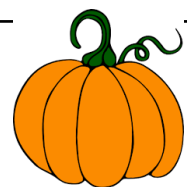


October 2021

October 11	Columbus Day - No School
October 16	BPA Harvest Festival 11am - 2pm
October 27	Berrybrook Board Meeting (Zoom) 7:30 pm



Notes from the Head of School



How does a cliché become a cliché? How many times do we say or think something, only to inwardly roll our eyes and wonder if others feel that what we're saying doesn't feel authentic anymore? Please know that the above speaks to what all of us at Berrybrook genuinely think and feel about the 2021-2022 school year (and 2020-2021, and 2019-2020!). We are lucky to have many quality preschools in our area, and we thank you for choosing Berrybrook and for your continued support during this time.

"The grass is always greener on the other side" certainly kept tumbling around my mind over the past few months. Last July and August, child care centers were

faced with some of the most stringent regulations I had ever seen in my 25+ year career, and rightfully so! We were headed back to classrooms in the midst of a pandemic a pandemic that seemed like it was never going to end and was impacting a third school year. We finally started to see the light at the end of the tunnel and in May and June, regulations were relaxed. I kept joking saying something along the lines like, "Yay! COVID's over! I feel like someone should be kissing a sailor in the middle of Times Square like it's 1945 celebrating the end of the war!" Well in July, the Delta variant had us bracing for battle again and we felt like we were constantly looking over our shoulder. We awaited regulations from the Department of Early Education and Care, knowing that the start of the school year was coming quickly but that we had little to no guidance ~ the exact opposite of the prior year! We waited some more. And more. What many of us were cursing last August was now our wish; please tell us exactly what to do in what feels like a never-ending pandemic war!

Does anyone else feel like COVID just keeps churning and churning along? Last summer I thought we were near the tail-end of COVID, but now I just keep doubting myself. I know we won't know the "true middle" until this is all said and done, but does anyone else feel like we should at least have an airhorn or something to know when we've hit half-time on this? I feel like I could at least get through this all if I at least knew the timeline - and I think personally, that's what the frustrating part of this all. I keep feeling like this massive coastal storm that keeps knocking me off my balance . . . I stumble a bit, get my footing, brace the next wave, but perhaps I don't have the footing that I thought I had and falter a bit going into the next crashing wave.

One more cliché - we're all in this together. Good, bad, or indifferent we are all in Month Eighteenth (or what feels like Month 372!) of this. Just like last pandemic year, as well as the prior non-pandemic year, all of us at Berrybrook will strive to make it the best experience for your child(ren). It may not be what we envisioned the year to be (AGAIN), but gosh darn it we're going to knock it out of the park!

~ Mrs. Watts

Teacher's Notes

Three Important Words

Every school year in Classroom 2,
Children start to feel all the clues.
Three important words are very, very near...
Soon these three important words they will hear.

On a little board up near our daily book,
Children, yet, may hardly ever take a look.
But there the three important words await,
Until the appropriate time to hear them is great.

What are these three important words you ask?
Well it's become a tradition in each 4 and 5 Day Class.
Three words that will start off the school year,
Three words we hope everyone will hold dear.

The three words may seem like "big words" to some,
However, "big words" show respect to all who come.
The words already reflect what everyone is practicing,
And throughout the school year perhaps all will be mastering.

Whether upon arrival when children say goodbye and "See you soon!"
Or being excited to learn about apples, animals, insects or the moon...
Practicing swinging or reaching to another bar on the horizontal ladder,
Making friends, showing care and asking, "Can I help? What's the matter?"

These three words can help us understand all of the above,
With practice, listening, honoring....and love.
Are you ready to know them? These words that will be
On that little board, near the daily book, for everyone to see?

UNDERSTANDING ACCEPTANCE PERSEVERANCE

Three important words, wouldn't you say?
These three important words will help guide us each day!
To listen to one another, and be open to others' ideas,
To practice and learn, encourage ourselves and others with cheer!

Here's to a great school year! What a wonderful beginning we are already having!

~ Mrs.LaForest

(Mrs. LaForest teaches in the 4 and 5 Day classes)

Berrybrook Parents Association Notes

School is officially underway and it is wonderful to see the students and families back in action! While the children have been exploring their classrooms, Mrs. Watts, Mrs. Piccuito, the BPA, and parent volunteers have been busy putting details together for our annual **Harvest Festival**. Hopefully many of you are able to attend and enjoy the crafts, games, hayride and food on **Saturday, October 16th from 11-2**. Early bird admission and raffle tickets are available until October 8th and can be purchased through Venmo (@BerrybrookParentsAssociation), cash, or check.

Thank you to those of you who have already donated to the Harvest Festival, or volunteered your time. The Harvest Festival would not be a success without the support and generosity from Berrybrook Families. We are still actively seeking volunteers and donors for the event. If you are able to participate in any way, please refer to the sign up genius that was sent out on September 23rd, or you may reach out to one of us directly.

In addition to the Harvest Festival excitement, we are thrilled to bring back our monthly Family Fun Fridays! Our first event will be taking place at **Sauchuk Corn Maze & Pumpkin Patch** on **Friday, October 22nd, from 1pm-3pm**. This is always a family favorite. As the farm is closed to the general public that day, Berrybrook families will experience the pumpkin picking, jumping pillows, hayride and more without the usual weekend crowd! Stay tuned for more information on this event!

Thank you to everyone who has already paid their annual BPA dues. If you have not already, you may still send in your \$30 suggested contribution which goes directly to our student enrichment programs. Enrichment typically begins in January, and in previous years has included yoga, Irish step dancers, community workers and more! Every Berrybrook parent is automatically a member of the Parents Association and are welcome to all BPA meetings. We encourage you to join us at the meetings to share ideas, and volunteer any way you can.

Thank you for your support and participation! For any questions or feedback, please feel free to email the BPA at berrybrookparentsassociation@gmail.com.

Kim Joyce and Molly Buchanan - Co-Presidents

Lunch Bunch

Miss Antoniou, Mrs. Bonner, and Miss Kelly would like to thank all parents in advance for being so careful to pack allergy safe lunches for their children. We appreciate our families taking the extra time to make sure all Berrybrook children are safe.

From The Board of Directors

Valuing the Natural World at Berrybrook

Our current Berrybrook Board of Directors has very recently welcomed a new baby into her family. Instead of the usual welcome to school article typically written by the current Board President, we hope that you will enjoy this past one, written in 2019.

Last month, I attended a Board of Selectmen meeting in Duxbury to advocate for the preservation of a historic farm on Temple Street. Luckily, the Selectmen rescinded their earlier vote to pass on purchasing the land, which affords the town and its many concerned residents time to find a solution that hopefully maintains this special property and conserves its many acres of land. The day after that meeting, I was at Berrybrook and again reminded of how lucky we are to have a school in this area situated on over 27 acres of land, surrounded by over 40 acres of conservation land. Not only the Berrybrook community, but the community at large, benefits from the foresight of Mrs. Mann, who placed her farm in trust for the continued operation of a preschool. We are also indebted to those at the school and in the town who worked together to find a solution that conserved the land when a new school building was needed and built in 2008. Today, driving down Winter Street, the Berrybrook property and the adjacent Berrybrook Fields stand out as an obvious sanctuary for children, families, and wildlife.

I learned recently that in order to be accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAYEC), preschools need to have 75 square feet of outdoor playspace per child. At Berrybrook, where 60 children could be at school at a given time, that would mean 4,500 square feet are needed. Berrybrook has 80,000 square feet of outdoor playspace. This number alone signifies the importance Berrybrook places on outdoor play and exploration, providing students with opportunities to engage with the natural world in ways that promote understanding of and respect for our planet.

The outdoor offerings at Berrybrook, including the Nook, are unique and provide children with varied nature-based experiences. Though we are very proud of these offerings, we want to continue to improve our outdoor spaces. That is why, in the three-year Strategic Plan that the Board adopted last year, we included goals related to making improvements on the main playground and better maintaining the walking trails behind the school. If you are interested in providing input on either of these goals, please be in touch with the Board. We are excited to work together to ensure that the Berrybrook property continues to be a sanctuary for generations to come.

Rachel Ezell

President, Berrybrook Board of Directors 2019

berrybrookbod@gmail.com

A request from the Duxbury Free Library

“As part of its strategic planning process, the Duxbury Free Library is interested in hearing from all members of our community. Whether you are a regular Library user or have never been to the Duxbury Library, please take a few minutes to complete this survey. Your honest input is critically important to helping ensure that the Library is meeting the ever-changing needs of our community.”

If you are interested in helping shape the future of the Library, please provide your name and contact info at the end of the survey. All other responses will be anonymous.

Here is the link to [the online survey](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf-5MnZOWhW_hcfh-LpfOZCsrafJK0PeXkx_ehETNC_30YDrg/viewform):

Or you can copy and paste:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf-5MnZOWhW_hcfh-LpfOZCsrafJK0PeXkx_ehETNC_30YDrg/viewform



THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!

www.town.duxbury.ma.us/duxbury-free-library

SAVE THE DATE

Berrybrook Harvest Festival

Saturday October 16

11:00 - 2:00



Berrybrook Families are growing!!!!

Welcome

Lincoln Balboni

(big sisters Alden and Scarlett are in the 5 Day class,
and Emerson is in the Beginners class)

Vinny Casamassima

(big sister Mila is in the 4 Day class)

Abigail Ruseni

(big sister Katie is in the 4 Day class)

Jackson Smith

(big sister Ellia is in the 5 Day class)