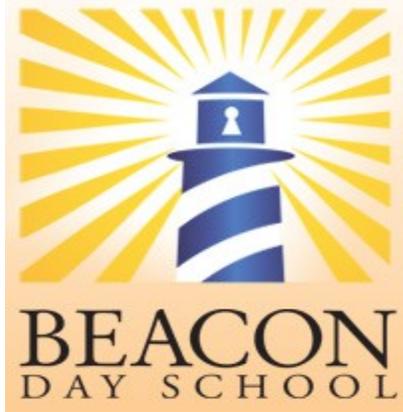


School closed on Jan. 21. Dr. Lang on VoiceAmerica on Jan. 22, 9 am.



BEACON

BLAST



IMFAR in SPAIN!

We are excited to report that Dr. Mary Joann Lang's abstract for "Sexual Behavior in Adolescents and Young Adults Diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder: A Parent's Perspective" has been accepted for presentation as a poster or oral presentation at the 2013 International Meeting for Autism Research in Donostia, San Sebastian, Spain! IMFAR! Congratulations to Dr. Lang for her insight and hard work in researching this topic.



been active in applied behavior analysis (ABA) as well as sensory, diagnostic, and, more recently, adult issues. ARI was founded by the late Dr. Bernard Rimland, whose son, artist Mark Rimland, is shown here with Dr. Edelson.

Kensington Gallery (formerly Edgware Gallery) is located in the Kensington District of San Diego and has the distinction of featuring both disabled and nondisabled artists. The gallery's resident artist is Mark Rimland. Proceeds from the sales of both originals and prints fund research to develop and validate an effective treatment for people with autism.

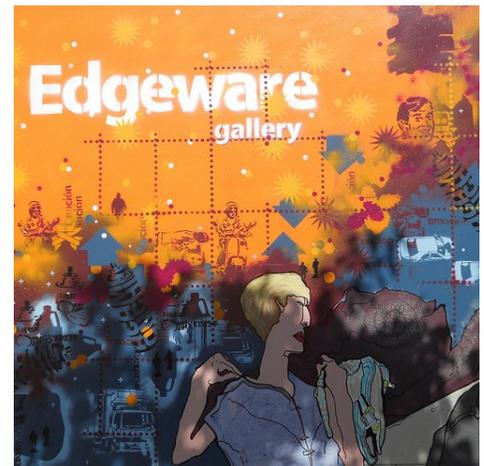
MANY THANKS FOR DONATION OF ART!

Beacon Day School gives its many thanks to Dr. Stephen M. Edelson of ARI -- the **Autism Research Institute** -- for facilitating prints by acclaimed artist Mark Rimland being donated to Beacon. Dr. Edelson is the director of the Autism Research Institute, which has been providing biomedical information of the highest quality since 1967. ARI has also

MARK RIMLAND: TALENTED ARTIST ON THE SPECTRUM

Mark Rimland has been featured on PBS, CBS, CNN, NTV *Art Time* in Japan, and in many gallery showings. His lovely artwork will now also be on the walls of Beacon! Mark illustrated the book titled *The Secret Night World of Cats*. Please visit www.markrimland.com.

KENSINGTON GALLERY





MISS AMERICA KUDOS!

Congratulations to Miss Montana, Alexis Wineman, who was the first-ever contestant on the autism spectrum participating in the Miss America pageant, which was televised on January 8th. The youngest contestant at 18 years old, Alexis made it to the semi-finals and won the People's Choice Award. At the age of 11, Miss Montana was diagnosed with pervasive developmental disorder and borderline Asperger's syndrome. Autism affects 1 child in 88, and many children do not receive proper treatment, which includes occupational, behavioral, and biomedical therapy, to help them live a more highly functioning life. Miss Montana's family encouraged Alexis to try out for cheerleading and other social activities at school, and so she found great success in cheering and even became squad captain. This emphasizes the importance of social skills therapy so kids can be integrated in activities.

INTRODUCING KELLEY!

I am Kelley Johnson, the new speech-language pathologist at Beacon Day School. I have spent the last 18 years in the public schools and private practice as both an SLP and a special education teacher. I have taught in Wisconsin and Colorado, and I've taught for eight years now in California. I believe communication is a life skill we all develop every day, and as we get to know each other, you will see that I love learning. I hope my passion is contagious!

My husband and I currently reside in Carlsbad but are looking to make our way north with Nina, our Australian Shepherd, this summer. Our other "little girl" is a grown-up now and living in Temecula with her husband. In our free time we participate in and watch various sporting events and visit family in Colorado and Wisconsin, and our favorite vacation spot is Cancun.

I'll be at Beacon on Mondays through Fridays. I look forward to meeting you soon!

TECHNOLOGY TIPS

Parent Susan I. recommended **Speak it!** "Speak it! is a great app for nonverbal kids who can type. Just type what you want to say and hit the SPEAK button. It highlights the words as they're spoken. You can choose the voice and set the rate of speech to allow your child to attempt to talk along with the app voice. It has word prediction if your child isn't a great speller. Available on iPad, iPod touch, and iPhone for around \$10."

Parent Velma R. likes **Write My Name** by Injini – available on iTunes, \$3.99. "This app is great because it has a variety of different tasks and options within the app. The app has 3 functions of tracing - name tags, the alphabet (upper and lower case), as well as 100+ sight words. The app recognizes a stylus pen or a finger. In the name tag section, you're able to fully customize up to 36 name tags. With these name tags, you're able to record, in your own voice, what the name tag says and upload a picture to go with it. Once a name tag is completely traced, the real voice announces the name tag that was just traced. Name tags can be used for a variety of objects as well as names. The alphabet tracing is very helpful as it requires the child to fully trace the letters correctly and will not move onto the next letter unless it is completed. If your child traces out of the lines, there is a small chime and the arrow directs them back to where they need to continue. With other apps, my son would purposely get answers wrong to hear the elaborate announcement associated with a wrong answer. The 100+ sight words are those that are taught in kindergarten. Once the word is traced, there are animations that appear. This app is designed to help with independence and it has done just that for my son. Injini also offers another app called My First AAC, specifically designed for younger children with special needs."

Thanks, Velma and Susan for sharing this helpful info!



Martin Sheen's *In Focus* production crew came to Beacon on Tuesday, January 15th to film! *In Focus* is an award-winning series in the educational television industry that broadcasts on public television. Beacon is happy to help educate the public in the children's interest about a better way in autism education! We look forward to the airing on public TV.



DOUG BAKER'S TIP OF THE MONTH

Letter of Intent: Instruction & User's Manual

The letter of intent (LOI) is a vital document any special needs parent or family should have for their special needs child or adult. This is simple the "who, what, where, when, why, and how" of your loved one: who your child is; what they like; favorite foods, videos, DVDs; religious preferences; habits; capabilities; traveling locations; clothing likes and dislikes; etc. You may also describe people, places, sensations, or events that may scare or create concern or anxiety. It can be updated every six months as they are younger or every year or two as they get older or when appropriate. There are some "freeware" downloads on the Internet that do a fairly decent job. I use a really good one in my practice for all my clients. I recommend clients add photos and videos to an electronic folder on their computer however often they can to give a complete profile picture.

The purpose is to have a document to educate as comprehensively as possible regarding your affected loved one should you suddenly no longer be around to transition in that process with any individual who may have to take over for you and/or your family. It is also a great recorded history of events, milestones, achievements, and so forth. Lastly, make an electronic copy and have another family member, trusted friend, or some safe storage process keep your latest update. I keep an off-site flash drive copy of the latest LOI document for my clients who want me to.

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