

January, 2011

Monday, January 3	2011-2012 Enrollment begins
Wednesday, January 12	Parent Discussion Group 7:00pm
Monday, January 17	Martin Luther King Day, No School
Thursday, January 20	BPA Meeting 7:00 pm
Wednesday January 26	Professional Day, No School
	Berrybrook Board Meeting 7:30 pm

Notes from the Headmaster

It's January and time for making resolutions. One resolution I have, is to slow down and enjoy every day I spend at Berrybrook. When I was a young parent, people often told me to enjoy my children because it goes by too fast. I am now of an age where I am passing along that same advice to Berrybrook families. I have known many of our students since before they were born. If it seems like they've grown too fast to me, it must seem like a blink of an eye to parents! It is especially amazing for me to watch an entire family come through Berrybrook, with 2 or 3 or 4 siblings each bringing their own unique charm to our community. We are now starting the second half of our school year with students returning from break with more confidence, ready to learn - and a few inches taller! It is truly an wonderful experience to watch your children develop and if I'm not careful I could miss all of the exciting things happening in our classrooms. So that is why one of my resolutions this year is to really savor all of the special Berrybrook moments that will happen in our classrooms in 2011. Happy New Year!

Pat Keeley

The Snowman's Resolution

Aileen Fisher

The snowman's hat was crooked
 And his nose was out of place
 And several of his whiskers
 Had fallen from his face.

But the snowman didn't notice
 For he was trying hard to think
 Of a New Year's Resolution
 That wouldn't melt or shrink.

He thought and planned and pondered
 With his little snow-ball head
 Till his eyes began to glisten
 And his toes began to spread;

And at last he said, "I've got it-
 I'll make a firm resolve
 That no matter what the weather
 My smile will not dissolve.



First Year Program News

December was a busy, bustling, month with the focus on families and traditional celebrations. We learned about Hanukkah by singing songs, playing with dreidels and making and eating latkes. We celebrated Christmas by making holiday family gifts and baking cookies. The children created various themed ornaments from The Mitten book for the Berrybrook tree at the Festival of Trees. We wrapped up our month long celebration with a festive holiday sing along.

Berrybrook children will welcome the New Year by making colorful party hats. We will discuss birds and their needs during the cold winter months. Children will learn how to care for their bird friends as well as for each other in the "Berrybrook Hospital".

Reminders will be given about the importance of fighting germs and staying healthy. In September we introduced hand washing before school and at mealtimes. We will continue to talk about the importance of washing hands after coughing, sneezing or using a tissue.

As the cold weather moves in we will discuss the importance of bundling up to stay warm outdoors. We plan to enjoy the winter weather as much as possible so please remember to send your child to school with hats, gloves, boots, snowpants, etc.

Happy New Year!

Mrs. Capasso
Mrs. Delano
Mrs. Dunn
Mrs. La Forest
Mrs. Piccuito
Mrs. Pisani

Welcome

Harrison Murphy Sanford

Congratulations to Sadie
(3 Day, Room 1)
and to the Sanford family!

Second Year Program News

We have some wonderful activities planned to ring in the new year. In January we'll begin our discussions of cold and wintry weather. We'll talk about snow, temperatures, wind chill factors and most importantly how to properly dress for this type of weather. The children are encouraged to dress all by themselves including zippers, snaps and buttons. Proper fitting boots, mittens, hats, snowsuits or snow pants are appreciated. Tight fitting clothing can be very frustrating to children learning how to dress themselves. In fact, they may give up trying. It is helpful for the children to practice dressing themselves at home. Thank you for encouraging them to do so.

In mid January we'll begin our unit on health. The children will make a book about themselves and learn about healthy foods and dental health. At the end of the month we'll begin learning about space. We'll cover planets, comets, asteroids and the moon. The children always come up with very interesting questions. We are fortunate to know someone who is knowledgeable about the subject and is happy to help us answer the children's questions.

We'd like to thank parents who have graciously volunteered their time to help

out in our classrooms. If you have a special interest or hobby/collection that you'd like to share please let the teachers know. The children are always excited to have visitors and they benefit greatly from your experiences.

For upcoming projects we will need any greeting cards that you may be discarding. All types of cards are needed (birthday, holiday, get-well, etc.). We're happy and grateful for whatever you can donate.

In February shoeboxes (any size) are needed for our Valentine's Day celebration, and we will also be studying postage stamps. Please save envelopes that have cancelled stamps. The children will be cutting the stamps off for an upcoming activity.

Lastly, a great big thank you to the children for their wonderful gift of song at our holiday sing-along. You may have noticed the children using sign language with some of our songs. We get our signs from the American Sign Language dictionary which is available in room 2 if you'd like to borrow it and practice at home.

Thank you again for all your help. It is very much appreciated.

The Second Year Teachers,
Miss Bent, Mrs. Caddle, Mrs. Fosdick,
Mrs. LaForest, Mrs. O'Neil, Mrs. Neal,
Mrs. Rosen and Mrs. Swan

Cold Weather Tips

The first cold weather we had in December reminded us to be prepared. By now parents have located all snow pants, boots, hats and mittens that had been packed away.

At Berrybrook we will go out every day that is not freezing or raining. Children should come prepared for the outdoors.

We know that some days it is hard to tell what the weather conditions will be at the end of the session, so when in doubt, you could pack snow pants and boots in a tote bag to have in the cubby.

Please remember to have your child arrive with boots, hat, mittens, jacket and snow pants. Even when there is no snow, these extra clothes allow for warm, comfortable outdoor play. Please mark each item with your child's name.

Thank you!



Snow Cancellation

Berrybrook will cancel school if
Duxbury Schools or the

Silver Lake School District close due to
a snow emergency.

Because many Berrybrook families and staff travel from outlying communities, it is our policy to cancel classes whenever Duxbury Public Schools and/or Silver Lake Schools are closed. Parents should watch news reports for cancellation of these school systems. The voice mail system at Berrybrook at 781-585-2307 will have a snow cancellation message if we are closed due to a snow emergency. Beyond a formal cancellation, we urge parents to use their best judgment about driving young children to school in inclement weather. In the event of a severe snow storm, power failure, loss of heat or other emergency, the school may be required to close early. Parents will be contacted to pick up children. Children will remain with Berrybrook staff until released to a parent or emergency contact.

Enrollment 2011-2012

January is the month reserved for all current and alumni families to enroll at Berrybrook. Our goal is to meet the needs of all of our current families and every effort will be made to accommodate parent preference. However, parents should be aware that Berrybrook reserves the right to make class placement based on the needs of the children and the composition of the group.

The Berrybrook Board of Directors sets aside funds for tuition assistance through the Helen Wheeler Scholarship Fund. If you are interested in receiving information about financial assistance please contact Mrs. Keeley.

Parents Association News

Dear Parents,
Happy New Year!
Hope everyone
has a happy and
safe start to 2011.

We are excited to
start the new calendar year with lots of
exciting programs.

We are hoping to start a music program
in January that will continue through
April as well as some health or yoga
classes starting in February.

In December, we demonstrated our
community spirit by decorating a tree at
The Festival of Trees for Cranberry
Hospice. It was a fun event visiting with
Santa, working on holiday crafts, and
enjoying all the beautiful creations.
Thank you to all who helped with our
"The Mitten" tree and supported the
cause by attending. The tree was
amazing thanks to the children,
teachers and Karen Gallagher & her

support team. Additionally, thank you to
all whom contributed to Pilgrims Hope
Shelter Outreach Program. Your
generosity and kindness is appreciated
by so many. We hope many of you were
able to visit the Berrybrook room at the
King Caesar House Christmas Tour. A
big thanks to Cheryl Kilduff for
organizing and decorating the room.
Finally, we thank the classroom moms
for organizing the holiday gifts for our
inspiring teachers. The BPA has been
busy planning the next several months
for the children's enrichment programs.
Our next meeting is Thursday, Jan 20 at
7:00 pm to review our enrichment
schedule. All are welcome!

Warm Regards,

Mimi Gallagher
BPA President



Berrybrook
discover | play | learn

**Open House
January 22, 10:00-noon**

**Please let your friends
and neighbors know that
on Saturday, January 22,
2011, Berrybrook will be
having an open house for
new families. It will be a
chance to tour our school
and ask questions about
our philosophy and
programs.**

All Welcome!

Parent Discussion Group

Thank you!

The Discipline Puzzle

Wednesday January 12, 2011

7 pm Refreshments, 7:15 Discussion

Please join us on Wednesday evening, January 12, as we ring in the New Year with an enlightening discussion on **Discipline**. The word "discipline" is defined as a verb, "to teach". Together we will gather the **pieces** to solve the **puzzle of discipline**. We will discuss how to successfully teach problem solving, conflict resolution and respect by using tools such as validation, teachable moments, natural consequences and more. Our evening together will provide a comfortable way to communicate with other parents about tools you're currently using and perhaps learn some new ideas to help you in your relationship with your child.

Looking forward to a wonderful discussion!

Mrs. Delano, Mrs. O'Neil and Mrs. LaForest

Tuition payment #6 is now due.

2 Day \$ 235.00

3 Day \$ 345.00

4 Day \$ 428.00

5 Day \$ 505.00

Annual tuition is divided into 9 payments. Payment #1 is the non-refundable deposit.

Payments #2 - #9 are due the first of the month from September through April with no tuition payment in May.

Berrybrook has many qualities that make it a special place. Certainly our beautiful setting provided by our founder, Katharine Mann, is an unusual and spectacular resource. Our lovely, state of the art preschool building is spacious and comfortable, but if you think about it, our shared values and experiences are what really make Berrybrook so special. I wanted to take a moment to thank the community for sharing so much over the December holidays. Thank you to everyone who donated items for the the Kingston Animal Shelter and for the Pilgrims Hope Shelter. Thank you to the many volunteers who came in to help in classrooms and to cook potato latkes and cookies. Thank you to the Patel family for sponsoring our participation in the Festival of Trees, and thank you to Karen Gallagher for coordinating all of the trimming. Thank you to Cheryl Kilduff (BPA) and Carrie Couto (Berrybrook Board) for bringing Berrybrook to "Christmas at the King Caesar House" in Duxbury. Thanks to Molly Smith and Jennifer Tate for shopping for a tree purchased for the school by the BPA and setting it up in the multi purpose room. Thank you to the children for preparing the entertaining and charming sing-a-longs enjoyed by all. Thank you to all of the families who stopped to appreciate the children's art work on the walls. Thank you to parents who lingered in the hall to catch up with one another. Thank you to our dedicated teachers for preparing children for life in a manner that respects them and preserves their childhood.

Mrs. Keeley