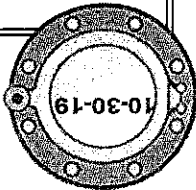


# PEEK OF THE WEEK

Beech Hill Elementary

A Palmetto's Finest School ❖ A 2018 National Blue Ribbon School



2019-2020 ~ Theme: Blue for a Reason

Mission Statement: Beech Hill will lead the way to lifelong learning through excellence, leadership and empowerment.

Vision: All students will meet or exceed academic standards as measured by grade level benchmarks.

Goals and Focus for 2019-2020 School Year

- Beacoms exhibit Self-Efficacy and Social Emotional Learning/Non-cognitive Skills
- Beacoms are Globally Competitive and College/Career Ready
- The percentage of parents satisfied with our home/school relations will increase from 79% to 95% as per the state's report card survey
- The percentage of students meeting or exceeding ELA, Reading, Math and Science expectations will increase from 81% to 85%
- The percentage of teachers who indicate that we provide students choice in language arts selections will increase to 84% to 95%

Lighthouses of Lifelong Learning:

CREATE (arts-infusion & appreciation), CONNECT (team building and community awareness), NURTURE (ecology and service learning), LIVE (healthy choices), THINK (growth mindset and metacognition), & DREAM (technology and innovation)

## Family Resource Room



## Mindful Space



## Reading Lounge



Even if you have only been at the Beech for a short amount of time, you have most likely recognized that we don't know how to do anything on a small scale. We always have some sort of event or project going on and we are constantly looking for ways to better ourselves for our Beacom students and their families. We are "Blue for a Reason" and can only continue on this successful path with the help of our families and the surrounding community. November begins the season of giving. With tradition in the Lowcountry that brings together hundreds of nonprofit agencies and schools with thousands of volunteers all in one day to improve our Tri-County community. On November 15th, Beech Hill will be part of the Day of Caring as community members pour their energy and expertise into our school to support our mission and vision. Along with the Day of Caring team, we will need support from families and community members to make this day the most productive it can be. We will have several major projects going on at once and in order for them to take place, we will need your help. Below you will find a brief description of three of the projects and a link to donate materials if you choose to and are able to support us in that way. We appreciate any help you are able to provide and cannot wait for these amazing ideas to come to fruition with your help and support.

Families are important at the Beech, but we have found that there is not a tangible space in our school for our judgement. Practicing mindfulness comes from gathering for workshops, work on collaborative projects, or even learn about the latest research and strategies used in education today. We are falling our families if we do not get them more involved in what we aim to do here at Beech Hill. The Family Resource Room will be a designated space for families to participate themselves. Once we realized this, we noticed that there truly isn't a space anywhere in our school for our teachers to take a break and sit down for a moment privately. The Mindful Space will be a place teachers can use to practice Mindful strategies such as breathing deeply, listening to natural soothing sounds, taking a quiet moment to regroup and refocus, journal, or engage in mindful coloring. Practicing mindfulness regularly will help our teachers maximize your read aloud time with your child? Mrs. Malinowski will provide a modeling session for you. There will be something for everyone in the Family Resource Room.

Quite simply, Mindfulness is the practice of paying attention on purpose, without "There are many little ways to enlarge your child's world. Love of books is the best of all." We believe this at The Beech and that is why the *Blue for a Reason*, our theme for this year, refers to BOOKS! We want to invite our Beacoms to **read all over our school**, not just in their classroom or Media Center. This is where we need your help. The Reading Lounge is the space that "anchors" our and kindergarten hallways and in the wonderful pieces that are already down there (the Adirondack chairs) and give them a fresh coat of paint, a few aesthetic changes with lighting and storage to make the families will not pass up the opportunity to stop and share a favorite book together. On top of being a fantastic family reading area, we also envision it being great for small groups and book clubs that want to sit away into that next great reading adventure.

In order for these dreams to become reality, we will need your support and the support of the community around us. We are looking for several items to help us refurbish these areas and bring them new life! We have a big vision, but will need supplies beyond our current budget. If you feel passionate about one of our proposed projects and would like to donate to the cause, please do so **prior to November 15th**. The QR code to the right contains an **Amazon Wish List** of items that will help us give these areas in our school the facelift they need to be functional and purposeful spaces that will benefit ALL Beacoms big and small! Simply pull up the camera to scan the QR code and browse the list. We appreciate your support with these endeavors.



Please visit <https://www.ddlwo.org/D/O> to access the new website.

## Save the Dates • Important Events

\*School Office Hours are now 6:45-3:15.

October 31 Storybook Character Day Parade 7:30 a.m.  
Please Return Federal Cards

November 1 Top 31 Shake and Shine Parade 7:30 a.m.  
Election Day (Bag Lunches)  
WERD Clubs 7:30 a.m.  
Early Release Day 11:00

7 School Improvement Council Meeting 5:30  
8 Veterans Day Celebration 10:00-12:00  
Kona Ice Spirit Day

11 School WILL be in session  
12 Makeup Day for Pictures  
15 Day of Caring (Thank you MUSC)

18 Welcome Juggling Artist-in-Residence  
20 WERD Clubs 7:30 a.m.  
Early Release Day 11:00

21 Terrific Kids 7:45 a.m.- Create Lighthouse  
22 Terrific Readers 8:30 a.m.  
27 Thanksgiving Break (through 29)

December 2 Sweetgrass Residency with Ms. Henrietta Snype  
Lunch Menu

October 31 Meatballs, mashed potatoes, carrots, salad, fruit

November 1 Pizza, baked beans, salad, kiwi, cantaloupe  
4 Chili dog, fries, veggie cup, salad, fruit, applesauce  
5 Bag Lunches ( Election Day)  
6 Bag Lunches (Early Release Day)  
7 Chicken, fried rice, vegetable blend, green peas  
8 Bag Lunches (Veterans Day)  
11 Spagetti with meatballs, green beans, fruit  
12 Chicken tenders, fries, green peas, applesauce  
13 Corn dog, broccoli, corn, strawberry mango

## At the Helm: The Civil War

Twist, turn, irony, paradox... These are the elements that make life interesting, challenging and fun. While we're looking in one direction, our GPS system clearly defining our path, twist, turn, irony and paradox catapults us into another destination, even another world.

This week I attended the funeral of a man that I would not have been able to recognize in a "line-up" if I had to, but I felt certain that I knew well. Our dedicated crossing guard, Ms. Nancy Parker lost her beloved husband, Douglas last week. They were married for over forty years and enjoyed a rich and interesting life together. I knew this only through the lens of Ms. Nancy who frequented my office at arrival or dismissal times with updates in *The Days of Our Lives* - a la the Parkers. I learned about their favorite restaurants and past times. Most of all, I knew that they loved each other. If Ms. Nancy's stories went on for a little too long, her phone would ring right in my office. She would roll her eyes like a school-girl and sigh, "Oh this is him." She would say "him" like he was the only him in the world. I guess in her world, he was.

As I drove to the funeral, my mind raced ahead of me. What would I see? What would be the composition of the crowd? And what should I expect for the graveside service? I had learned that the service would be conducted with military honors. I used what I knew about those rituals as a base. Long before I made it to the cemetery, I noticed a hearse, but thought little of it. Then amazingly, as I entered the turning lane, I realized that that same vehicle that I had seen miles back was the same one now taking Nancy's sweet husband to his final resting place.

An entourage of nine cars followed the steel gray hearse. No limos, no flowers and no fanfare draped the setting. The simplicity of the scene added beauty to the moment and compelled us to focus on the reason for our presence; love, for a loved one, a love lost and a life well-lived.

Mr. Parker's narrative was filled with twists and turns. Here was a man who in the waning months of his life was battling a terminal illness, receiving hospice care, ironically, tragically only to be the victim of a head-on collision. This quiet and unassuming man who had lived his life in obscurity made the headlines in his final hours on the planet, then died.

During the service, the speaker made an interesting observation. She talked about how in the last few months, Mr. Parker had revisited his struggle with the paradox of serving his country in war-time while applying his faith. It had dawned on the me how rich and powerful the internal combat for our military service men and women must be. In a few short moments a list of challenges ran through my mind. A list so long, that it brought emotions to my soul and tears to my eyes. I stood there listening to "Taps" and having a newfound appreciation and gratitude for those who make the ultimate sacrifice of service to our nation. Those standing around me most likely thought that I was crying for Mr. Parker, but not for his loss; it was for his contribution and internal conflict he so bravely embraced. Please keep Ms. Nancy Parker in your thoughts. She requested that supporters send cards that she might read and review.

René Wyatt Harris, Proud and Grateful Principal  
Your ideas, questions and concerns are very important to me. I can be reached by phone or by email at [rharris@dochester.k12.sc.us](mailto:rharris@dochester.k12.sc.us) | return calls after 4:00 to ensure my undivided attention.

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