

Beacon Learning Academy

919-463-0406

October 2018

Welcome to Fall in NC! We are enjoying the cooler temperatures. Please bring in a light jacket or sweater for the chillier days on the playground.

Over the past month, the children have enjoyed exploring new materials, learning what makes them a unique person, exploring new friendships, and gaining knowledge about their five senses, their own abilities and life-skills they can use.

In this month's newsletter, you'll find highlights of our upcoming themes, dates for special events, and information about our programs offered. Please be sure to like our Facebook page where you can find photos of our current activities, school-wide reminders, and information shared about upcoming events.

Our October community outreach program will be our Socks for Sharing collection! Please be on the lookout for our collection box in the lobby. We would love donations of new socks of all sizes. We give them to a great organization that helps provide complete sets of clothing for school-aged children called "Note in My Pocket".

If you need to correspond with us after hours, please email: beaconlearningacademycary@gmail.com and we'll answer as soon as we can. Please remember to let us know if your child will miss school for a trip or due to illness, this helps us plan our staffing.

Reminders:

Please arrive for pick-up no later than between 12:45-1:00pm. Our teachers try to have the class ready for departure at this time. Starting at 1:00 pm the teachers are expected to clean their classrooms and this involves using cleaning supplies which we will not use when the children are present. Arriving with a few minutes to spare allows your child to finish up anything they are engaged in, and gives time to talk with the teacher about their day. We appreciate your cooperation with this policy and allowing our teachers the time they need at the end of their day to clean and get organized for the next day!

Our teachers in our 2 year old classes and above have begun doing developmental assessments on each child. The process can take us a few weeks, but we will give each parent a copy of their child's developmental assessment once it is complete. As always, this is a starting point for us to measure growth, so we encourage you to see what skills your child has mastered and what skills are emerging. We use this as a basis to determine areas of focus as we guide your child's love of learning 😊

Socks for Sharing Community Project:

Beacon will collect new pairs of socks of any size during our socks for sharing community project. This is a wonderful opportunity to involve your child in allowing them to help pick out and bring in the socks. Children love to help, so they get excited to help give something to someone else who needs it 😊 All packages of socks are donated to an organization called "Note in my Pocket" a local non-profit organization that packages complete sets of clothes with a special note of encouragement and deliver to children in need.

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Farmyard Friends (1/2s):

The Farmyard Friends had a wonderful first month at school. We were very excited to welcome our new friends Anne-Joelle and Noah to our class. We spent time exploring our toys and materials in class and on our playground. Everyone is enjoying singing songs, reading stories, and looking at our family pictures wall! October brings an exciting start with the perfect theme- the Farm. We will look at different animals that live on a farm and learn what sounds they make. I will start to introduce some fine motor and sensory crafts as we enter into our fall and autumn themes. The children have also started to explore their large motor skills with climbing on the playground. Please send them in closed toe shoes which will protect their feet on the mulch. As the weather cools down, please begin sending in jackets as well.

Mrs. Crystal

Pond Pals (2/3s):

September flew by for the Pond Pals! We spent most of the month learning different ways we are special and about our favorite things. We explored our five senses theme through hands on exploration such as smelling different smells, touching various textures and talking about the way different foods taste. I am so excited for everything that is planned for October. As the weather begins to cool down, the leaves begin to change colors, and we look forward to exploring all the changes.

We continue to work on potty-training, If you feel your child and you are ready to take the next step to underwear, please let me know. It is a very exciting and wonderful journey that our friends are so proud to accomplish!

Mrs. Marianne

Ocean Explorers (3/4): I can't believe the month of September is already over. It went by so fast! It was fun greeting our new friends and getting to know each other and everyone's families.

We started the month talking about school and families. After which, we learned about our body and five senses by observing and investigating things around us.

Next, we used our imaginations and dived into STEM week- thinking and building while working on our fine

motor skills. It amazes me how everyone had adjusted so well with everything and I already see emerging friendships.

Mrs. Priya

Rainforest Rangers (Older 3's/

Young 4's): The Rainforest Rangers have had an amazing first month! We have had to learn new schedules and routines, I'm so proud of all of my friends and how well they have done! We have learned how to use our manners, use our words and trying to do things ourselves before asking for help (doing our best!).

In September, we learned about our friends and ourselves. We talked about families, our senses and our classmates. We learned we are a family in the classroom! We ended September by learning about STEM!

October is going to introduce our student of the week, Ms. Debbie will send home all the information on this exciting time and it is also on the bulletin board. We will do the themes: Farm, Autumn, the Fair, Forest Friends and Halloween! We are going to do a Halloween party, but information will go out closer to the date. Please continue to work on fine motor skills at home, all of my friends are doing so well!

Mrs. Debbie

Forest Friends (4/5s): The Forest Friends, had an amazing start to the school year! The month of September has been very exciting, we welcomed several new friends, to the Beacon family, Becky, Joey, Colt, and Dylan. The children have worked very hard this month. We have enjoyed fun projects to get to know each other better. The children conducted a taste test, sweet was the class favorite and sour the least favorite. While we conducted an experiment using a diaper, the class could not believe how much water it would hold.

We will continue to work on class rules, routines, and letter identification. At this age children have yet to develop cognitive skills to get spatial awareness down. Practice moving things from left to right, up, and down, draw big and little circles.

Helpful tips for home:

- *Use a highlighter to write letters and have your child trace. Start all letters top to bottom
- * Draw straight lines on paper and have your child practice cutting using the thumb-up technique
- * Find items around the house to create patterns
- * Work on letter identification
- * Try to read to your child on a daily basis.

Mrs. Kristi

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

OCTOBER 1ST-NOV 1ST: SOCKS FOR SHARING COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM. PLEASE DONATE ANY SIZED **NEW** SOCKS IN THE DECORATED BOX IN THE LOBBY. ALL DONATIONS WILL BE DELIVERED TO "NOTE IN MY POCKET" (A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION WHO HELP CLOTHE SCHOOL-AGED STUDENTS). THIS ACTIVITY OFFERS AN EXCELLENT CHANCE TO DISCUSS HELPING PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY! OUR GOAL THIS YEAR IS TO DONATE **100 SOCKS!!!**

OCTOBER 1ST: OUR TEACHERS IN OUR 2 YEAR OLD PROGRAM (POND PALS) AND ABOVE WILL BEGIN OUR FALL ASSESSMENTS OF SKILLS. THIS CAN TAKE US A FEW WEEKS, AS WE OBSERVE AND COMPLETE EACH CHILD'S ASSESSMENT. WE WILL PROVIDE A COPY OF THE ASSESSMENT TO OUR PARENTS ONCE COMPLETED. IF THERE IS ANY FURTHER DISCUSSION NEEDED, WE WILL ASK TO HAVE A CONFERENCE WITH YOU.

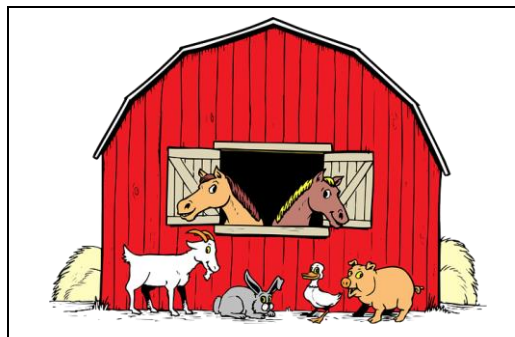
OCTOBER 10TH: DRESS LIKE A SCARECROW OR FARMER DAY: PULL OUT YOUR OVERALLS, PLAID SHIRTS, HATS AND BOOTS;) WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOUR CREATIVITY ;)

OCTOBER 11-21ST 2018: NC STATE FAIR AT THE FAIRGROUNDS IN RALEIGH.

OCTOBER 19TH: SCHOLASTIC BOOK ORDERS ARE DUE!

OCTOBER 25TH: WE'LL BE VISITED BY SOME SPECIAL FOREST FRIENDS- BOX TURTLES! MRS. LAURIE SHARE SEVERAL NC BOX TURTLES AND TEACH US ABOUT THEIR HABITAT, CHARACTERISTICS, AND

OCTOBER 31ST: CLASSROOM HALLOWEEN CELEBRATIONS: CHILDREN MAY WEAR THEIR COSTUMES IF DESIRED AS LONG AS THEY CAN STILL PARTICIPATE IN ALL NORMAL ACTIVITIES;) PLEASE BRING A PLAYGROUND SAFE SHOE TO WEAR. PARENTS ARE WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED TO JOIN US FOR GAMES AND FESTIVITIES FROM 12-1!



Themes:

October 1-5th: We'll travel to the **Farm** in our imaginations! We'll explore the jobs of a farmer, what animals live on a farm, and what products we get from farms. Our letter is M for machinery, our color is red, our shape is the pentagon, and our number is 5.

October 8-12th: It's **Harvest/Autumn** time! We'll learn what it means to harvest your crops, discuss the cooler fall weather, and learn how nature changes in the fall season. On Wednesday, Oct 10th, please dress up as a scarecrow or farmer. Our letter is Y for Yams, our shape is the cone, our color is yellow, and our number is 6.

October 15-19th: One of our favorite events of the year is **The Fair!** We'll celebrate this once a year celebration of foods, events, contests, games, and so much more! From crafts that honor fair foods to fair games, this week promises to be filled with fun. We'll share what makes our state fair special to North Carolina. Our letter is F for Fun, our color is pink, our number is 7, and our shape is hexagon.

October 22-26th: We will explore **Forest Friends** and learn about the wonderful animals that call the forest their home. Our letter of the week is Nn which allows us to learn about animals who build nests in trees. Our number is 8, our color is green, and our shape will be the clover.

October 29-Nov 2nd: Our friends will have a blast learning about **Halloween** and the traditions associated with this holiday. We'll explore jack-o-lanterns, costumes, and learn about trick-or-treating safety. Our letter H is for Halloween, our number is 9, our shape is the octagon, and our colors are orange and black.



FUN FALL NATURE ACTIVITIES:

-TAKE A NATURE WALK AND COLLECT PINECONES WITH YOUR CHILD. USE THE PINECONES TO PRACTICE COUNTING, SORT BY SIZES, AND AFTER ALL THAT FUN, IF YOU PAINT HONEY OR PEANUT BUTTER ON THE PINECONE AND ADD BIRDSEED, THEY MAKE A GREAT BIRDFEEDER.

-COLLECT LEAVES AND PLAY SORTING GAMES WITH SIZES OR COLORS. ONCE THE LEAVES HAVE DRIED OUT A BIT THEY CAN BE USED TO GLUE ONTO PAPER IN THE SHAPES OF DIFFERENT OBJECTS OR JUST AS A FUN COLLAGE.

-USE SMALL BRANCHES OR LEAVES AS A PAINTBRUSH TO PAINT.

-PLAY A LEAF MATCHING GAME WHERE YOU FIND LEAVES THAT HAVE FALLEN AND TRY TO GUESS WHICH TREE THEY FELL FROM. SEE IF YOU CAN IDENTIFY THE NAME OF THE TREE.

-COLLECT ACORNS OR PINECONES AND HAVE A HIDE-N-SEEK GAME WHERE ONE PERSON HIDES THE OBJECTS THEN EVERYONE ELSE SEARCHES FOR THEM.

-PLAY-DOUGH AND LEAVES- PRESS THE LEAF INTO THE PLAY-DOUGH TO MAKE DIFFERENT LEAF DESIGNS.

-CUT OPEN A PUMPKIN, SCOOP OUT THE INSIDES AND PLACE THEM IN A BOWL. LET YOUR CHILD SORT OUT THE SEEDS AND ENJOY THE SQUISHY FEEL OF THE PULP. ONCE SEEDS ARE PULLED OUT THEY CAN BE WASHED AND TOASTED WITH BUTTER AND SALT IN THE OVEN. IF YOU DO NOT WANT TO EAT THEM, THEY ARE FUN FOR KIDS TO PLAY WITH USING MEASURING CUPS AND SPOONS TO SORT AND POUR THEM.

-PLACE ACORNS INSIDE A CLEANED PLASTIC DRINK BOTTLE. SUPER OR HOT GLUE THE TOP ONTO THE BOTTLE TO SEAL IT. THIS CREATES A FUN SHAKER SENSORY BOTTLE THAT A CHILD OF ANY AGE WOULD ENJOY.

-TAKE YOUR HALLOWEEN COSTUME WITH YOU TO VISIT THE PUMPKIN PATCH AND TAKE PICTURES WHILE DRESSED IN COSTUME. THE PUMPKIN PATCH BACKGROUND CAPTURES THE SEASON PERFECTLY.



Halloween Spaghetti Fun!

Ingredients:

-Spaghetti & Food Coloring

Cook spaghetti, let cool. Soak in colors of your choice and drain. Enjoy! (Can be stored for a couple days in ziplock and refrigerated)

This Slimy Spaghetti Sensory Activity for Toddlers features the colors of the season! Throw in some plastic bugs, eyeballs, and skeletons, and you've got a frightful bag of worms just waiting to delight your child's senses.

Happy Birthday!



Clarity- Oct. 14th
Mrs. Kristi- Oct. 19th
Anne-Joelle- Oct. 20th
Alessandra- Oct 23rd
Mason- Oct 28th
Delaney- Oct 31st

