

Beacon Learning Academy

May 2017

Reminders:

- Please dress your child in secure closed-toe shoes for their safety on the playground.
- Please apply sunscreen/ bug spray prior to coming to school.
- Please have your child wash hands when dropping off in the morning.
- Pick-up is 1pm. Arrive a few minutes earlier if you would like to talk with the teachers. After 1 pm they have classroom cleaning responsibilities that they must do.
- If you plan to attend Beacon for the 2017/18 school-year, and have not submitted your 2017/18 registration/ \$100 reg fee, please do so in order to secure your space. You can wait until August, but space is filling up quickly. Please see Laurie with questions.

Teacher Appreciation Week:

May 8-12th is **National Teacher Appreciation Week**. We have provided the following ideas as suggestions of daily activities which could be done to show our teachers they are appreciated☺ You are free to choose your own options or just do one or two of the days. There is a folder containing information on what each teacher likes available at the front desk if anyone is interested in seeing some of their favorites. We are truly thankful for wonderful parents☺

Monday (5/8): Please bring in a sweet treat for your teacher.

Tuesday (5/9): Please bring in something to “pamper” your teacher (hand-lotion, soaps, candles, etc)

Wednesday (5/10): Please create a special homemade picture, card, or project to give to your teacher.

Thursday (5/11): Bring your teacher a small gift or gift-card. Teacher wish lists are available to see what stores or restaurants they like. Parents can sign-up to bring items for our Teacher Appreciation breakfast today.

Friday (5/12): Teacher Lunch- Sign up at the front desk for those willing to bring in items requested for our luncheon



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Farmyard Friends (1/2s):

Farmyard friends had such a sunny April! We started off with Eric Carle making brown bears, butterflies, and enjoying all his books! Next, we learned all about bugs by observing outside! Our egg hunt was so much fun and they found so much fun stuff! Recycling week was filled with reusing and seeing how to save our world! We finished out our month with gardening and learning how plants grow. May is going to be filled with the zoo, pets, weather, and construction! It is going to be so much fun!

Mrs. Debbie

Pond Pals (2/3s):

April was such an amazing month for the Pond Pals! We welcomed beautiful spring weather and everyone loves playing outside in the fresh air.

We started the month reading Eric Carle books, we learned that he was an author and illustrator. We enjoyed the art projects we did related to his stories. Gardening week is always one of my favorite themes! We had so much fun planting carrots and grass and waiting for them to grow.

May promises to be another exciting month with fun projects planned as we learn about Mother's day, the zoo, pets, and the weather.

Last but not least, we would like to welcome our new friend, Anna and her family to Beacon!

Mrs. Marianne

Ocean Explorers (3/4s):

Our Ocean Explorer have enjoyed the month of April. We started off April with the always fun "Eric Carle " week. We watched the shapes of the clouds, we learned about hermit crabs, and how they grow out of their shell and have to find new ones. We discussed the phases of the moon and enjoyed pancakes with our friends.

The next week, we discussed bumble bees, dragon

flies, and even had a few insects visit our classroom. Our egg hunt was a big success as always. Thank you to all those that came and enjoyed it with us. Reduce, Reuse and Recycle was the theme for the following week, we learned about the importance of recycling and taking care of our planet. The last week of April, we learned all about flower, plants, and seeds. We did some gardening and played in the dirt. Throughout the month we also concentrated on our writing skills, as well as, our social skills. Using our words, using gentle hands, and respecting others personal space, has been a main focus for our classroom. We also ask that the students use walking feet when arriving and departing school. We have had a couple injuries happen while children are running down the hallway, and we want to keep everyone safe!

During the month of May, we will be shifting our focus from our letters to our numbers. Counting, tracing, writing, and recognizing our numbers is our goal for the month. As always, I encourage our Ocean Explorers to continue to work on these skills at home.

Ms. Becky

Forest Friends (4/5s):

The month of April proved to be a very busy month. We studied insects, the children loved pretending to be Entomologists. The children really enjoyed the Reuse, Reduce, and Recycle week. We discussed how important it is to keep our environment clean. We did an experiment using paper, food, and dirt, to see how hard it is to clean water once it's been polluted. The children also started a rotting jar to observe the various stages of decomposition.

The month of May promises to be exciting. We will start off with the Zoo, and pretend to be zookeepers. We will then move on to a tribute to Women We Love!. Everyone loves animals and we will set-up our home center as a veterinary clinic, during pet week.

We will be ending our month as we become junior meteorologists and learn about how weather affects us and our environment.

Mrs. Kristi

COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROJECT:

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our hospital care packages for children in April. We delivered them to wake children's hospital and the children were very excited.

In May, we plan to collect dog/ cat food, treats, toys, and \$ donations to go to the local organization called second chance adoptions as an extension of our pet theme, so be on the lookout for this mid-month.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 3rd: Wear black and white stripes today!

May 5th: Happy Cinco de Mayo! Check out our churro Chex mix in the recipe section, this would be great to make on Cinco-de Mayo.

May 8th: Muffins for Mom 9:00-10:00 am. Come and enjoy a muffin with your child☺ or grab one for yourself on the way out.

May 8-12th: See our Teacher Appreciation section for suggested ideas on ways you can express thankfulness for your teacher.

May 15th: Community awareness project begins, please bring in dog/ cat food, supplies, cash, or toys.

May 16th: Please bring a picture of your pet to school for show-n-tell.

May 19th: Scholastic Book Orders due.

May 29th: Beacon is closed for Memorial Day.

May 31st: Our pet supplies community awareness project ends. Thank you for your contributions!

May's Themes:

May 1-5th: Let's travel to The Zoo! What fun we'll have exploring the life of elephants, lions, tigers, bears, monkeys, zebras, and so much more! Our colors of black and white will allow us to explore the zebra's ability to camouflage themselves, and our letter Zz will allow us to learn how to spell zoo or zebra or zig-zag. Our number is 15 and our shape is the rectangle

May 8-12th: We will celebrate the Women We Love as Mother's Day approaches. We look forward to creating a special treat for the special women who love us☺ Our letter of the week is Mm, our number is 14, our shape is the heart, and our color of the week is pink.

May 15-19th: We love our Pets. These beloved members of our families deserve a whole week to honor them☺ We'll enjoy learning about dogs, cats, fish, rats and gerbils, and add in a few reptiles such turtles, lizards, or snakes. The letter of the week is Vv and we'll learn about the important job of being a vet. We'd love to have a local vet visit our school, if anyone knows a good one, please let Mrs.Laurie know. Our color is gray, our number is 16, and our shape is the pentagon.

May 22-26th: Oh, what will the Weather be? A question we ponder on a daily basis! We'll explore weather from calm sunny days to stormy, windy nights. What does a meteorologist do? How do scientists predict the weather? We'll even make our own predictions and chart our answers. We plan to practice our tornado drill this week and we recommend you practice one at home so your child will know what to do. Our letter is Uu, our number is 17, our shape is a cone, and we'll explore all the colors of a rainbow☺



Q: HOW DO WE TEACH CHILDREN TO CLEAN UP?

A: THERE ARE MANY ASPECTS TO TEACHING A CHILD HOW TO CLEAN UP AFTER THEMSELVES. FIRST THEY MUST UNDERSTAND THAT CERTAIN THINGS GO IN CERTAIN PLACES. FOR EXAMPLE: TRASH GOES IN THE TRASHCAN, TOYS GO IN THEIR TOY BIN, CLOTHES GO IN THE CLOSET, ETC.... THIS TYPE OF UNDERSTANDING THAT SOMETHING GOES SOMEWHERE SPECIFIC EVEN TRANSFERS OVER TO POTTY-TRAINING AND MANY OTHER SKILLS THEY WILL ACQUIRE IN LIFE.

HERE ARE SOME IDEAS TO ENCOURAGE CLEANING SKILLS:

-CLEAN-UP BY NUMBERS: PLAY A GAME WHERE YOU AND YOUR CHILD PUT TOYS AWAY SUCH AS "YOU PICK UP ONE TOY AND I PICK UP ONE TOY, THEN PROCEED WITH 2 TOYS, 3 TOYS, UNTIL YOU HAVE CLEANED ALL THE TOYS OR SWITCH UP THE NUMBER IF IT IS GETTING TOO HIGH.

-USE PICTURES TO LABEL THE AREA ON THE SHELF OR IN THE TOY ROOM WHERE YOU WANT YOUR CHILD TO PUT THE TOY WHEN THEY CLEAN.

-BEAT THE TIMER OR SONG: START A TIMER OR SONG AND SEE IF YOU CAN CLEAN UP BEFORE THE TIMER RINGS OR SONG ENDS.

-CREATE A HELPER CHART WITH VARIOUS JOBS LISTED. ONCE YOUR CHILD COMPLETES ONE OF THE JOBS, THEY CAN PUT A STICKER NEXT TO THAT JOB ON THE CHART. COME UP WITH FUN REWARDS ONCE THEY RECEIVE A CERTAIN NUMBER OF STICKERS SUCH AS A BIKE RIDE TOGETHER, TRIP TO THE PARK, OR GOING FOR ICE-CREAM.

-WRITE EACH FAMILY MEMBERS NAME ON A CRAFT/ POPSICLE STICK AND PLACE IN A CONTAINER. WRITE VARIOUS CLEAN-UP/ JOB RESPONSIBILITIES (EX: SET TABLE, COLLECT TRASH, GET MAIL, ETC) ON CRAFT STICKS AND PLACE IN A DIFFERENT CONTAINER. HAVE YOUR CHILD HELP PICK ONE NAME FROM THE NAME CONTAINER AND ONE JOB FROM THE OTHER AND THAT PERSON GETS TO DO THAT JOB, CONTINUE UNTIL EVERYONE HAS HAD A CHANCE TO HELP!

-PURCHASE A SMALL HAND-HELD BROOM AND DUSTPAN FROM THE DOLLAR STORE AND ALLOW YOUR CHILD TO SWEEP UP AFTER MEALS. THEY ENJOY DUSTING WITH FEATHER OR BRUSH DUSTERS WHICH CAN ALSO BE FOUND AT THE DOLLAR STORE.

YOUNG CHILDREN LOVE TO HELP AND SHOW HOW "BIG" THEY ARE. WE HOPE YOU ENJOY SOME OF THESE IDEAS THAT MAKE CLEANING FUN (AND EASY!).

Churro Chex Mix:

Ingredients:

9 cups Chex cereal (I like using rice Chex)
2 cups cinnamon chips (these may be tricky to find, especially if it isn't near the holidays)
1/4 cup butter
1 cup powdered sugar
1/2 cup granulated sugar
1 1/2 tsp ground cinnamon

Pour cereal into a large bowl, set aside. Mix sugars and cinnamon together in a small bowl and set that aside too.

Melt cinnamon chips and butter in microwave for 30 seconds then stir. Put back in for another 10 seconds and stir again until smooth. DO NOT OVERHEAT. If you need to heat it again, just do it for 10 seconds because if you over-cook it then it will be thick rather than thin and smooth. If you take the mixture out of the microwave and it doesn't seem like they are melted, stir them anyways because as you stir the mixture it will melt more and some people do not think about this so they microwave it more and the mixture becomes too tough. Stirring is key before overheating. Once smooth, pour over cereal mixture and mix until the cereal is all coated.

Slowly add the half of the sugar mixture into the chex while tossing. Coat the whole mixture and then lay it on wax paper on the counter top. Sprinkle the rest of the sugar mixture on top and let it cool before serving or storing.



Happy Birthday:

May 15th- Henry- (5)

