



June 2021

Wednesday, June 9

Thursday, June 10

Friday, June 11

3 Day classes Ice Cream Day

4 Day classes Ice Cream Day

**Beginners, 2 Day and 5 Day classes
Ice Cream Day**



Notes from the Head of School

Although amazingly cliché, this month's newsletter cannot be anything other than a message of thanks thank you to the Board of Directors who trusted that we could continue to provide our Berrybrook standards to families, thank you to my teachers who signed up to lead a group of children throughout this year, thank you to the families who enrolled their children during such an unknown time, and the biggest thank you to the children who we did this ALL for. Their innocence and trust in all the grownups made all the difficult times possible. I've said it before: this group of children has been unbelievable. I can't put my finger on whether their collective "aura" is so chill because they have parents who trusted our process, and it therefore passed to them. Or that they are growing up during such crucial developmental years during a pandemic. We've spent hours analyzing the ins and outs of this year, and will continue to do so for

a long time. I can say, without any hesitation, that the 2020-2021 student body was one for the record books. For those families who are joining us again, we look forward to a different type of year in the fall. For those families heading off to other ventures, we wish you the best and hope that you can visit when we are able to have visitors again. Have a wonderful summer, and thank you for trusting in Berrybrook.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
THANK YOU, THANK YOU VERY MUCH...
BOOP!

~ Mrs. Watts

Teacher's Notes

Consider The Possibilities

“Consider the possibilities” it read there in the frame,
alongside the walkie talkies for each classroom, the same.
Those words I would read each and every school day,
as I chose my walkie talkie and headed on my way.

The walkie talkies we purchased for an idea that we'd had:
Announce each child upon the arrival of their mom or their dad.
But wait. What will that feel like for the children to hear
their teachers all listening, holding a device to their ears?

No, no, no. We want warmth, we want care.
We don't want them to have to wait in a chair!
A full day of fun they already have had,
While waiting, let's choose puzzles and be glad!

Then chat as we go when we say, “It's your turn!
Your family is here ~ you can share what you've learned!
The songs we have sung and the stories we've read,
the conversations we've had and all that's been said.”

The walkie talkies we use, but as a safety device.
And like other needed changes, we had to think twice.
Things needed to be different this year, it's true,
but Berrybrook still needed to be “Berrybrook”, through and through.

The children are first, what they need and who they are.
Even while distancing, masking, and walking them to their cars.
But inside our school and in nature outside,
the children were creating, building... going down slides!

From obstacles to opportunities we discovered new ways
to connect and explore and have even *more* meaningful days!
And what came from these changes surprised us all;
even some new ideas we will use in the fall.

At the end of our common tunnel there seems to be light.
Let's gather lots of hope with all of our might.
Hopeful, longing for days up ahead
to be filled with good health and nothing to dread.

“Consider the possibilities”...
Take these words along with you.
We considered ...
and from the possibilities ~ we grew!

A very happy and healthy summer to all!



~ Mrs. LaForest

Mrs. LaForest teaches in the 5 Day and 4 Day room 2 classes

From The Board of Directors

About a week ago, I brought my four-year-old twins to the grocery store for the first time since February of 2020. As we made the short drive across town, I listened as the girls discussed their excitement for the seemingly mundane errand we were about to run.

“Alden, are you SO excited to remember what the inside of the supermarket looks like? I can’t wait!”

What a wild year this has been! As parents, my husband and I have tried to normalize this past year and a half as much as possible for our children. We’ve tried to keep things exciting, albeit different. But occasionally, I do still have these waves of sadness and disappointment for all the things my children have missed out on this year: spending time with my 96 year old Nana; family vacations; taking the red line up to visit Daddy in the city; large holiday gatherings; and even those mundane trips to the supermarket.

A few weeks ago I found our growing collection of Berrybrook memory books spread on the floor of our living room as I do from time to time. I always enjoy flipping through them myself before I return them to the bookshelf. On this particular day, one of the books was open to Betty Carroll’s poem about Berrybrook. While I frequently see the first few lines of the poem on the school’s website, it was the first time in a *long time* that I read the poem in its entirety and some of the later lines struck me.

At Berrybrook
A rocket ride to outer space.
A boat to sail upon a lake.
All kinds of wheels for a big race.
Oh what a busy, happy place
Is Berrybrook

There are things galore for girls and boys
For quiet play or games of noise.
Indoors or out, it’s plain to see
It’s such a pleasant place to be
At Berrybrook

With blocks and toys and slides and swings
And all the lovely, living things
Everyone and everything is so nice
It is a childhood paradise,
Berrybrook

At the end of the day these waves of “disappointment” are fleeting and I am so very grateful for the things that have remained steadfast throughout this pandemic. Berrybrook is one of those things. It has provided our children with consistency, laughter, friendship, opportunity for growth and comfort in a time of uncertainty. For my children it was exactly as Betty Carroll described, “a childhood paradise”. So thank you Mrs. Watts, Mrs. Piccuito, Mrs. LaForest, Mrs. Fosdick, Mrs. Knight, Mrs. Connell, Mrs. Rosen, Mrs. Bonner and Mrs. Costello for the hours upon hours of planning, of reworking, of cleaning, of loving, of supporting, of sacrifice, of emails, of laughing, of singing, of dancing, of exploration, of tear-wiping, of smiling, of patience, of creativity, of teaching, of kindness, of memories. You made this year an unimaginable success and I know my children will forever remember their special time with you as a bright light during a very trying time.

Emily Balboni
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