



## BEACON BLAST

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**HAPPY AUTUMN!**

**NEXT MINIMUM  
DAY IS  
THURSDAY,  
OCTOBER 31ST!**

**Please tell us a little about your background and hobbies.**

In my free time, I enjoy hiking, kayaking, and going to the beach. My favorite thing to do is travel. I have been lucky enough to have seen many amazing places around the United States as well as many different countries. My favorite place I have been to so far is Costa Rica; however, I plan on visiting many more destinations.

**How did you become interested in working with children, particularly special needs children?**

My first grade teacher was one of the most remarkable people I have had the privilege of knowing, and it became my dream to have a classroom just like hers. I went to CSU Long Beach in order to obtain my BA in child development and my Multiple Subject Teaching Credential. While I was in college, I worked in an after-school program, an in-home program, a preschool, and for a school district as an instructional aide in a moderate/severe classroom. I have worked in a number of settings with many different types of children, ranging from ages 6 months to 16 years. When I worked for the school district, I fell in love with the classroom and really connected with the students. I knew that special education was definitely a field I would like to pursue.

**When did you join Beacon Day School, and what has the transition between Elementary 1 and Elementary 2 been like? How have you seen Beacon grow over time?**

**NEW IN ELEMENTARY 2!**

**MEET STACEY LAZENBY!**



I started working at Beacon in November 2010 after obtaining my teaching credential. It was an easy transition because I had experience working with this population before. I started working at 17<sup>th</sup> Street with the elementary class. I instantly loved working for Beacon. The students are all such amazing people and are so much fun to be around. I have seen Beacon grow substantially over time. I was around for the splitting of the only elementary class we had into Elementary 1 and Elementary 2. I worked in Elementary 1 for the majority of my time here at Beacon, but it was a very easy transition into Elementary 2 because many of the students were in my class years ago.

**What do you think are some of the most fun or gratifying activities at Beacon?**

I believe Beacon has an ideal program individualized for each student with their specific needs in mind. However,

I think the most fun and gratifying activities at Beacon are those in which we take the students out into the community. I have had the privilege of taking our students to some of the most amazing places. The children get to experience so many wonderful opportunities that would not be possible in a typical school setting.

**Can you please share a bit about your teaching philosophy? What are your hopes for your class, your students, and Beacon moving into the future?**

My teaching philosophy is very simple: I believe that every child has the ability to learn, and it is up to the teacher to figure out how to help the students succeed, while creating a safe and fun learning environment. I hope to see all of my students reach their goals and feel proud of themselves for doing such remarkable things. I hope to see my class learn and grow together while visiting many new and exciting places. I hope to see Beacon grow in order to help even more students reach their academic and behavioral goals. All of these things would not be possible without the support of the amazing people we have working here at Beacon Day School. I have the most incredible staff in my class, and my students are very lucky to have such wonderful people looking after them. The behavioral interventionists are the backbone of Beacon, and I really appreciate all of their hard work and dedication to helping our students succeed!



## **A NEW CLASS WITH PENNY MARSTON!**

### **Can you please introduce yourself to *Beacon Blast* readers?**

Hi! My name is Penny Marston. With great passion, I am committed to providing a respectful and child-engaging environment for students with special needs. I like to encourage and foster students in both academic and social skills in order to instill confidence, independence, and the life skills they will need in order to have bright and successful futures. I have worked with children with special needs for the last eight years, and I have found that this is truly my passion. I have a diverse background, and I am excited to bring my experience to Beacon Day School.

### **What grade and age range do you serve?**

I am teaching the Secondary 3 class, which includes eight students ranging in age from 16-19 years old.

### **Please tell us about the new classroom and what you like best about it.**

The new classroom is a fun and exciting work in progress. There are eight students in my class, and they are coming from three other teachers/classrooms. The students are all doing a great job transitioning into this new class with different classmates, new staff, and a brand new teacher. I am really proud of my students and my staff for making this change so smooth. I feel really excited to help these students achieve all of their goals and to provide an environment where each of them can learn to be their most independent selves.

### **What are you most looking forward to with your students in the autumn months?**

I love doing Halloween projects! I can't wait until October. I will incorporate Halloween into language arts, math, sensory, art, and our vocational groups.

## **MISS KRISTEN'S APP-OF-THE-MONTH *by Kristen Franchak***

### **Bugs and Numbers**

Cost \$2.99

This app provides an extensive collection of awesome games dedicated to learning and practicing a wide range of math skills in a non-traditional way. This app is organized into three basic stages and includes 18 games ranging from basic counting to early fractions. The app is designed around a bug city; each game is crafted for a basic set of math skills with an eccentric and fun parallel to our own society. The graphics are amazing and really keep the attention of my students!

