

December 2018

Friday, December 14	Beginners and 2 Day Classes Holiday Sing-Along
Wednesday, December 19	3, 4 & 5 Day Classes Holiday Sing-Along
December 20 - January 1	Holiday Break
December 26 - 28	2019-2020 Enrollment Packets mailed
January 2	2019- 2020 Enrollment begins



Notes from the Head of School

Five hundred pounds of candy . . . actually more than 500 hundred pounds! When Mrs. Buchanan (Grace's mom from 3 Day) first approached us about collecting candy for the troops through an organization called Soldier's Angels we all thought maybe we'd collect a couple of sand pails full of treats. The first two days of collections filled a large tote, which held roughly twenty gallons. At that point, Mrs. Piccuito and I knew that we would be looking at large amounts of candy for the next 10 days! The Berrybrook families were very generous and then the phone and door bell starting ringing, with others who had heard that we were collecting candy or they had seen our name listed on the Soldier's Angels website. Everyone who dropped off candy was so gracious and thanking US for taking in the donations for the troops. Mrs. Piccuito and I could barely maneuver through the office, and at one point she had a hard time getting to her desk to sit down ~ it was comical! After the Berrybrook collections were closed, I heard from my sons' school who wanted to pass along their candy to us. The donations came from far and wide, and was truly amazingly overwhelming in such a positive way!

One might think, too, that all that candy visible to the students when they passed by for arrival and dismissal would have them clamoring for candy or not wanting to give up their personal stash but it was quite the opposite. Students were

dropping their loot into the totes, letting us know that they were sharing with others. One student asked about the candy and we explained that it was for the soldiers; later that morning when I went into his classroom to visit he asked me, "Mrs. Watts, are you a soldier?" When I replied that I was not a soldier, he responded "Oh, so you are a helper to the soldiers, collecting all the candy for them?"

This month, the Berrybrook Parents Association kicks off their charitable giving project. In years past, we have had a tree holding tags of children and families' specific wishes. This year however, we have joined up with Horizons for Homeless Children, and the items donated by the families will go directly to over 90 shelters statewide that Horizons for Homeless Children partner with. The fastest growing homeless population in Massachusetts is a single mother with two preschool aged children, and there are twenty shelters right in the Southeast region alone. Horizons for Homeless programs rely solely on donations for staffing and toys, and the spaces throughout the state provide over 1,000 hours of play each week to children. While it may be different this year for a Berrybrook family to either choose a tag from the tree or shop via the Amazon wish list without knowing the donations will go to a specific child or family, please know that each and every donated item is much needed and very much appreciated by the folks at Horizons for Homeless Children. Sadly, as of a few weeks ago, Berrybrook was the only offer of help for sponsorship during this holiday season.

I know this giving project will be a success because that is Berrybrook. Just like the Berrybrook student knew that I was a helper to the soldiers, I know that Berrybrook families are natural helpers. I see it in the classrooms when the students share their most favorite object in housekeeping with a classmate, I see it when families hold open the door for the baby stroller coming through behind them, and I see it through the quarter-ton of candy sent to the soldiers. It's the little things, but those are the things that help - benefiting both the giver and the receiver.

Wishing you and your family a peaceful holiday season
~ Mrs. Watts

Beginners Notes

Moving Right Along



The Beginners classroom is a wonderful place to be this time of year. The students are all settling in and enjoying their mornings at school. The children know the routines and expectations and are busy learning about everything around them. November was a busy (and quick!) month for them. We spent time talking about families and healthy food - two important parts of Thanksgiving.

The wet and chilly weather has made going outside a bit challenging lately, but the teachers have been planning a lot of walks and parades to help release energy and give the children a change of scenery. The group has become experts at moving from place to place, and they love to demonstrate their knowledge when a teacher asks them before leaving the classroom:

Teachers - "Who is in the front?"

Children - "A Teacher!"

Teachers - "Who is in the middle?"

Children - "The children!"

Teachers - "Who is at the end?"

Children - "A teacher!"

Music is very popular during group time and this month we will be adding holiday tunes to our selections as we all get a chance to sing some of our favorites. We are looking forward to December and holiday preparations. Please mark the calendar for our Holiday Sing - Along that will take place on December 14, the last day of school before break. All families are welcome to join us at 9:00 for merriment and refreshments!

~ *Mrs. Rosen*

Mrs. Rosen teaches in the Beginners and 4 Day Room 1



First Year Notes

Tis the Season



November was a month of giving thanks and the beginning of the holiday season. The children showed how thankful they are for their families by bringing in family photos, telling us what they were grateful for and by making their handprint turkeys for their families. Our thanksgiving feast was celebrated with our favorite foods such as turkey, craisins, homemade muffins, and topped with the butter made together in class.

Our classroom “textured turkey” was covered with feathers, pompoms, and even pine needles and was quite an interesting bird to look at. The teachers explained that the the children had “homework”; they needed to find a way to decorate their feather. The feathers were made at home by the students and families who had very creative ideas for decorating!

We would like to thank all the parents for taking time from their busy schedules this fall for parent conferences. The teachers enjoyed talking and sharing observations about all of the growth we have been seeing in the children and we appreciate all of your support. Please do not hesitate to contact any of your child’s teachers should you ever have any questions or concerns.

Now that November is behind us (hard to believe), we are now looking forward to December which will be filled with activities, celebrations, and excitement! The children are going to be very busy! The first project we will be working on is the Berrybrook tradition of watercoloring paper candles which will then be placed on our Berrybrook tree. This is a great experience for the children to recognize traditions and also be able to take part in a school-wide project.

In the next few weeks, the students will be learning about many holidays that are recognized this month. In our classroom, we will be learning about these through stories, circle time discussions, and projects. Some of my favorite projects are using paint to create dreidel spin art, making a wreath, and learning all of our holiday songs for the Sing-Along. Speaking of the Sing-Alongwatch for your invitation!!

The teachers at Berrybrook make an effort to keep things simple and focus on what the holiday means and the joy it brings.

Lastly, with winter here, we are requesting children come to school every day with a winter coat, hat, “mittens”, snow pants, and boots. We try our best to get out every day. Even if there is no snow, their snow pants will keep their legs warm outside. PLEASE also label everything, the children sometimes do not recognize their own winter attire.

We would like to wish all of our Berrybrook families a wonderful holiday and the happiest of New Years! Enjoy your vacation time with your family!!

~Mrs. Connell

Mrs. Connell teaches in the Beginners, 3 Day Room 3, and the 4 Day Room 2 classes



Second Year Notes

Watercolor Candle

As we transition to December, our focus turns to winter and end of the year holidays. The children stay very busy in the cozy, warm classroom as the temperatures start to drop outside. The air is often filled with the aroma of potato latkes and sugar cookies while holiday music is being sung in the classrooms. It is truly a magical time of year around here.

One traditional project done in December is the watercolor candle. As with many of the traditions at Berrybrook, they evolve and become a little more involved in the second year program progressing from a more simple first year project. Each child is given a cut out shape of a candle and a separate flame. Students are given a variety of watercolor paints to choose from to decorate their paper candles. They are encouraged to paint carefully to cover the entire white shape with special watercolor brushes. Children use watercolors again to paint the flame separately and often add some glitter detail. After the candle has dried and the flame is attached, it is time to decorate the tree.

All of the classes participate in this project and hang their colorful candles up on a wood frame tree that stands at the entrance of the school. This encourages children to be able to show their work to others; friends and family members have an opportunity to see what they have been working on. Having all of the candles together on one tree symbolizes the sense of community we share at Berrybrook. The students are proud of their own work and excited to see what others have created.

~ *Miss McNulty*

Miss McNulty teaches in the 5 Day and 4 Day Room 2 classes



Welcome!!

Baby Aisling

(Big brother Jack Roy is in 5 Day)

and

Baby Emerson

(Big brother Mason Balboni is in 5 Day)

and

Baby Declan

(big brother Landon Andrade is in 4 Day Room 2

and big sister Sydney Andrade is in the

Beginners)



Parents Association Notes

We hope all of you and your families had a happy Thanksgiving! The holiday season is a very busy time of year for everyone and that includes our Berrybrook students and families. There are lots of fun activities and traditions planned at Berrybrook this month for everyone to look forward to.

We are excited to partner up with Horizons for Homeless Children this holiday season. Tags are available on the Holiday Tree and through an Amazon wishlist that has been emailed to everyone recently. If you need the Amazon wishlist link, please let us know and we will be happy to resend it to you.

Our next Family Fun Friday event will take place at Heritage Gardens on December 7th. Wristbands will be available for pick-up at Berrybrook prior to the event. We look forward to seeing those who can join us.

BPA DUES! Thank you to everyone who has already paid their BPA dues. If you have yet to do so, it's not too late! We ask for a \$30 contribution per family, which goes directly toward student enrichment in and out of the classroom. Forms are available at the BPA table. A big thank you to our Berrybrook families for your continued support and participation!

Thank you and Happy Holidays,

Diana Stewart and Jenna O'Donnell Co-Presidents berrybrookparentsassociation@gmail.com

The Berrybrook Staff would like to thank the Parents Association for arranging snacks for our monthly after-school meetings. Each month we have a 2 hour meeting to discuss curriculum and other matters. These meetings are scheduled from 4:15-6:15 and we appreciate having a snack to fortify us. We are thankful for all of the support and encouragement we receive from parents. It is very thoughtful of parents to take time from their busy schedules to prepare refreshments for us.

Thank You Very Much!!

From The Board of Directors

As we approach the thick of the busy holiday season, if you're like our family, you are already busy planning holiday travel, menus, and gift lists. With all there is to do, I find that we always neglect to plan fun, kid-centric activities for New Year's Eve. Below are some easy ideas to make NYE with kids a little more fun.

- Paper plate shakers make great New Year's Eve noisemakers! Simply glue two small paper plates together around the edges, fill with rice or dried beans, and insert a craft stick while you're gluing everything together. When the glue is dry, decorate the noisemakers with stickers, rhinestones, sequins, confetti, etc.
- Make resolutions! Sit down and discuss what goals and resolutions you can make, individually and as a family, for the new year. Once you're finished, hang them up on the fridge to keep everyone motivated.
- Make homemade holiday crackers, using empty toilet paper rolls. Simply fill the rolls with candy/treats/glitter, wrap tightly in tissue paper, and then wrap again with wrapping paper, cinching the each end with ribbon to create handles.
- Create a signature mocktail and have each family member make a toast to the new year. One suggestion: 1.5C apple juice, 1/4C frozen white grape juice concentrate, 2.25C club soda or seltzer; garnish with fresh fruit.
- Craft a ball-shaped piñata that resembles the ball in Times Square, kids can help to decorate and then break it open at midnight (or bedtime). Alternatively, suspend a bunch of balloons above your party and release them at midnight.
- For those who can't make it to midnight (kids and adults!), Netflix and YouTube both have a few kid-friendly countdowns that can be done at any time for a mock celebration.
- Have kids spend time scrapbooking their memories from the previous year, or making time capsules that will be sealed until the children turn 18 (or at least until the next New Year's Eve).

Sources:

For more information on these ideas, and to find more, visit:

www.thespruce.com/celebrate-new-years-eve-with-kids-2104303

www.todaysparent.com/family/activities/7-ways-to-celebrate-new-years-eve-with-kids/

www.happinessishomemade.net/10-new-years-eve-activities-for-kids/

John Hannon

Vice President - Berrybrook Board of Directors



Colder weather is on its way...

It is our policy to cancel classes whenever Duxbury Public Schools are closed due to weather emergencies. Families should watch Channel 7, WHDH for a school cancellation at Berrybrook. Every attempt at notification will be made through email messages, text messages, phone calls via OneCallNow and/or social media. In the event Duxbury Public Schools require a one hour delay, Berrybrook will have the usual 9am arrival time. In the event Duxbury Public Schools require a two hour delay, the AM session, as well as Lunch Bunch, will be cancelled. Beyond a formal cancellation, we urge parents to use their best judgment about driving young children to school in inclement weather.

As the weather changes, be sure to dress children appropriately for outdoor play, including the Nook. Now is a good time to locate all hats, mittens, gloves, and warm jackets that will be necessary as we head into December. Once the snow flies, children should bring snow pants and snow boots. Children are welcome to keep slippers, sneakers, or crocs at school to make sure they are comfortable in the classroom. **Please remember to label all clothing.**

Save the date!!!

Berrybrook Open House

Admissions 2019-2020

***Saturday, January 26, 2019
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.***

Spread the Word!!!





Holiday Sing-Along Schedule



*All classes will be celebrating on their last
day before vacation.*

Please plan on joining us for the festivities.

Beginners: Families are invited to join us at 9:00

2 Day: Families are invited to join us at 10:15

3 Day Rooms 1 and 3: Families are invited to join us at 10:15

4 Day Room 1: Families are invited to join us at 2:00

4 Day Room 2: Families are invited to join us at 3:00

5 Day: Families are invited to join us at 11:00

*Each class will finish their sing-along
with a special treat
which will conclude the day.*

