



January 2017

Tuesday, January 3
Monday, January 16
Wednesday, January 18
Saturday, January 21
Wednesday, January 25

2017-2018 Enrollments Begin
Martin L. King JR. Day - no school
Connections Curriculum Night
Berrybrook Open House
Board Meeting 7:30 pm



Notes from the Head of School

Happy New Year! While most people see January as the commencement of a new year, September is usually my cue. Starting this month we begin enrolling students for a new year at Berrybrook. Whether a family is continuing on from a previous year, starting fresh, or returning to us after a break, we are gearing up to enroll students for September. January is always an exciting time around here, especially when we receive an application and see names of the little ones who were born while an older sibling was a student. How quickly the times goes by from when we were looking at their tiny body in the baby bucket and then realize that it is their turn in a Berrybrook classroom!

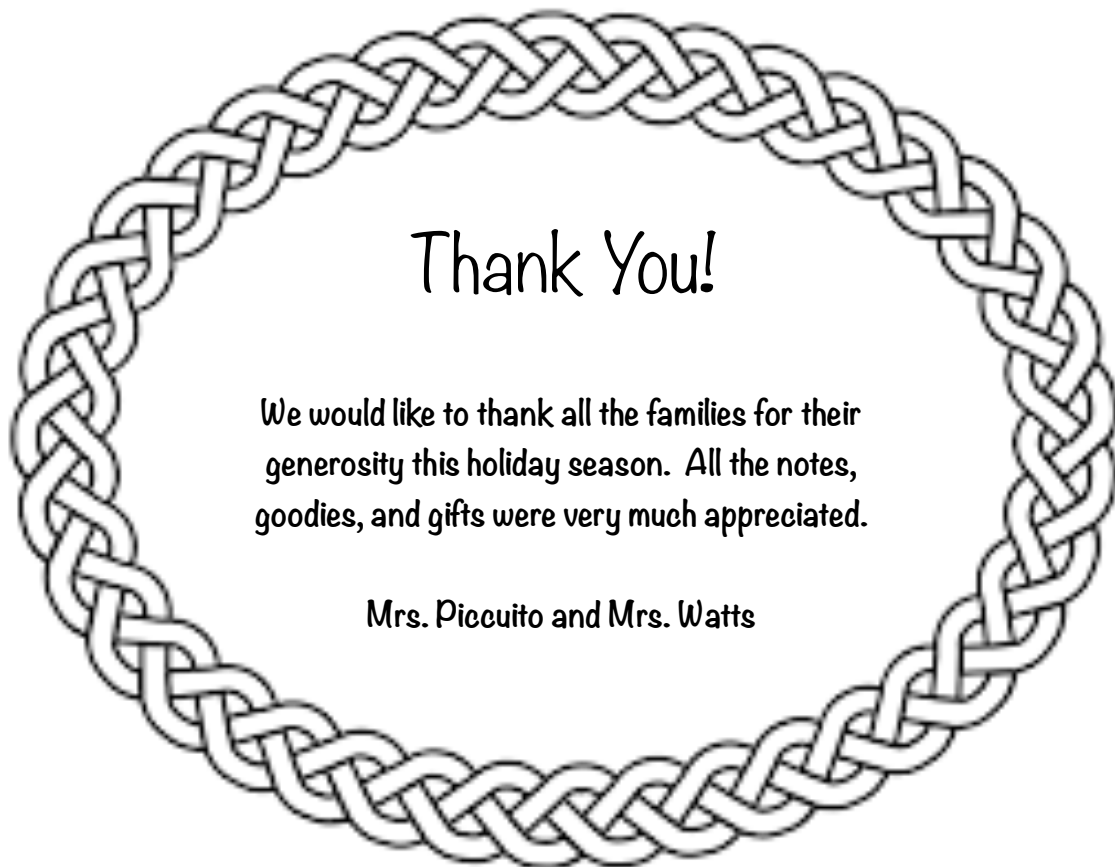
I did not have the honor of meeting Katharine Mann, who passed away a few years before I began teaching at Berrybrook. However, I feel her presence and strive to continue her legacy. I am thankful for the foresight Mrs. Mann had....to know in the 1950s she had the drive and determination to not only recognize the importance of early childhood education, but to be a female business owner in that time period....that's just amazing. About ten years after founding our school, Mrs. Mann placed legal responsibility for Berrybrook's welfare in the hands of the Berrybrook Board of Directors. To this day, they continue to carry on Mrs. Mann's vision and they are a group of dedicated custodians of her vision. The Board was established "To ensure continuance of present policy of the school, which is to put the interests of the children first, to maintain the atmosphere of freedom of expression within reasonable limits in a home like atmosphere, to offer the children a wide variety of experiences by means of a competent and understanding staff which will help prepare the child for the rest of his life; to always keep the emotional welfare of the child as the main objective." Part of the Board's job is to keep an eye on the school's expenses while also ensuring that the students have a quality early childhood education under the guidance of skilled experienced early childhood educators. Mrs. Mann's foresight also created the Lucretia Prentiss Bailey Trust in honor of her mother, which means the school has an operating

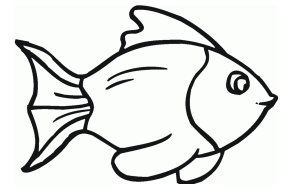
budget that is not 100% tuition driven. Her ongoing charitable gift through this Trust allows the Board to set tuition rates 25% below the true cost of our programs. What this means is that next fall for example, the true cost of the 5 Day tuition for families is \$8,408, but because of the Trust's contribution the 5 Day tuition rate is \$6,340. The Board is responsible for, and strives to, keep tuition rate comparable to other schools while maintaining the low student-teacher ratio, competitive staff salaries, plentiful resources, and more that Berrybrook is proud of.

Mrs. Mann also set up the Helen Wheeler Scholarship Fund, which is the primary source of tuition assistance for Berrybrook families. The purpose of this fund is to provide tuition assistance to parents and/or guardians of children who have been accepted to Berrybrook, and who would not be able to attend without financial assistance. Mrs. Mann never wanted to the cost to prevent a child from attaining a quality early childhood education. This confidential process allowed ten children this year alone to attend Berrybrook, who may have not been able to experience Berrybrook.

As I mentioned last month, at Berrybrook we work every single day to help shape the students into kind, compassionate members of society. In a community with many choices for early childhood programs, I thank you for choosing Berrybrook and allowing us to be a part of your child's life, and your family.

Cheers to a fantastic 2017 ~ Mrs. Watts





Beginners Notes

Here's hoping that you all had a happy and restful holiday. We are happy to be back together again.

January will be a fun filled month as we focus on all the excitement cold weather can bring. We will be exploring ice and snow activities in our water table. We will also be observing the changes that winter brings to our outside world. Children will learn about the importance of using winter clothes to stay warm and will be getting lots of practice dressing in our snow clothes. We try to get outside everyday that the weather permits so please make sure to send in warm clothing and shoes.

We will also be introducing 4 new classmates this month. The children have been so welcoming to our new friends and all the transition have been smooth.

And last but not least Beginners will start yoga this month with Miss Kim. She will visit us monthly until the school year ends. This is a fun way to introduce Beginners to movement and stretching and is always a big hit.

Remember to check Shutterfly to see all the fun we are having this year. It's a fun way to start conversations about school with your children.

~ Mrs. Rosen

Mrs. Rosen teaches in the Beginners and 4 Day classes

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BERRYBROOK OPEN HOUSE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21ST

10 A.M. - 12 P.M.

SPREAD THE WORD!!!

First Year Project Notes



Welcome back! We hope all of our Berrybrook families had a wonderful holiday break. As we fly right into the New Year, we will be discussing topics like hospital and animal hospital, bears, and birds! One of our all time favorite projects we will be doing is our pine cone bird feeder.

The following is a break down of how the pine cone bird feeder fosters all aspects of our curriculum and philosophy at Berrybrook:

Language Arts will be touched upon by reading stories about all sorts of birds.

Mathematics will be practiced by categorizing birds into different shapes, sizes, and colors. If we are to be so fortunate, we'll get to quickly explore time by looking at Mrs O'Neil's bird clock!

Science is included by learning about the natural environment of birds and how they eat to survive...even in the cold northeast winters.

Social Studies is taught by encouraging students to bring their bird feeders home to feed the birds around their own habitats.

Art gets messy with this project! Students are able to sculpt a masterpiece of their own with just 3 materials. The bird feeder consists of a pine cone, shortening, and lots of bird seeds.

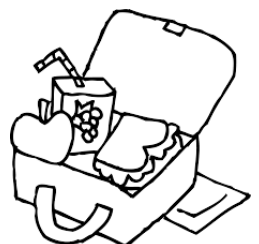
~ Mrs. Savoy

Mrs. Savoy teaches in the 3 Day Room 3 and the Beginners classes

From the Lunch Bunch Teachers

Thank you to parents for carefully packing lunches that are safe for everyone. We appreciate your cooperation, understanding and your attention to checking ingredient labels.

Thank You!





Second Year Project Notes

In the month of January, the second year students focus on birds. They learn about the differences and similarities among the wide variety of birds; where they live, the sounds they make, the eggs they lay, etc. We have a few projects in which we create different birds (like the penguin and the owl) using various classroom materials such as construction paper, glue, feathers, markers, water colors, scissors, etc. The children trace, cut, and assemble the birds in regard to the bird's body, head, wings, legs, feet, eyes, and beaks. They really have to think about what the particular bird they are working on looks like and then create their own. What I enjoy most about these projects is how different and unique each child's bird is! No two birds are alike, even though all the children start with the same materials. You really can see how they use their imagination and their creativity!

During this unit, the children make bird tracks, assemble bird books (which is a great writing project), and we read some great books about birds. One of my favorite books is actually about a fictitious bird named, "Gertrude McFuzz". This is a book by Dr. Seuss which has a great moral to the story regarding liking yourself for who you are, and not trying to be like someone else. The children enjoy the story with Dr. Seuss's silly names of the characters and the sing-song rhyme and rhythm of his words. We follow up this book with a water color project of the character, "Gertrude McFuzz".

Gertrude is portrayed on water color paper. First the children fill their own water container to get ready, always being mindful of measuring the water level right to the line drawn on the container. The children select the colors they wish to paint her. They carefully dip their brushes in the water, (being so careful not to spill the water) then in the water color paint, and use gentle brush strokes on the water color paper to spread the color. They learn how to change colors by washing the color off in the water, then start a new fresh color. When they have completed painting all of Gertrude's body, they add a feather, of their choice, to her tail. They have learned in the story that Gertrude is happy being herself with just one feather on her tail.

This project, as well as the other bird projects, solidify the information they have learned about birds. They enjoy this unit and enjoy learning and creating their own birds. Look for your child's work as it will be displayed in the hallways, and in our classroom. You will see, as we teachers do, the thought and creativity that your children have put in!

~Mrs. Fosdick

Mrs. Fosdick teaches in the 4 Day class

***Berrybrook would like to thank everyone who donated to
the Kingston Animal Shelter. The animals are more comfortable and
content this winter because of your generosity.***

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!!

Parents Association Notes

Happy New Year! We hope you all enjoyed the holiday sing a longs and had a wonderful holiday break!! We wanted to thank the entire Berrybrook community for allowing us to collaborate with the ***Wicked Good Cause*** for their holiday gift drive. The outpouring of support for our giving tree was fantastic. We made many holiday wishes come true! During such a hectic time of year, the generosity of Berrybrook families made us feel proud and allowed us to reflect on what is truly important! Stay tuned for additional ways to donate to our community in the upcoming months.

Enrichment

January is the beginning of some exciting enrichment. The first year students and Beginners will start their monthly yoga session with Miss Kim from Inspire Kids Yoga. She will focus not only on yoga, but self-esteem and body awareness. The other classes will continue to enjoy their regular yoga sessions with Miss Kim!

Family Fun Fridays

Thank you to those that attended the Lights Aglow Family Fun Friday. A special thank you goes out to Jen Cross for getting all of the wristbands ahead of time for our families. We hope more families can join us **January 6th** at Berrybrook for “**Lindsay and her Puppet Pals**” shows. **There will be 2 shows (1-1:45 and 2:15-3) and the cost will be \$5/child. Please watch for an email with more details about signing up and payment.**

As always, thank you to those that have 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!

Jill Cooney & Danielle MacKinnon, Co-Presidents berrybrookparentassociation@gmail.com

Basket winner !!

Congratulations to the Neville family; their name was drawn for the last remaining raffle basket.



SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday January 18th

7:00 - 8:00 PM

Parents are invited to our
**Berrybrook Curriculum Evening
And
Student Showcase**



Conversation Connections
Tuesday, January 10 at 9:15 - 10am

***Join Mrs. LaForest and other families to discuss common challenges
when raising young children.***

***Our conversation will begin with a presentation about the differences
among each of our three programs ~ come with your questions!***

***Children are welcome as play materials will be
available.***

***Hope to see you there!
~ Connections***



From The Board of Directors

My life and Berrybrook became interconnected from the first time I saw that boat in the school yard. I was setting a personal goal for myself back in 2012 to run my first half marathon. While my weekend long runs began to lengthen I needed to find new roads to train on. I did a brief MapQuest and found a nice 10 mile loop that took me to what used to be a blinking light where Winter St meets 53. At almost the turnaround I looked off to my right and saw the Carolina Skiff on the playground and thought how great it must be for the kids who attend that school to play, pretend and climb all over that vessel. While looking at preschools for the first of our three children, we compared curriculums, accreditations, distance from our home and settings of the schools. While weighing our decision I kept coming back to that boat. Boats represent a journey; a crossing, an adventure and exploration. This single, often taken for granted, feature of the playground sums up for me the magic that is Berrybrook. This school has embraced the benefits of expanding its classroom beyond indoor learning and placed significant value on being outdoors, in the environment and a part of nature. Recently with the addition of "The Nook" Berrybrook has led by example and created an outdoor classroom to help advance these principles of adventure and exploration. I am so happy that I ran by this school almost 4 years to the day on my training run. Berrybrook means as much to my wife Anna and I, as that boat means to the kids who pretend to skipper it and ring the bell. Berrybrook is the place where our whole family has met lifelong friends along our journey and will help us traverse life's waters.

Brian Kirsch

Board Member

