

Beacon Learning Academy

May 2018

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. Please 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 2018/19 school-year and have not submitted your 2018/19 registration/ \$100 reg fee, please do so in order to secure your space. You can wait until August, but space is filling up quickly, so schedules may be affected. Please see Laurie with questions.

Teacher Appreciation Week:

May 7-11th 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 (5/7): Please bring in a sweet treat for your teacher.

Tuesday (5/8): Please bring in something to “pamper” your teacher (hand-lotion, soaps, candles, etc)

Wednesday (5/9): Please create a special homemade picture, card, or project to give to your teacher.

Thursday (5/10): Bring your teacher a small gift or gift-card. Teacher wish lists are available to see what stores or restaurants they like

Friday (5/11): Teacher Lunch- Sign up at the front desk for those willing to bring in items requested for our luncheon.



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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. Ask your child to sing you our "Baby Shark" song- it's a class favorite right now 😊

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 our favorite themes! We had so much fun planting grass and waiting for it to grow. May promises to be another exciting month with fun projects planned as we learn about Mother's Day, the zoo, pets, and bugs.

Last but not least, we would like to welcome our new friend, Daniel to our class!

Mrs. Marianne and Mrs. Crystal

Ocean Explorers (3/4s):

Our Ocean Explorers have enjoyed the month of April. We started off with the always fun Eric Carle week. We watched 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. We then moved on to discussed life at the pond and all the animals we would find living there. We even got a visit and a lesson all about turtles for our very own Mrs Laurie. The following week we finally started thinking spring as we discussed all the topics of gardening week. We ended the month discussing the Zoo and created lots of fun zoo animals

We also concentrated on our writing skills, social skills, and alphabet recognition throughout the month. Using our words, keeping our hands to ourselves, gentle hands and self-help skills have been some of our focus for our class this month. During the month of May, we will be keeping our focus on our letters and continue to do tracing, writing, and recognizing letters. As always, I encourage our Ocean Explorers to continue to work on these skills at home.

Ms. Becky

Rainforest Rangers (4/5):

April was a rollercoaster of fun for the Rainforest Rangers! We had so many fun adventures during spring break and came back to celebrate Eric Carle! We made grouchy ladybugs, found different things around the class after reading Brown Bear and made our own little cloud. Next week, we learned all about life in the pond by learning about turtles, frogs and other pond life. Earth day was so much fun as we planted, learned how plants grow and why we recycle. We will have an amazing May with the zoo, celebrating moms, learning about bugs and construction! Hard to believe, but we will also start practicing for graduation! Everyone will be involved in the ceremony, but only my friends going to Kindergarten will be graduating.

Mrs. Debbie

Forest Friends (4/5s):

Wow! It's hard to believe we are approaching the end of the academic school year.

The month of April proved to be a very busy month. We studied the great author and illustrator, Eric Carle. We talked about the various techniques used, to create the characters in Eric Carle's books.

The children made beautiful replicas of his work.

The class was introduced to various life cycles. We were able to examine live caterpillars and make daily observations of their metamorphous.

In honor of Earth Day, 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.

We ended our month by discussing plants. We talked about the root system and learned that there are some plants that we eat the root, seeds, leaves and created examples of each.

Mrs. Kristi

COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROJECT:

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 1st: 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 10th: Muffins for Mom 9:00-9:30 am. Come and enjoy a muffin with your child☺ or grab one for yourself on the way out.

May 7-11th: See our Teacher Appreciation section for suggested ideas on ways you can express thankfulness for your teacher.

May 11th: Parent's Night Out: 6-9 pm. Food, fun, and friends! To join us, please sign up at the front desk.

May 14th: 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 18th: Scholastic Book Orders due.

May 28th: Beacon is closed for Memorial Day.

May 30th: Dress like a builder day! (overalls, hats, tool belts, etc..)

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



May's Themes:

May 1-4th: 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 14 and our shape is the rectangle.

May 7-11th: 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 15, our shape is the heart, and our color of the week is pink.

May 14-18th: 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 21-25th: This week will "fly" by as we explore Bugs and Insects. From dragon flies to bumble bees and spiders to ants, we'll explore a bug's life. Our letter is li for insect, our number is 17, our color is black, and our shape will be the cone. Please feel free to bring in any bugs or insects that you find in a bug jar/ container.

May28-June 1st: Our construction theme is one that we "dig". Get out your shovels and hammers- it's time to show us what you can build! We'll make blue-prints, build bridges, and learn about safety gear to wear on the construction site. Our letter is Dd for Dig and Dump. Our shape is the triangle, our color is red, and our number is 18.

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:

No May Birthdays! 😊

