

# SEARCHLIGHT

Beacon Day School Monthly Newsletter

February, 2017 Issue

## Meet Beacon Day School's New Transition Team



Evangeline Manzon (L), Oliver Mason and Lisa Arnado comprise Beacon Day School's New Transition Team

Beacon Day School is excited to officially announce the promotion of Mr. Oliver Mason to Transition Program Specialist. Mr. Oliver, along with Ms. Evangeline Manzon and Ms. Lisa Arnado, make up our dynamic and dedicated transition team, and all three teachers truly embody Beacon's collaborative and compassionate learning environment.

No stranger to special education, Mr. Oliver, who is from the east coast, discovered his passion for teaching students with diverse needs in 1992, while working at Cradle Beach Camp, an inclusion camp in Angola, New York. After camp, he went on to work as a paraprofessional for Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES), an organization serving students with special needs in the state of New York. Working with the special needs population came naturally to Mr. Oliver and he soon realized he wanted to

make an even greater impact in the lives of the students he served. In 2003, he went back to school to further his education, and in 2005 he became a high school special education teacher for a non-public school in California. By 2008, Mr. Oliver was working as a transition teacher for that same school.

Since coming to Beacon Day School two years ago, Mr. Oliver has used the knowledge and experience he has gained in his two decades teaching special education to directly benefit the students he works with. He knows what he does every day can have a significant impact on the daily lives of his students, who must often overcome behavioral challenges in order to access their community safely and meaningfully. By implementing a program built on students' strengths, and addressing challenges using evidence-based positive behavior intervention supports, Mr. Oliver is able to provide a learning environment designed to broaden students' life experiences in the classroom, community, and workplace.

Though he values and celebrates every gain his students make, Mr. Oliver's favorite part of teaching is knowing he's making a difference; when families share their joy at being able to take their child somewhere they never thought possible; when formerly reluctant students can't wait to come to school; when communication skills are increased and behaviors dissipate. These successes are what his students work so hard to claim, and Mr. Oliver is more than happy to be there to cheer them on.

Together with Ms. Evangeline and Ms. Lisa, Mr. Oliver is looking forward to continuing to serve the transition students by providing a meaningful education that enhances quality of life in an enriching, accommodating and supportive environment.

## Meet the transition team

**Transition Program Specialist – Mr. Oliver Mason** – Mr. Oliver has a Bachelor’s degree in Liberal arts, a Clear Credential in Special Education, and holds a Masters in Special Education. Mr. Oliver has been with Beacon for two years and has worked in special education for over 20 years. The most rewarding part of his job is when parents tell him their child is able to access the community in ways they never thought possible.

**Classroom 4 – Ms. Evangeline Manzon** - Ms. Evangeline started with Beacon in September of 2016 and has been under the direct mentorship of Mr. Oliver. She has a Social Science Credential, a Master’s in Education and an Administration Credential. Evangeline enjoys helping students function more independently and wants to help them become more included in mainstream society.

**Classroom 3 – Ms. Lisa Arnado** – Ms. Lisa started with Beacon in September of 2016, and is trained in the implementation of applied behavior analysis strategies in the classroom and community setting. She holds a Masters in Special Education and was a special education teacher for a non-public school, as well as a substitute teacher for Garden Grove School District. She enjoys working with students with special needs because she feels they are often neglected by the world and need a little more

attention and support. She wants to help them become as independent as possible.

If you have any questions regarding the transition program, please contact Oliver Mason directly, 714-288-4200 ext. 133

## Behavioral Analyst Certification Board (BACB)

Beacon has always enjoyed featuring our wonderful students in our print and online materials, including previous newsletters and social media posts. While we would prefer to have our beautiful students’ faces splashed across the pages of our materials and website, new regulations from the Behavioral Analyst Certification Board prevent us from doing so. Our school is committed to protecting your child’s rights to privacy and confidentiality, and we take this issue very seriously. We’ll still keep you updated on the amazing things Beacon students are doing, but the accompanying images will no longer show identifying features of your child. We appreciate your support and understanding and encourage you to visit [bacb.com](http://bacb.com) for more information.

## Upcoming Beacon Events

February 24<sup>th</sup> crazy sock day

Spring Fair – Date to be announced

## AT for autism and other disabilities

Presented by Team of Advocates for Special Kids (TASK), this workshop will introduce technology for those with autism and other disabilities, including software and apps with the following focus areas: video modeling, social skills, life skills, vocabulary building, language development, communication, interpreting emotions, and more. The presenter will offer many solutions from low tech interventions to

high tech AAC device. RSVP 714-558-4404 or via <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/B885HHB> Parents of children with disabilities are free.

**When:** Monday, Feb. 27, 2017; 6-8pm

**Where:** SCDD Orang County Office  
200 E. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 115  
Santa Ana, CA 92705

### Save the Date: Mardi Gras for Autism

To support autism charities and special education, Bourbon Street Bar and Grill's seventh annual FREE family carnival benefit, 'Mardi Gras for Autism' will be held outside Bourbon Street Bar and Grill in the adjacent Fullerton Train Depot parking lot located at 110 E. Commonwealth Ave. in Fullerton on Saturday, April 16, 2016, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### Beacon Day School Attends CAPSES Conference and Legislative Day in Sacramento



Beacon's CEO, Dr. Mary Lang and Casey Nguyen (right photo) at the State Capitol in Sacramento, CA for the CAPSES Conference

As a proud member of the California Association of Private Special Education Schools (CAPSES), Beacon upholds the organization's mission of improving quality of life for students with disabilities by providing access to a meaningful, individualized education in a safe and compassionate environment.

Both Dr. Mary Jo Lang and Casey Nguyen M.S. BCBA attended CAPSES's annual conference in Sacramento on January 30<sup>th</sup> and participated in Legislative Day on January 31, 2017. Issues specifically affecting the student population we serve, such as access to proper mental health services and appropriate behavior intervention programs, were discussed at length throughout both events.

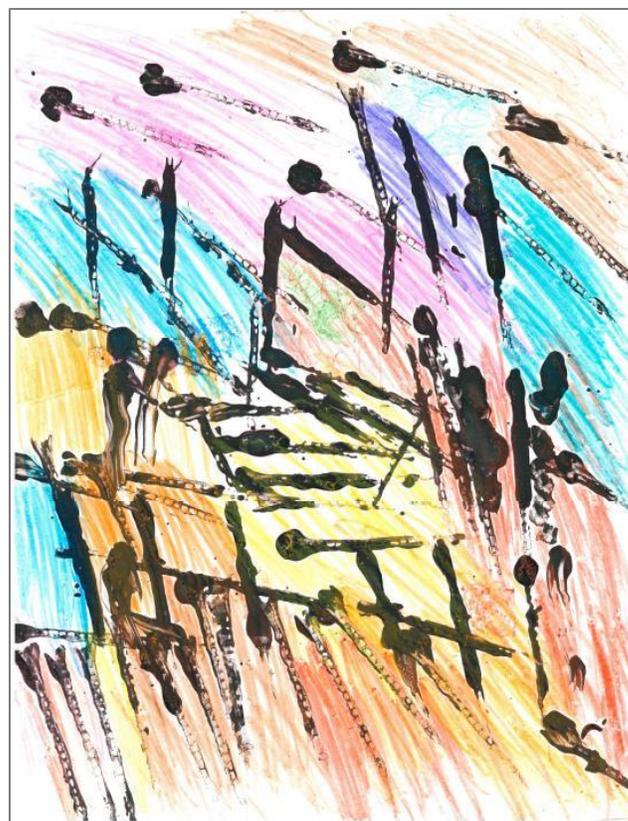
Beacon is dedicated to advocating on behalf of our students and families. We know how important it is to have the involvement and support of our state representatives if we are fulfilling our mission of improving the quality of life for individuals with disabilities in our state. Our time in Sacramento was spent making valuable connections with state representatives, and we are looking forward to attending the next CAPSES conference.

### Beacon's Newsletter is Back and Better than Ever!

Beacon is excited to roll out our new and improved monthly newsletter. This is just one way we want to stay connected to our families and keep you informed of the important happenings in our school community. We hope you enjoy the new format and welcome your feedback and ideas.



Cooper, Beacon's therapy dog



Artwork created by  
Beacon Day School's  
High School students