

April 2014



<b>Wednesday, April 16</b>	<b>School Pictures, 3 Day &amp; 4 Day</b>
<b>Thursday, April 17</b>	<b>School Pictures, 2 Day, 5 Day &amp; Beginners</b>
<b>Friday, April 18</b>	<b>Good Friday, No School</b>
<b>April 21-25</b>	<b>Spring Break</b>
<b>Wednesday, April 30</b>	<b>Berrybrook Board of Directors 7:30 pm</b>

## Notes from the Head of School

It never fails to amaze me when I am out somewhere and I meet someone who has been to Berrybrook. They are so happy to relate to me a memory that they have of their time here. I love to tell the story of a twenty-ish young woman I met once at a store and she noticed I worked at Berrybrook. She told me, "I went to Berrybrook." I said, "You should come by sometime and visit." She said she still had friends she made at Berrybrook, but she didn't think there would be anyone at school that she would know. I asked her if she knew Mrs. O'Neil, she was still teaching at Berrybrook and she said, "She came to my house!" I could see in her eyes that she was visualizing that day, the day her teacher came to her house to visit her. Who knew 15 years or so later that this would be such a vivid memory for her.

A few years ago, I heard from a past Berrybrook parent that once, when she had some sad news to share with her two daughters, she brought them over to the Berrybrook playground to tell them. She felt that her girls had always felt happy and safe here. I've also had a parent tell me that, "Berrybrook changed my whole family dynamic." Past families frequently share that their children are still close with the friends they met at Berrybrook, even when they are not in the same town. They also tell me that they are still close with the friends they made as parents when their children went here.

Just the other day, a Berrybrook grandparent stopped me in the hall. She said when she mentioned to her chiropractor that her grandchildren came to Berrybrook, her chiropractor told her that she had attended Berrybrook too, and she thought there would be world peace if everyone went to Berrybrook!

I have memories of Berrybrook too. Countless moments with children, parents, grandparents, teachers and board members. Moments of shared discovery, humor, sadness, compassion, satisfaction and delight. I actually remember every student (as I get older I wonder how long that will last!) For the past few weeks I have been recalling the first class I had as the Headmaster of Berrybrook. I'm thinking of them because this year is a big year for those students - they are all graduating from high school. All of those children took home a Berrybrook Memory Book at the end of their time here. I hope that they also have memories that they carry in their hearts and minds. All of you reading this Newsletter will have those unique moments that you will remember and cherish about your child's preschool years and your child too will take home a Berrybrook Memory book at the end of this year. My sincerest wish is that they will have Berrybrook memories they will carry in their hearts and minds though high school, and into adulthood.

We have many more memories to make in April and May. Please take the time to enjoy every last minute of this school year!

Pat Keeley

Congratulations to the Berrybrook Class of 200-2001 on their High School Graduation!

Nick Boynton

Kayla Burgess

Jack Dobens

Christion Dow

Sarah Duffy

Hailey Haas

Casey Keohan

Ricky Lippard

Jarrett McSherry

Connor Rayfield

Kate Scavongelli

Hugh Sims

Nicoletta Vetch

Garret Walker

Emma Wycoff

Julianna Borghesani

William Butler

Emily Colton

Freddy Clifford

Sarah Hansman

Brad Marcotte

Meg Murray

Stephen Nava

William O'Toole

Laura Pothier

Sydney Rice

Alex Riddell

Maggie Roberts

Maddie Shores

Calder Stames

Ariana Viscariello

Ashley Aylmer

Teddy Bettencourt

Blair Coulter

Kevin Gerraughty

Jackie Hanrahan

Sydney King

Sam Koulopoulos

Dawn Martinsen

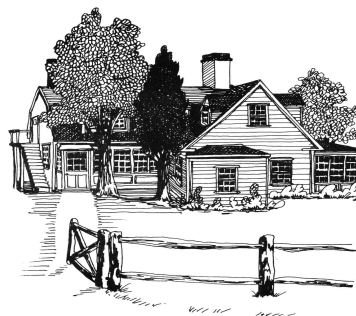
Ryan Melia

Samantha Stillman

Morgan Walsh

Tristan Wiggin

Tanner Williams



Berrybrook School  
1954-2006

## A Berrybrook Spring Tradition



Painting “blown eggs” is a spring tradition at Berrybrook. Children have been creating these beautiful works of art for many years. It is a precious project that requires help from families.

First and Second Year classes need “blown eggs.” If parents could donate a few eggs (brown or white) that you have “blown” at home we would appreciate it very much. Simply poke a hole in both ends of the egg. A turkey skewer or push pin work well. Each hole should be about the size of a paper punch hole. If you break the yoke it is easier to blow. Blow into one hole and the egg comes out the other. Please rinse egg shell inside and out. Berrybrook teachers will spray the eggs with a bleach solution before children paint them. Experienced Berrybrook parents will tell new parents that the end result is worth the effort. **The blown eggs can be sent in whenever they are ready, but we really need them by Friday, April 4.**

Thank you!



**The Berrybrook  
mer Program  
during June and July,  
on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and  
Thursdays from 9:00 - 1:00.  
Information and applications are  
available on our web site  
and in the office.**

## Beginners News

Our long, cold winter is behind us and now, on to Spring! There will be continued exciting activities and exploring taking place in the Beginners classroom. We look forward to learning more about weather, namely sunshine! Painted eggs and bunnies are always a favorite. The ongoing favorite daily topic is feelings. Young children are learning the ground rules for who they are and how they fit in to the bigger community of their classroom.

They are learning to develop trust in others including peers and adults. They are moving beyond the comfort zones of their immediate families. They are also looking and seeing beyond themselves and discovering the joy of friends! So much has been learned with paint, paper and projects but their personal growth has certainly begun to bloom! Watch us and help us grow!

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Delano, Mrs. LaForest  
and Miss McNulty

## First Year Program News

Spring has sprung! After a long and snowy winter we welcome this new season! Spring at Berrybrook means classroom activities will focus on changes that come with spring - sunshine and rain, nature’s new growth in seeds, trees and flowers, and life cycles of turtles & frogs. There will also be time for projects with painted eggs and bunnies.

March was a cold winter month with few outdoor play days. The children and teachers became very creative in planning dinosaur, Dr. Seuss,

shamrock, owl and grocery store activities to keep busy indoors.

The First Year students during these past seven months of school have learned a great deal about who they are, how confident they are in themselves and how proud they are in all that they have accomplished. They have also have come to realize there is an entire community of teachers and classmates who care about them. So much is learned here at Berrybrook, far beyond the paper, paint, scissors and glue.

Thank you for your continuous support in our classrooms, especially for the tricky task of blowing those Easter eggs! We look forward to the final two months of continued classroom and personal exploration and growth.

Sincerely,

First Year Teachers  
Mrs. Barlow, Mrs. Capasso,  
Mrs. Delano, Mrs. Dunn  
Mrs. La Forest, and Mrs. Piccuito

## Second Year Program News

Last month we had a busy month learning about the planets, the moon, and the sun. We also learned about the Olympics, and had our very own Berrybrook Olympic Games held in the big room. The children made flags and the olympic rings and enjoyed participating in the events. We finished the day making a "power" smoothie in a blender with juice, fruit, and yogurt. Delicious and healthy!

This month we are looking forward to spring arriving. We will be observing the plants, flowers, and trees and the changes spring brings to each. They will be watching carefully as they travel around town to see if they can spot

forsythia and pussy willows as they miraculously change, and then they will be creating their own blooming renditions at school.

Keep on the look out for news about our annual maple tree tapping. The unusually cold (winter!) weather this spring has delayed this process. We need cold nights and *WARM* days to get the sap from the tree.

In April children will be taking part in another Berrybrook tradition. Blown eggs will be beautifully decorated in celebration of spring. Thank you to parents for taking the time to prepare the eggs at home. It is hard work! The eggs will be a special keepsake of your child's time at Berrybrook.

Spring is coming,  
Spring is coming,  
How do you think I know?  
I saw a pussy willow  
And that is how I know.

Parent conferences have started and will continue over the next few weeks. Please make arrangements for your conference with your child's teachers.

Thank you so much for your support!

The Second Year Teachers,  
Mrs. Caddle, Mrs. Fosdick,, Mrs. O'Neil,  
Mrs. Neal, Mrs. Rosen, Mrs Swan,  
Mrs. Piccuito and  
Mrs. Worley



## Berrybrook Parents' Association

Spring is finally here! Let's hope the weather will cooperate and we can enjoy some more time on the playground. It is a great time to pack lunch and have some fun in the sun. Hope you are able to join us some days.

### Enrichment

April is a busy month. Between picture day, decorating those beautiful eggs, spring celebrations and vacation-we have managed to sneak in yoga with Kim Spires, on April 2, 3, 30, and May 1st.

### Family Fun Friday

Thanks to all who attended Mama Steph in March. The children all had a great time singing and dancing along! Again, since this month is a bit hectic, we have planned a casual get together for April 11th at the Berrybrook playground (weather permitting). We hope you can

come play for a little. Just wanted to give a heads up that May's Family Fun Friday is at Dalby Farm in Scituate on the 9th, more details to follow.

### Spring Fling

Please save-the-date for the spring fling on May 14th from 4-6 p.m. with a rain-date of May 21st. The spring fling is an annual event that helps us celebrate the year as a community. Join us for dinner and fun!

It is still not too late to support the BPA with dues. We ask each family to donate \$30 or whatever is appropriate for your family.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns email us at [berrybrookparentsassociation@gmail.com](mailto:berrybrookparentsassociation@gmail.com)

Thank you!  
Donna and Karoline

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## Preparing for Kindergarten

The following is an interesting article about getting ready for Kindergarten and what parents can do to help children prepare for their next big step.

Mrs. Keeley

## NewsObserver.com

### Parent to Parent

## Preparing for kindergarten: Beyond the ABCs

Published: May 28, 2012 By Betsy Flagler

Sure, it's fun to boast when your little one knows all his letters and can count to 30 before hitting kindergarten. But look beyond academics. Early learners also need to work on several social and emotional skills to make it through school – and life. Preschoolers need to use playing and pretending to gain confidence, develop friendships, show empathy and take baby steps toward resolving conflicts without adults acting as referees.

Foster these social and emotional areas to help prepare your child for kindergarten in the fall:

- Entering a group. Kids must learn how and when to join a group of kids without bulldozing in, knocking down block towers in progress or insisting on “being the mommy.” Help them learn how to briefly observe what friends are doing before joining in.
- Impulse control. Following the rules of simple games such as “Simon Says,” “Duck, Duck, Goose” and “Red Light, Green Light” help a preschooler focus, take turns and control basic impulses to run ahead or jump when “Simon doesn’t say.”
- Self-awareness. This includes learning how close is too close to another person, and asserting oneself with phrases like “I need some space” rather than whining. It also means seeing oneself as part of a larger group, and accepting being the “odd man out” once in a while. Or, as one 4-year-old remarked during an activity limited to four children: “You’re the person making it too many people here.”
- Expressing feelings through words. Help them express themselves with phrases like “I feel angry when my sand castle gets knocked over. I worked so hard to build it,” or “I feel sad and shy when Mommy leaves.” Along with naming feelings comes the all-important developmental step of learning to care about the feelings of others – that words like “poopy head” or “you’re a baby” or “your lunch smells gross” are hurtful. Listening to a friend’s show-and-tell, sharing your favorite stuffed dragon or helping to pick up a mess go a long way toward learning empathy and building friendships.
- Problem-solving. Confident kids resolve conflicts – such as two Thomas the Tank Engine toys for three kids – without always enlisting the help of a teacher. They’re able to ebb and flow and not melt down when a game doesn’t go their way. And they’re learning to look within themselves, not to teachers, for self-satisfaction about their ability to climb the monkey bars, hop on one foot, catch a ball or draw a funny face.

Teachers have found that these things also prime kids for a more successful kindergarten experience:

- Confidence in self-help skills. These include washing their hands, taking care of their own bathroom needs, putting on their clothes, drinking out of a cup without spilling or opening their own lunches. Another biggie: Learning to keep their fingers out of their noses at circle time.
- Some tolerance for messes and other unexpected things. Inevitably, there will be mulch in their shoes, paint on their fingers, cookies that get broken or foods that touch each other. If your child melts down at sandwiches cut into the wrong shapes or can’t cope with messy clothes in art class, he may have more trouble adjusting to grade school. An oversensitivity to touch and noise will make it tougher to navigate the new school cafeteria, for example, with lots of accidental knocks and bumps.
- Proficiency at helpful, everyday tasks. These include sweeping, stirring, washing tables and sorting toys.
- The knowledge that “Stop!” means whatever you’re doing to your classmates, they don’t like it and want you to quit.
- The ability to stand, and walk, in some semblance of a line without bonking into other kids or touching everything along the journey. And the knowledge that not being the line leader isn’t the end of the world.
- Recognition of what’s socially acceptable and what isn’t. The bottom-line rule, as one 3-year-old told a baby doll: “You can’t go with us because you’re naked.”

Betsy Flagler, a journalist based in Davidson, is a mother and preschool teacher.

