

## Meet Beaches Episcopal School's Superhero Lucca Martinez

Lucca Martinez is a second-grader at Beaches Episcopal School. According to Martha Milton, the Head of School, Lucca is a humble, sweet and kind young man. At seven years-old, he's also a hero after saving his four-year-old sister's life early one recent Fall morning.

Lucca woke his sister up to go into a closet in their home where they let their imagination run wild and they play pretend. On this particular morning, Lucca's sister Elena decided to pretend that two large white marbles were marshmallows and as they played, she began laughing with the marbles in her mouth, which is when she accidentally swallowed them.

Lucca remembers that she made funny sounds, grabbed her throat, leaned on him, and then began turning a "funny color." Lucca immediately began performing the Heimlich maneuver that he had learned from his father when he was five-years-old, as his father taught Lucca's nanny how to perform the maneuver.

Lucca tried the maneuver once on Elena, but nothing happened. He tried again and the marbles popped out of Elena's mouth. She was very scared and she cried as they ran to their parents' room to tell them what had happened. "We need to talk to Mom, we need to talk to Mom" they told their father. Finally, they told their mother and father - Drs. Mary Ellen Wechter and Juan-Carlo Martinez - what had just happened. Elena told her parents that Lucca had saved her life and she thanked Lucca, as did their shocked mother and father. They also thanked their son for saving their daughter's life.

Lucca shared that he thought that God was with him because he immediately knew to perform the Heimlich maneuver when Elena choked. He's glad that he was able to do it. Who would have thought that a five-year-old would remember how to do the Heimlich maneuver when older people often have trouble recalling the procedure under duress?

Martha Milton said that all of the teachers at Beaches Episcopal have learned how to do the Heimlich maneuver, and now, she thinks she may take Dr. Martinez up on his offer to teach her students how to do it. While Spiderman is Lucca's favorite superhero, Lucca surely must be Elena's favorite superhero after he saved her life that early morning.



Lucca Martinez