

Beacon Learning Academy

919-463-0406

February 2017

2017/2018 Early Registration:

Current Beacon families are invited to register for the 2017/ 18 school-year (Sept 2017- Aug 2018)) for a reduced rate during the month of February. Pay only \$75 if you register and pay by Feb 28th 2017. This guarantees your child/ren's space in our program for the next school year. This yearly registration fee is normally due no later than August 1st 2017 and the regular cost is \$100 for those who register after Feb 28th.

Weather- Related School Closings:

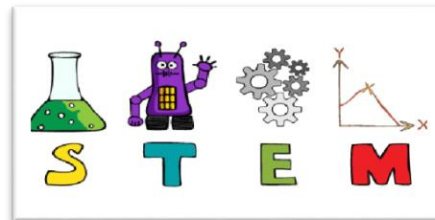
If our area experiences a dangerous weather incident, please check to see if we are open/delayed. Our status will be listed as Beacon Learning Academy on WRAL TV 5 or 101.5 (radio) or check our face-book status to see if we are closed or delayed due to weather. We do not follow the WCPSS closings, so please be sure to check. There are times we may delay and open later (11-1), once ice/ snow melts. If we open later, please plan to pack a lunch. If we close due to weather, there is no make-up day offered. We do our best to try to open if we feel everyone can arrive safely.

Kidokinetics:

This parent elective is available on Tuesdays from 12:30-1:15 for \$35/ month for children aged 2 years and above. The program offers a physical education approach to movement and encourages muscle growth, sportsmanship, and introduces skill building techniques. Parents are encouraged to observe and children may try out for free. Please see the information provided at the front desk if interested.

STEM GYM:

Beacon students have been enjoying the new STEM Gym located at the end of the main hallway to the right. Activities range from those that encourage physical activity and gross motor skills such as basketball, yoga, or parachute fun to engineering sky-scrappers from blocks and estimating how tall our towers will be before they fall? What can make them stronger? Utilizing different materials to problem-solve and develop new creations. We have added many new materials to this area over the past month thanks to our butter-braid fundraiser☺ Some of our new items include: an emergency response center (fire station/ police station), several types of blocks, a parachute, a basketball goal, and more! This will be a room that continually changes as we see the children's interest in STEM grow and change.



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Farmyard Friends (1/2):

January was such an amazing month for the Farmyard Friends! We welcomed 3 (!) new friends and they have all adjusted so well to the class! I am so proud of everyone in this huge transition! January also had us playing with snow, making snowmen and polar bears! We got to learn about nursery rhymes and storybook friends by making wands and dragons! February will be filled with lots of new adventures. We will learn about dental health, 'play' at the circus, learn about feelings, opposites and Dr. Seuss! We will celebrate Groundhogs day and Valentine's Day! I am so excited to see how my friends are going to learn and grow!!

Mrs. Debbie

Pond Pals (2/3s):

The Pond Pals had a wonderful month. Our children learned about all the things we can do, see, and wear in winter and in the snow. The children all really enjoyed making snow and watching our snowflake grow. Everyone also enjoyed reading Mother Goose books and doing related art projects and learning about words that rhyme. At the end of the month, we learned about good dental health with a visit from dental students and learned how to take good care of our bodies and keep them healthy.

We welcomed two new friends to our class, Holly and Caris, and they are doing great! February is sure to bring lots of excitement as we learn about the circus, friendship, opposites and Dr. Seuss. Be on the lookout for information regarding Valentine's Day fun!

Mrs. Marianne

Ocean Explorers (3/4):

The Ocean Explorers welcomed a few new changes for the month of January. We were very excited for the Stem Gym to open up across the hall, just in time to enjoy during the cold/icy weather. It went along perfectly with our winter and frozen artic themes for the early weeks of the month. We had fun with nursery rhymes and learned about our body's, good health and hygiene.

This month we've started concentrating more on name, letter, and number recognition. We have been practicing our fine motor skills through tracing and writing letters and shapes. We are always working on our listening and social skills through play and interactions.

For the month of February, I plan on introducing a treasure box, which will add an extra incentive for good behavior. Everyone likes being rewarded for good behavior. Please feel free to donate items to our class treasure box such as party favors, stickers, and other non-edible items.

I appreciate our families continuously encouraging our Ocean Explorers at home to try to accomplish new things on their own. I have noticed such an improvement in their confidence and am delighted with their accomplishments. A big step we will be taking in the coming months is problem solving and expressing ourselves by using our words, instead of other methods they have found successful in the past. Thank you so much for all you do, and I look forward to a great new year!

Ms. Becky

Forest Friends (4/5s):

With the New Year in full swing and winter finally here, the Forest Friends spent the first few weeks visiting polar regions, of the world.

We started off learning about penguins, polar bears, and enjoying the book The Mitten by Jan Brett.

The look on the children's faces was priceless, when they discovered that penguins don't come from the North Pole and some actually live in Africa.

We conducted a "blubber" experiment to understand how animals keep warm. This was a favorite amongst the class.

We used our nursery rhyme theme to enhance our reading comprehension skills; settings, characters, and events.

Remember when you were young and you learned about Humpty Dumpty? The brilliant minds of your children came up with reasons why Humpty Dumpty fell off of the wall. Please feel free to check out their responses.

Last but not least, we would like to extend a warm welcome, to our new student Mary Catherine and her family.

~Mrs. Kristi

Parents:

Beacon Learning Academy offers a \$50 credit towards tuition if you refer another family to our school. The spring is a great time to share the news that our school is enrolling new students. Make sure they tell us that you referred them when they enroll😊

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feb 2nd: Happy Groundhog's Day! We'll have fun learning about and experimenting with shadows.



Feb 7th: Kidokinetics (Parent Elective) 12:30-1:15

Feb 14th: Kidokinetics (Parent Elective) 12:30-1:15

Feb 14th: Valentine's Day Parties- Each classroom will post specific times and details. Safety reminder that any sweets given with Valentine's will need to be nut-free for the safety of our students.

Feb 17th: **Parent's Night Out**: 6-9 pm. Please sign-up at the front desk to reserve your spot for a fun night of food and fun!

Feb 21st: Kidokinetics (Parent Elective) 12:30-1:15

Feb 22nd: Wear your clothes backwards day! (for opposites week)

Feb 23rd: Pajama Day: as we focus on our Day vs. Night opposites, wear your pajamas to school ☺

Feb 28th: Kidokinetics (Parent Elective) 12:30-1:15

March 2nd: **Read Across America Day**. We will engage in this nationally recognized day of reading and love of literature. We will also celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday!

Themes:

Jan 30-Feb 3rd: February is Dental Health month. We kick off the month by learning about **My Body/ Dental Health**. We will explore the benefits of exercise, healthy eating, and how keeping our body and teeth clean helps to keep us healthy. Students from UNC Dental school will visit us to discuss dental health. Our letter is Dd for dentist, our number is 5, our shape is the circle, and we will review our colors.

Feb 6-10th: It's **Circus Time**! Our friends will learn about Circus performers from the Ring Master to the Acrobats. We'll discuss the sights, sounds, and tastes of the circus from animals to dancers, and popcorn to cotton candy. No circus is complete without clowns so we'll have a special day reserved just to "clown" around. Our letter is Cc, our shape is the cone, our number is 6, and the color is yellow.

Feb 13-17th: As Valentine's day approaches, we will explore the theme of **Friendship/ Feelings**. Our friends will discuss how we show we can be a good friend, who we love, and we plan to make valentines for our families. The children are invited to bring in their own valentine's cards to share with their friends. A class list of names will be given out to use to label the cards at home. We will make a Valentine's Mailbox here at school to collect the valentine's in. Our Letter of the week is Vv, our shape is the heart, the color is red, and we'll review numbers 1-5.

Feb 20-24th: We'll explore the concept of **Opposites** this week. There are so many opposites to choose from such as Hot/ Cold, Day/ Night, Up/ Down, Inside/ Outside, Full/ Empty, etc... We'll have fun being silly and wearing our clothes backwards on Wednesday, Feb 22nd. Our letter is Oo, our number is 7, our color is pink, and our shape is the rectangle.



School Assessment Information:

Beacon Learning Academy conducts skills assessments on our students through-out the school year. We strive to complete the first round of the assessment by the end of February. Parents are provided with a written copy of the skills assessment and are welcome to request a parent/ teacher conference if needed.

Our goal is to use the assessment as a guide to the areas that each child thrives, and identify areas for improvement. The information we obtain from the assessment is utilized as we plan activities to encourage growth in all skill areas.

The main categories of skill development include: fine and gross motor, cognitive, social/ emotional, language, and self-help skills.

We also save samples of work in a portfolio that show the growing abilities of each student. The portfolio allows us to track progress and look back on previous skills. It is also a wonderful keepsake that will eventually be given to parents! Portfolios consist of student's work and observation notes.

If you have any simple questions regarding assessments, please stop by the front desk or ask your child's teacher. If you would like to see specific details or have numerous questions, please set up a conference, so we can provide our undivided attention to you.

We are continually thankful for all the awesome children we get the pleasure of spending our days with, so thank you for sharing your children with us!



Supplies:

- cardboard
- [aluminum foil](#)
- [Sharpie permanent markers](#)
- scissors

Directions: 1. Cut a heart shape out of a piece of cardboard. Any spare box or a cereal box will do.

2. Cut off a sheet of your aluminum foil a little bigger than the size of your heart. Fold the aluminum foil around your cardboard heart, covering it completely. Decorate with sharpie markers.



Mrs. Marianne- Feb. 1st

Mrs. Debbie- Feb. 4th

Caris- Feb 7th

Caty- Feb. 11th

Katie- Feb. 28th

