

<http://bhes.ddtwo.org>

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Beacons at the Beech

The Beech Hill Elementary **MISSION** is
to lead the way to lifelong learning.

June 3,
2009

What's up with Izzie? Who won "Idol"? And can you believe Diversity beat out Susan? In TV-land, this is the season for finales and cliffhangers. Television shows are not the only places that are shutting down for the hiatus. Schools throughout the land are headed for summer breaks. It's the time of year to reflect, think about successes and challenges and make plans for the next big adventure.

Here at Beech Hill, we are winding down on the 2008-2009 school year with fond memories of a fabulous year. It seems like only yesterday when the BHES Gang was "Chillin' on the Hill," Grand-Beacons were smiling and sipping on lemonade, and misty-eyed veterans adorned our halls in a parade to salute their heroic efforts. And just as we dried our hankies, we brought them out again as second grade beacons stormed onto the Swamp Fox den and delivered a show-stopping holiday performance. Like a blizzard, we were hit with a bevy of beacon events: Math & Science Night, The Technology Fair and the PACT to PASS working lunch. There was the "Tied to Brightness Breakfast" that tugged at our hearts, the "HOUSE Awards" that rocked, the fling of singers for the Spring Concert and a bounty of BEAMING celebrations. Jugglers juggled with their hands and hearts out all over the city. There was the Cultural Arts Week jam packed with activities to last for a month. Then there were the "days" - Career, Shadow and Market. Our "Strands on the Beech" looked like something from Cinderella and the Shine 100 Club events looked like something from Nickleodeon. We have paraded the halls for Storybook Character Day, to say hello and goodbyes and give "shout outs" for brilliant accomplishments. We have much to smile about. The bumps in our road (rainy day dismissal, budget cuts, calendar oops and technology glitches) have only served to make us stronger.

Of all the year-end television shows, I think Jay Leno's farewell to the Tonight Show will become a classic and my favorite. What he said he wanted to be remembered for were not the high television ratings, the mega-dollar contracts or the millions of adoring fans, but the children and their families that are a part of his work-family. Sixty-eight children were born during his seventeen-year run at the Tonight Show; he counts that as a blessing and the joy of his career. And so I join Jay in saying that the children whose lives I am charged with touching, reach farther in touching mine than I could ever imagine. I have learned so much from them. Gratitude from Nathan, Makayla, Kyra, Starraneshia, Adasia and Dylan, who wrote the most beautiful letters of appreciation to me ~ Whimsy from Matt with his sideways smile who said that *dreams can take you to the sky* or an original work of art from Jamal ~ Hospitality from the Walker girls and the Fuss girls who made such a fuss with flowers ~ Courage from Jackson who allows us to celebrate with him in 5 years of being Cancer-free ~ Persistence from Adam who read "Brown Bear" like a great storyteller or Phax reciting lines like an acclaimed actor ~ Responsibility from Jack and Ethan who kept their word and promise rain or shine ~ Championship from Jamie weighed down by medals of victory or gravity-defying Britt as he juggles more than colorful scarves with success. Brilliance from Kelsey as she quietly shared the words of Mark Twain-*A person who won't read has no advantage over a person who can't read*. I could go on and on because the gifts that I receive (that we receive) from your children are countless. Thank you. Next year's season will be an even bigger, better and brighter hit. Besides, we already have a stellar cast of stars, our children. See you in August. We'll leave the light on for learning.



Thurs. June 4

Spaghetti
Dinner Roll
Green Beans
Grapes

Fri. June 5

Pizza
Garden Salad
Oranges
Cookies

Mon. June 8

BAG
LUNCHES
ONLY

Tues. June 9

NO
LUNCH
SERVED

OOPS! It appears that many parents will be double-booked for tomorrow's awards celebration. Gregg Middle is also have their celebration and for some parents this poses a conflict. If you are receiving awards at two locations, please let us know. We think we have a possible solution. It's not a perfect one, but we hope you will like it. We apologize for the glitch. Ms. Phillips and I have already been in communication and we promise this will not happen next year. Thanks for understanding.

LAST MINUTE REMINDERS:

- ⇒ Turn in library books
- ⇒ Pay café balances
- ⇒ Return clothes to the nurse
- ⇒ Check lost and found

BHES Summer Hours:
Monday thru Thursday
8am—5pm

CHECK OUT THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONS TO LIGHTHOUSE LINES:

The following are expository pieces known as "How-To Pieces."

Kart Wheel Magic by Riley Watson 2-G Kennedy

Have you ever done a kart wheel? First you find a good smooth place to do it. Next you need proper shoes. "Like what?" said Savannah. "Like tennis shoes," said Riley. That's all you need to do. So get those shoes on and get outside. Then you put yourself into a lunge. Then you flip one leg over. Then flip the other leg. Then land the other way in a lunge. Last you say, "Ta-Da!"

Basketball Boy by Trent Sardinas 2-H Owens

Bounce, bounce, bounce. Shooting a basketball is fun. Materials needed are a basketball, hoop, short, short shirt, and net in basket. First you get a basketball and stand in front of a basketball hoop or in the back of the basketball hoop. Next you take two of your hands and push away. Last you shoot the ball away with your lead of one hand. Now I'll teach you how to shoot farther shots and to get better at that shot.

How to Make a Book by Laterra Newton 2-G Kennedy

Do you know how to make a book? It is really not hard to do. First you need paper. Then you need a book. Then you need a pencil. Last you get a book to write in all night and day. Every day you can put some things inside of your book to write. It can be your diary.

How to Make Lemonade by Justin Ward 2-H Owens

Did you ever make lemonade before? Well you will need water, a pitcher, a cup, and maybe a little sugar, and some mix for the water. Get a spoon. Stir it and pour carefully. You can't tip it too much. The pitcher will dump it all out and it will be no more but a drink on the floor. Trust me. I've done it. It makes a big mess. Tip: do not do this on the floor. Use a flat ground like a table or a counter. We have finished . . . 5 seconds later. You may drink.

Paradise Pizza by Ethan Sanabria 2-H Owens

Do you know how to make pizza? It's really fun! First wash your hands. After that preheat the oven 350 degrees F. Then you get butter and a pan. Then rub the butter on the pan. So the pizza won't stick. Now spread the dough on pan. Then add the pizza sauce. Then add cheese and others to the pizza. Let an adult put the pizza in the oven 20 minutes 350 degrees F. After it's done . . . EAT EAT EAT!

The following are descriptive pieces modeled after the book The Best Part of Me by Wendy Ewald.

My Head by Ashley Bissett 2-G Kennedy

The best part of me is my head. I like my head because it looks like my mom's head. I can use my head to think very smart. I am happy about my head because it makes me live. That is why I love my head.

My Ears by Sara Fuller 2-G Kennedy

The best part of me is my ears. My ears are small. I like them. If I did not have my ears I would not hear anything. I love my ears also because they are pierced. I have a million pairs of earrings. I love my ears. I use my ears to hear. I really need to hear music because I'm part of the Outrigger Girls. But that's a whole other story. My ears are great.

My Muscles by Dalton Mitchum 2-H Owens

The best part of me is my muscles. I use my muscles to punch a punching bag. My muscles are like a tower. I think my muscles are the greatest thing on my body.

The following are descriptive pieces of small treasures modeled on the book Wilfrid Gordon MacDonald Partridge by Mem Fox.

My German Rag Doll by Michaela Byrd 2-G Kennedy

My German rag doll is very old. I've had it since I was 1 year old. It's been in the attic this whole time when I have been looking for it. It is so old my Nanny had to sew it a few times because it's so old. I love it so much that I never want to give it away. No, no, no. It is tan, blue, red, green, and purple, too. Hey, the color of the rainbow. My mamma went to Germany and got me it. It is soft. And that's my story about my German rag doll.

Shark Tooth by Sara Fuller 2-G Kennedy

The shark tooth that was once in a shark's mouth is now a fossil in my room. It is very bumpy and has a lot of cracks. It doesn't smell very pretty. It is gray. Imagine having a tooth 8 inches long. Yeah. That's how big my shark tooth is. It's HUGE! I think it is very cool because I can imagine it being in a shark's mouth. It is awesome how I can see what the shark was by just looking at it. It is cool.

Making a Bird House by Gage McNeish 2-H Kennedy

My treasure is the best. It has birds in it. I made it on Christmas for my Mom and Dad. Me and my Pop made it at their old house. I had a lot of fun building it. And then I painted it with blue and red. And I made it in 2003. I was 3. I was tiny a long time. I still have it at my house now. We have it on my bed hanging on the wall. I want to hang it outside on a tree but Mom and Dad will not let me. But I want to do it.

The Greatest Gold Coin by Trent Sardinas 2-H Kennedy

Flip, flip, flip. It reminds me of the first time I bought it in the shop. It was so bumpy as a camel with 5 humps. It was the shiniest coins in the world. I was so happy that I got it. It was worth not that much. It was one dollar. Next I brought it home. I showed it to my friend. I said, "It's my lucky coin." His brother said, "It was not lucky." Then I went home and played with my lucky coin. I predicted it would land on head and it did. It was lucky. I knew it was the luckiest coin in the world. I will never forget my luckiest glimmering coin.

Lots of happenings at the Beech:



5th grade had a Wax museum!



4K classes collected drink can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House.

Shine 100 club members enjoyed a hot dog lunch in the courtyard



The Plantation House Singers wowed the school