT YOUR JOB. WE ARE OPEN TO THE DAY OR TIME 😊

**DECEMBER 22ND: POLAR EXPRESS DAY.** THE CHILDREN CAN WEAR THEIR WARM PAJAMAS, BRING A BLANKET OR SLEEPING BAG TO SNUGGLE IN, AND WE'LL WATCH SOME OF THE POLAR EXPRESS WHILE WE ENJOY POPCORN AND COCOA TOGETHER.

**DECEMBER 23RD-JAN 1ST:** BEACON LEARNING ACADEMY IS CLOSED FOR WINTER BREAK. WE WISH ALL OUR FAMILIES A VERY FESTIVE AND FUN-FILLED HOLIDAY SEASON!



Themes:

**December 4-8th:** Our theme of **Royalty** allows us to explore Kings, Queens, Prince, Princesses, castles, and fairytales. Our letter of the week is Qq for Queen. Our color is white, our number is 13 and our shape is the diamond. On Thursday, Dec.7th we'll enjoy Queen/ King/ Princess/ Prince dress-up day!

**December 11-15th:** So many wonderful **Winter Celebrations** to enjoy together! We'll learn about the customs of Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and New Year's. From hand-made gifts to menorahs, and yummy cookies to Kinara candles, there is so much to learn about the traditions of our friends and neighbors. Our letter will be Cc for celebrations. Our colors will be red/ green, the number is 14, and the shape will be a star!

**December 18-22nd:** We'll explore our inner scientists as we experiment with our STEAM theme. Steam stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math. This vast theme allows us to build, question, think, and rethink about how we interact with tools, buildings, and so much more! As our calendar year wraps up we'll finish the year by reviewing the numbers 15-20, the color silver, and the triangle.



School Policy Reminders:

*Please wash your child's hands as you enter the classroom. This policy helps us prevent the spread of germs. We also wash hands frequently during the day in order to prevent illness. Hand-washing is the most important way to prevent the spread of germs. Also, please look over our illness policy online (under forms in our parent hand-book) if you have any questions regarding when your child can or cannot attend due to illness. We strive to provide a healthy learning environment, so children with an illness must stay home until they are symptom-free for 24 hours without the aid of medication. If your child requires specific medical care, additional sleep, or would need one on one care they should stay home and recover prior to attending preschool.*

*Please note that our pick-up at the end of the day is between 12:45-1:00. At 1:00 any remaining children will be brought up to the library to wait for their parents. A late pick-up fee of \$1/ minute will be assessed if a child is consistently picked up later than 1:00pm. To prevent additional fees, please arrive in time to pick-up by 1:00. Thank you.*

*Monthly Tuition is due on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month and must be paid in full by the 5<sup>th</sup> of the month. Any remaining balance left is subject to a \$25 late payment fee. To avoid this fee, please pay by the 5<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.*



*Hide a certain number of candy canes around one room in the house. For younger children a smaller number such as 5 works better, for older children you could do 10-15. This activity allows children to use their senses to find the hidden canes. They can practice counting the canes they found and even re-hide them as many times as they are interested. Another great way to extend this activity is to explore prepositional words such as over, under, behind, underneath, inside, and beside to describe the hiding places and identify these words as you show your child what they mean. A fun indoor activity for a cold day☺*



December 1<sup>st</sup>- Holly  
December 3<sup>rd</sup>- Arvin  
December 5<sup>th</sup>- Sam  
December 9<sup>th</sup>- Gabø  
December 24<sup>th</sup>- Callum

