

Beacon Learning Academy

919-463-0406

January 2017

Thank you & Happy New Year!

Thank you for all the wonderful holiday gifts and cheer that we received this season! Best wishes for a Happy New Year from our family to yours! May your year be filled with blessings and happiness!



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.

Butter-Braid Fundraiser:

Thank you to all who ordered from our butter-braids fundraiser or donated money towards our goal. Together, we raised \$300!! This is amazing! This money will go directly towards our new STEM GYM that we are adding to our school in January. This space will be utilized by all age groups to use whenever they please. It will contain active areas (Gym) where the children can play games such as basketball, and will include items such as a parachute and yoga mats. The STEM side will contain items that encourage Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. This area will stimulate the children's cognitive skills through problem solving, creating, and collaborating together. We can't wait to show our parents the room once it is done.

Winter Outdoor Play at Beacon:

We still take the children outdoors to play in winter unless the temperature outdoors dips below 40 degrees. Children still need to get the opportunity to run, jump, and get out energy and to be in the fresh air and sunlight. Please pack a coat, set of gloves/ mittens, and hat for your child to use. We watch the children carefully during outdoor time and may lessen the time outdoors from our usual 30 minutes to only 10-20 minutes if needed. Please be sure to label all items with names.



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Farm Friends (1/2s):

The Farmyard Friends had an absolutely amazing month of December! We decorated our window with snowmen and sparkling trees, learned all about the different holidays and we got to be kings and queens! The end of the month was spent making presents for some amazing parents!

January will yet again be amazing as we welcome 2 new friends, Richie and Mason. We will be doing more winter activities and hoping for some snow! We plan to read lots of stories and learn about our body. As a class, we will be continuing to learn our schedule and routines. I am super excited to see what the new year holds for us!! Happy 2017!!

Mrs. Debbie

Pond Pals (2/3s):

December was such a fun month for the Pond Pals! We started the month off with STEAM week. The children enjoyed watching the raining sponge, building different types of bridges, and mixing colors. As the month continued, everyone enjoyed learning about the different holidays we experience in December, and made gifts for their parents. Polar Express day was very exciting! It is always so enjoyable for the children to have pajama day!

We are working hard on our independence skills and potty-training. We work to pull our own pants up and down, get on the potty all by our-selves, and wash our hands afterwards. We also work to have the children get their lunch boxes out and put them back once they are finished. These little details of our day help each child feel important and they love having their independence. They feel so proud when they accomplish a task and so are we!

Mrs. Marianne

Ocean Explorers (3/4):

Our Ocean Explorers had a fun-filled

December. Everyone enjoyed dressing as royalty as we pretended to be king or queen for the day. We did many science experiments and art projects as we celebrated winter holidays. We were in full holiday mode as we learned about customs from around the world for Christmas, Hanukkah, St. Lucia, and Kwanzaa.

We continued to strengthen our fine motor skills with craft projects and usage of scissors and playdough. We strung beads onto pipe cleaners, which was detailed and fun and a great example of fine motor usage. When we return in January, we will begin more letter recognition and phonic projects, as well as, writing. We also welcome Arvin to our class.

Happy Holidays and New Year!

Ms. Becky

Forest Friends (4/5s):

Our class continues to work hard as ever. It is very interesting to watch and see which lessons have been popular amongst the class. These past few months we have focused on letter, and number recognition, beginning sounds, rhyming, patterns, and sequencing.

In circle time, we focus on the letter of the week. I introduce a new sight word weekly. I have explained the significance of sight words and have shared that it is a way in which we can train the brain. During the month of December, the children have enjoyed pretending to be Kings and Queens, and made their very own wands.

The class got the opportunity to learn about Hanukkah, Kwanza, and Christmas traditions. We had so much fun playing Dreidel and making beautiful theme related crafts and edible Christmas trees. As the year draws to an end, we enjoyed a school wide Polar Express party! Lastly, I'd like to take a moment to thank my class parents, for your involvement, when we work as a team great things happen!

Mrs. Kristi

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JAN 2ND: BEACON LEARNING ACADEMY IS CLOSED-HAPPY NEW YEAR'S 2017!

JAN 9TH: WEAR AS MUCH WHITE AS POSSIBLE AND BRING A POLAR ANIMAL TO SHARE (EX: STUFFED ANIMAL, PICTURE, OR PLASTIC TOY). WE'LL LEARN ABOUT HOW ARTIC ANIMALS CAMOUFLAGE THEMSELVES AS WE PLAY ARCTIC HIDE-N-SEEK.

JAN. 16TH: BEACON LEARNING ACADEMY IS CLOSED FOR A TEACHER WORKDAY.

JAN 18TH: HAT DAY: WEAR A FUN OR SILLY HAT TODAY AS WE EXPLORE THE CAT IN THE HAT AND HIS RHYMES!

JAN 26TH: PLEASE BRING IN YOUR FAVORITE STORY BOOK TO SHARE!



THANK YOU TO THE DeLUCA FAMILY FOR SHARING A HANUKKAH BOOK AND TREAT WITH US, AS WELL AS, FOR TEACHING US HOW THEY CELEBRATE HANUKKAH☺

THANK YOU TO THE GIESZELMANN AND DEBRECHT FAMILIES FOR SHARING YOUR MUSICAL TALENTS WITH US DURING OUR MUSICAL INSTRUMENT WEEK. WE ENJOYED SINGING AND GUITAR WITH THE GIESZELMANN'S AND LISTENING TO THE FLUTE WITH THE DEBRECHT'S!



Themes:

Jan 4th-8th: We'll start off 2016 learning about **Winter and Snow**. Our students will explore the letter Ww and the number 1. Our color will be gray and we'll explore the concept of temperatures, as we learn that winter can be cold. From snowflakes to mittens and snowmen to sleds, we'll cover everything that makes winter fun! Maybe we'll even get lucky enough to see some of the "white stuff" too!

Jan 11-15th: We'll travel to the **Arctic** and explore the creatures who live there. Our letter Pp is for Polar Bears and Penguins. Our number is 2, our shape is the triangle, and our color is white. Our friends will learn how people live in igloos and how different life in the arctic is from our lives here.

Jan 18-22nd: Our theme of **Mother Goose Rhymes** allows us to practice our listening skills to recognize which words rhyme. There are so many fun rhymes so we'll do our best to fit them all in from Humpty Dumpty to Little Bo Peep. Who doesn't love Twinkle Little Star and The Itsy Bitsy Spider? Our number is 3, the letter of the week is Rr, our shape will be the star, and our colors will be pastels.

Jan 25-29th: There is nothing more magical than a trip through a good book! We'll read about some of our favorite **Storybook Friends** this week. Just to name a few familiar characters we plan to include: Curious George, The Berenstain Bears, Pete the Cat, Franklin, and Little Critter. Our number is 4, the color of the week is orange, and the shape is a square. We'll focus on the letter Ff as we learn about Fantasy and Fairytales.



School Policy Reminders:

An important reminder for this time of year: 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.

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



Magic Snow Paint

Magic Snow Paint Recipe

Vinegar

Food Coloring

Squirt Bottles or spray bottles

Baking soda

Optional- use Kool-aid packets in place of food coloring to give the vinegar a delightful scent.

Mix and enjoy! The vinegar and baking soda mix creates a bubbling effect, especially when poured onto packed snow.



Happy Birthday!



Richie- 14th

