

Beacon Learning Academy

919-463-0406

March 2017

Parent Referral:

Beacon Learning Academy offers a \$50 credit to current families who refer a new family to our school. Once the new family starts, you get \$50 off tuition for your child. This is a great way to benefit from sharing the news of our wonderful school with your friends. All you have to do is ask them to mention your name when they enroll.

Community Board:

Our school now houses a Community Board which will be used to share information from our Beacon Families that everyone may find useful. If you own a small business, sell a product, or teach a class, please bring us a flyer, or business cards, that we can place on the community board so we can share your information with others. We will also share upcoming community events, opportunities to help in our community, and fun ideas we see that pertain to our school. You can find the board down the main hallway on the left☺

School Pictures:

Our spring pictures are scheduled for Thursday, March 9th starting at 9am. Students who attend on Thursdays should plan to arrive no later than 9:30 and dress in their picture attire. You may bring a change of clothes for afterwards. Students who are graduating this year will take both individual pictures and cap and gown pictures. If you would like to have a picture with your child and their sibling, (siblings do not have to attend Beacon to be photographed) please sign-up at the front desk for a sibling picture time slot. If your child doesn't normally attend on Thursday, and you'd like to have their picture taken, please plan to come in between 10:30-11:30. School pictures are a great gift to give grandparents and family members. Preserve this treasured time in your child's life with a great school picture. You will be able to come in and place photo orders from 12:15-1pm on the same day.



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Farmyard Friends (1/2):

February was such a fun month for the Farmyard Friends! We had a visit from UNC dental students who taught us how to care for our teeth! We celebrated circus week by making lions and learned about feelings and how to be a good friend. We ended the month with opposites! March is going to be filled with Dr. Seuss as we do Read Across America and Cat in the Hat! We will also learn about life in the pond, celebrate spring and our community helpers! We welcome Sophie M. to our class. It should be a great month.

Mrs. Debbie

Pond Pals (2/3s):

February was such a great month for our class. The children enjoyed a visit from dental school students and learned so much about taking care of our teeth. During circus week, we made crafts of animals, foods, and fun you would see at the circus. Our favorite activity during friendship week was the valentine card exchange. The kids enjoyed learning about opposites such as hot/cold and day/night during opposites week. We ended the month with a fun week learning about Dr. Seuss.

March is sure to bring more fun as we get ready for Spring. We will wish Madison a happy 3rd birthday and look forward to a visit from both the police and fire department. Our friends who are potty-training are doing great and displaying great independence in the bathroom! Thank you for working on this at home!

Mrs. Marianne

Ocean Explorers (3/4):

Our Ocean Explorers had a wonderful month of February. We started the month out by learning about our bodies and good healthy dental habits. We were very lucky to have students come from the UNC Dental school, to show us how to properly brush and floss our teeth. The following week we had a circus theme, we made circus tents, clowns, and pretended we were trapeze artists swinging high through the air. The next week, we celebrated friendship, and discussed feelings, and exchanged Valentines cards and goodies. Our Valentine's day pizza party was the highlight of the week. The end of February came

quickly and with it came the very fun week of Dr Seuss. One Fish, Two Fish, The Cat and The Hat, and of course, Green Eggs and Ham! The Ocean Explorers also did a lot of work on letter and number recognition, which I will continue throughout the next few months. We will continue to work hard at developing early writing skills, and practice writing our names.

Mrs. Becky

Forest Friends (4/5s):

February was an exciting and fun month for the Forest Friends!

We learned about shadows and Groundhog Day. We discussed the importance of keeping our teeth clean and enjoyed a science experiment in which we pretended to be dentist and used a dental mold. We celebrated Valentine's Day and worked on our graphing skills using candy hearts.

During our Friendship week, we discussed and reinforced friendship making skills using songs, games, books, and brain-builder activities to nurture skills such as collaboration, understanding feelings, and resolving conflicts.

We also have been discussing opposites, such as "dirty and clean", "up and down", "day and night", and "right and left". The children enjoyed a game that utilized several different cups filled with different amounts of water, so that the children can put them in order from empty to full. With the days getting longer and Spring time just around the corner we leap into March with a renewed sense of excitement! We will kick off the month with the remarkable Dr. Seuss and Read Across America day!

Please read to your child every day ~ 15 minutes each day! There is much research on the importance of reading aloud, showing that reading is FUN! Talk about the pictures, events, favorite parts. Reading aloud will expose your child to new words, ideas, places, events, and more complex plots and sentences than beginning reading books have to offer. If your child is learning to read they will enjoy the easy reader books, but when you read to them they may enjoy more complex story-lines.

Mrs. Kristi

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 2nd: Read Across America day. Our classes will dive into a few good Dr. Seuss books in Celebration!



Themes:

March 7th: We'll be visited by several N.C. Box turtles. We will observe the differences and similarities between the boys and girls of the species. We'll learn how turtles help the pond habitat.

March 6-10th: We hope (weather permitting) to bring in tadpoles for the classes to observe. We plan to watch them grow and develop into froglets and will release them back into the wild after we see their transformation.

March 9th: Picture Day at Beacon. All students are invited to join us between 9-11:30 (ish) for pictures and parents from 12:15-1:00 to view pictures and place orders.

March 17th: Happy St. Patrick's Day! Please wear GREEN!

March 17th: Scholastic Book Orders are due! Thank you for your support of this program. We appreciate the free products and books we receive when our families place orders!

March 20-24th: Beacon is CLOSED for SPRING BREAK. Enjoy your time off ☺

March 29th: Cary Fire Department will visit Beacon to demonstrate fire safety techniques, teach us about their equipment and jobs, and of course, show us their fire truck ☺

March 30th: Cary Police will visit Beacon to talk about how they help our community and show us their Police vehicle.

Feb 27th- March 3rd: Jump into a good book or two by the famous Dr. Seuss!!! One of the silliest, most creative week's we have includes reading and experiencing the great stories created by Dr. Seuss such as The Cat in the Hat, Mr. Brown Can Moo, Can You?, and Red Fish, Blue Fish, One Fish, Two Fish. We'll explore some interesting characters like Cat in the Hat, Thing 1 and Thing 2, the Lorax, the Grinch, Horton, and many more. Theodor Geisel brought so many great characters to life! This week allows us to explore the number 8, Octagons, and red and white. We'll join others on Wednesday, March 2nd as we celebrate Read Across America day by reading a few good books together.

March 6-10th: Splish, Splash..Dive in for Life in the Pond! From frogs to fish and snakes to swamps... we may get a little muddy or wet as we experience the life of animals and plants living in a pond habitat. We'll be visited by some tadpoles and turtles and get to observe their behaviors. Our letter is S, our number is 9, and our color is blue. We'll review all our shapes this week.

March 13-17th: Hop on by for Spring Celebrations week! Easter, Passover, and St. Patrick's Day all wrapped up into one fun week! We'll be visited by Leprechauns and bunnies, do an egg experiment, and find hidden gold that the Leprechaun has hidden on our playground! Our color is green, our shape the diamond, the number 10, and the letter is Kk.

March 20-24th: Beacon Learning Academy is Closed for Spring Break.

March 27-31st: We wrap up the month of March by honoring our Community Helpers. One of our all-time favorite activities is when the police and fire department visit our school. It is a great opportunity to hear about the responsibilities of their jobs, see the equipment and attire they wear, and to learn about the vehicles they utilize while performing their jobs. Our letter is V, our color and shapes are purple and stars, and we'll review our numbers 1-10.



Activities/ Tips to teach Clean-up skills:

+Place pictures of toys on the baskets they are stored in or on the shelf where they are stored, children can easily put belongings back if they know where they go. Pictures can be “laminated” using clear contact paper or packing tape so they stay sturdy. As your child starts to read a word label can be placed with the picture.

+ Buy a small hand-held broom/ dustpan from the dollar store and allow you child to help sweep up messes.

+ If there are a lot of toys on the floor, guide your child to clean one type of item at a time. Example: “Please pick up your trucks.” Instead of “Clean up this room” It is overwhelming to say to clean everything, but by asking them to clean one thing at a time, they can quickly get it all put back in it’s place, bit by bit.

+ Children as young as two years old are able to help clear the table of their plates and cups once through eating. Have them sit at the table vs. a high chair and encourage them to bring dishes to the sink after they eat.

+Children enjoy sorting and can be taught that certain items are trash and some can be recycled. Place a small basket (laundry basket or plastic bin) in an area of the kitchen where they can place recyclable items.

+Set a consistent expectation that clean-up is expected in order to move on to the next activity. Having a cue that it’s time to clean is helpful such as a song or turning off the lights helps the child recognize that they need to clean. Another important suggestion is to give a 2-minute warning that it will be clean-up time soon. This teaches the child that we respect their time and understand they may want to finish what they are doing.



St. Patrick’s Day Rainbow

Ingredients:

Strawberries, oranges, kiwi or green grapes, blueberries, black berries, vanilla yogurt, and either sugar cookie crust or pizza crust.

Shape the dough in an arc shape, cook as directed. Add yogurt spread (or flavored cream cheese) and add the fruit in rows of rainbow colors.



**Ms. Becky-March 4th
Mary Catherine- March 7th
Madison- March 8th
Jacob- March 13th
Suhani- March 20th
Lucas- March 24th
Oscar- March 24th**

