

Beacon Learning Academy

919-463-0406

February 2018

2018/2019 Early Registration:

Current Beacon families are invited to register for the 2018/ 19 school-year (Sept 2018- Aug 2019) for a reduced rate during the month of February. **Pay only \$75 if you register and pay by Feb 28th, 2018.** 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, 2018 and the regular cost is \$100 for those who register after Feb 28th. Forms will be available at the front desk starting Feb. 1st. Early registration provides comfort in knowing your child's space is secured for the following school year.

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. 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 \$38/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. They offer a variety of activities, so the focus changes each week. Parents are encouraged to observe the class and children may try out a class for free. Please see the information provided at the front desk if interested.

Parents:

Your personal referrals mean so much to us! We love to know that you are telling your friends about Beacon! Thank You!

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😊. Beacon Learning Academy offers a \$50 credit towards tuition if you refer another family who enrolls at our school.

We also love when our families leave a testimonial on our face-book page. Your comments let us know what you love and are helpful for perspective parents seeking feedback.

Thank you for your support of our school. We truly love our Beacon families😊

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Pond Pals (2/3s):

This month's newsletter will focus on skills we have been working on and ones that we anticipate working on in the next few months. We have been focusing on keeping our toys in the center (station) that the toy originates from and teaching the children to put the toy back in the correct location when we are done playing with it. Everyone is doing well and we will continue to work on this skill.

We are going to begin working on other skills such as scissor use, potty-training, and independently getting our lunches from our backpacks and learning to open our lunches, and finally putting back our lunchboxes once we are done. If your child has individual containers, please label them with their name.

We welcomed new friends to our class, Miles, Jack, and Henry, 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, Mrs. Priya and Mrs. Crystal

Ocean Explorers (3/4):

Our Ocean Explorers enjoyed the month of January! During the time that we spent together, we managed to pack in a lot of fun activities. We spent a lot of time this month working on our alphabet. Each day we discussed the letter of the week, as well as, reviewed the previous letters we've already learned. Repetition is key during this process, and any type of reviewing at home would be beneficial to our young explorers.

We are also spending a great deal of time on our fine motor skills, especially our scissor skills. Comfortably holding the scissors, opening/closing the scissors, and learning to move the paper around as we cut it; has been our main focus. Along with our scissor-work, we are still practicing our tracing and writing skills. As we move on to the month of February, we will continue to work on all these same skills until we have mastered each of them. We are excited to celebrate Valentine's day in February and have sent home a class list so that our friends can make valentines card.

Ms. Becky

Rainforest Rangers (4/5):

We have been working hard on math/literacy skills and all of my friends have come so far! I'm one proud teacher! We have mastered scissor skills and worked on fine motor skills daily, to really work on writing our numbers and letters! During the rest of the school year, we are going to be mastering those skills. We will continue working on following instructions in a group setting and making good choices! We will be mastering writing names and adding in last name for my pre-k friends, we will be mastering our counting up to 100. We will be working on our address and phone numbers and ask that you please work on this at home as well!

We are going to have an amazing second half of the school year, especially as we add in two new friends, Suhani and Karina!

Mrs. Debbie

Forest Friends (4/5s):

January was a quick month for our Forest Friends. Our favorite theme was a tie between the arctic animals and our blubber experiment, and a fun visit from the UNC school of dentistry students as they taught us about good dental health during our unit on healthy bodies.

In February, we will celebrate Valentine's day, which is always a favorite for our students. Please check your child's folders for a class list to make valentine cards and bring in a decorated box to collect valentines inside. If your child doesn't attend school on Valentine's day, they will distribute their cards the day before. Our class Valentine's party will be for students only, and more details are posted on a sign-up located beside the classroom door, in our hallway.

Please be on the lookout for graduation information coming home. There are several forms that should be returned to the front desk for planning purposes. Thank you!

Mrs. Kristi

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Feb 6th: Kidokinetics (Parent Elective) 12:30-1:15

Feb 9^h: **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 13th: Visit from Cheryl and Jack, her certified therapy dog. We'll learn how therapy dogs help people manage their feelings.

Feb 13th: 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. **All food items must be store-bought with ingredients list included.**

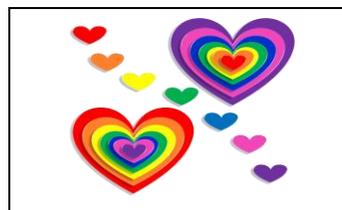
Feb 20th: Kidokinetics (Parent Elective) 12:30-1:15

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

Feb 23rd: Pajama Day in honor of our focus on Day vs. Night opposites, wear your pajamas to school 😊

Feb 27th: Wear Red and White Stripes day & 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 29- Feb 2nd: 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 5-9th: 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 12-16th: 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. Our Letter of the week is Vv, our shape is the heart, the color is red, and we'll review numbers 1-5.

Feb 19-23rd: 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.

Feb 26-March 2nd: Oh the places we'll go.... As we explore the world of Dr. Seuss! From striped hats to silly cats, we'll enjoy some of these classic books and learn about Rhymes. Our letter is Hh, our number is 8, our shape is the octagon, and our colors are white and red.



School Assessment Information:

Beacon Learning Academy conducts skills assessments on our students through-out the school year. Our first round of assessments was completed back in the fall and we will recheck areas not mastered at that time this Spring.

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. If any area of our assessment shows a complete lack of growth, we will request a conference with you.

The main categories of skill development include: fine and gross motor, cognitive, social/ emotional, language, sensory, 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

