



January 2023

Tuesday, January 3

2023-2024 Enrollment Begins

Friday, January 13

no school - Professional Development

Monday, January 16

Martin L. King Jr. Day - No School



Notes from the Head of School

Who else opens their Eversource bill these days with a huge pit of yuckiness in their stomach? I have the similar feeling when I see the oil truck pulling up our house. Don't even get me started on groceries, especially with two teenage boys eating us out of house and home. And what about "shrinkflation", when the price of a product stays the same but its size gets smaller. Examples of this are juice or lemonade bottles that have gone from 64oz to 59oz, to the current 52oz size, soap bars shrinking from 4oz to 3.75oz and now 3.17oz, and family size cookie packaging going from 17.2oz to a new 14.6oz - *and all for the same price!* I recognize that costs go up but I would at least expect the same quantity and without the sneakiness of feeling the need to compare sizes from the last time I shopped.

January is the month that kicks off enrollment for our new academic year. As with everything, the tuition rates for 2023-2024 reflect increases in program prices especially as our snack costs and supply prices have skyrocketed and staff will be given cost of living increases. Rest assured though - while our tuition has increased, our caliber remains the same. Our commitment to quality early childhood programming stays steady. We're not scrimping on anything to cut costs.

Many of you may know that our founder, Katharine Mann, had the foresight to create the Lucretia Prentiss Bailey Trust in honor of her mother. Her ongoing charitable gift through this Trust allows the Board to set tuition rates about 15-20% below the true cost of our programs. The Board is responsible for and strives to keep tuition rates comparable to other schools, while maintaining the low student-to-teacher ratio,

competitive staff salaries, plentiful resources, and more that Berrybrook is proud of. Unfortunately the Trust is impacted by the current market, which as we all know has been a bit of a dumpster fire on occasion, thus reducing our Trust value (there's that "shrink" word again!). The Board is committed to steering the course for the long haul and is able to weather financial storms without having to severely course correct.

We are so blessed that Mrs. Mann put the Board in charge to make decisions for Berrybrook to withstand ups and downs, in the hopes that Berrybrook will be here in perpetuity. As a mom of three Berrybrook alums, it's my dream that their children and perhaps their *grandchildren* will have the opportunity to attend. Thanks to fiducially conscious Board members and Mrs. Mann's gift of her Trust, that's a strong possibility that well into my retirement years I may be still be coming through the Berrybrook doors bringing my grandchildren to Berrybrook as my mom did for my children.

I feel like a broken record, but without the Trust's support Berrybrook would just feel different. For this, I thank Mrs. Mann in my mind almost daily. Without the Trust's support and modest tuition increase, Berrybrook might be forced to alter our program in ways that would have a large impact on many things: student-to-teacher ratios that are much lower than state regulations and abundant supplies for the students for instance.

For those of you planning to enroll at Berrybrook this fall, we look forward to our 69th year of offering exceptional early childhood experiences to families. We are excited for the next stage with your children and thank you for your continued support of Berrybrook.

Wishing you a wonderful 2023! ~ Mrs. Watts



Thank You !!!

We would like to thank all the families for their generosity this holiday season.

All the notes, goodies, and gifts were very much appreciated.

Mrs. Piccuito and Mrs. Watts

Teacher's Notes

We are so happy to be back! We hope you all had a happy, healthy and safe break and enjoyed your holiday celebrations.

January is always so peaceful at Berrybrook. After the craziness of all the holidays, it is a time to hunker down and enjoy our days. It is a new year, yet, the children and our classroom environment are not new. The children are comfortable with their peers, their teachers, and with the classroom routines. The teachers all know the students well at this point and are able to implement lesson plans according to the needs of the individuals, and the class as a whole.

We work on many projects involving the wintry setting of January. Our "Snow People" are created as a traditional project in all three of our programs - Beginners, 2 and 3 Day as well as the 4 and 5 Day classes. Other projects include mittens, hats, snow, snow paint, and winter animals.

With the weather sometimes putting a damper on outdoor play time, we are so fortunate to have the "Big Room" as an alternate space. The teachers take advantage of our time in the Big Room for a variety of activities. We plan physical activities to keep the children moving, like "Duck, Duck, Goose", "The Pony Game", "Jump Josie", and various other games. The teachers sometimes make an obstacle course, or create different stations involving physical activity where they move from one station to another. The children learn to cooperate and take turns as they engage in a variety of gross motor activities. The teachers can also set up different areas of play around the room, if we want to create a more low key environment. The Big Room in January is a great resource for the children and the teachers.

As for outdoor time, January is a great month for learning to put on our own coats, snow pants, boots, hats, and mittens! We spend a great deal of time with your children guiding them to independently dress themselves for the outdoors. They are so proud when they can zip, pull on their boots, or get their mittens on by themselves! Please plan on bringing in all of their snow gear daily, as we will be going outside as much as possible.

I know that the teachers are looking forward to a great month of settling back in, making some great wintry projects, and enjoying our outdoor spaces or the Big Room. Hopefully we will have some snow to play in as well!

~Mrs. Fosdick

Mrs. Fosdick teaches in the 3 Day Room 1 and the 4 Day classes

Parents Association Notes

Happy New Year everyone! We hope you all enjoyed some time off with your friends and family! As we enter the new year, we would like to reflect on all that we are grateful for from the first half of the school year.

First and foremost, a big shout out to our amazing teachers, staff, and students for putting on a fantastic holiday Sing-Along before winter break. It was a wonderful way to celebrate the holidays with fellow Berrybrook families before the year's end.

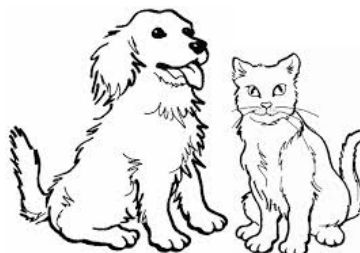
Thank you to those who attended the Gardens - Aglow event at the Heritage Museum and Gardens. We hope everyone loved the beautiful light displays throughout the gardens, the festive decor, and the fun activities for all. We are looking forward to our next Family Fun Friday, which will be held on **Friday, January 20th** at Tumblefun Gymnastics in Marshfield!

We are extremely grateful for your support with Friends of the Homeless South Shore. Together, we were able to support 36 individuals living in shelters and temporary housing across the South Shore this holiday season.

On a final note, we greatly appreciate your continued support and participation in the BPA. Because of your generosity, the BPA dues that many of you submitted at the beginning of the year are going towards some fun and exciting enrichment programs coming up in the new year! Please know that it's never too late to contribute to the funds that support these activities. The suggested contribution per family is \$30 and can be sent via Venmo to the BerrybrookParentsAssociation account.

Alex Casamassima and Stephanie McGarry, Co-Presidents
berrybrookparentsassociation@gmail.com

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.



From The Board of Directors

A Simple, but Meaningful Gift

As the new year begins, it seems appropriate to reflect on the holiday season. For me, December seems like a whirlwind. There are holiday parties, school functions, and other holiday themed activities such as attending Gardens Aglow, baking cookies, or taking a family car ride to look at holiday light displays around town. Each weekend seems busier than the last, culminating after the school recess begins and the holidays set in. Once the calmness of January begins, I enjoy reflecting on our holiday activities.

One holiday activity that is particularly meaningful is the December gathering of Berrybrook teachers, staff, and members of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors meets monthly and in place of the December meeting, the Board invites the teachers and staff to come together so we can express our gratitude for their hard work and to look forward to the upcoming year. It is particularly enjoyable for me because my children are elementary age and no longer attend Berrybrook. I like reconnecting with the teachers and hearing more about the current holiday activities, such as cookie making and sing-a-longs. I also enjoy meeting the new teachers and getting to know them better.

This year, the Board of Directors gave each teacher an amaryllis planting kit as a thank you gift. It was a simple, yet meaningful gift. Simple but meaningful is an overarching theme at Berrybrook. The meaningful act of the children practicing songs for several weeks, culminating with an invitation for families to gather at the school and listen to the children is a simple, yet special holiday event. The act of taking turns measuring the ingredients, stirring, and baking the sugar cookies, culminating with families enjoying these creations is another meaningful, yet simple holiday activity for the children. Reading stories about different holidays, such as Hanukkah, introducing a menorah, and cooking and enjoying latkes as a class is another simple yet meaningful tradition. Through these and many other lessons, the teachers and staff plant seeds that enable the children to discover, play, and learn. It is fitting that the teachers' holiday thank you is a simple, yet powerful symbol of their integral role in our children's lives planting the seeds necessary to discover, play, and learn. As January sets in, I hope you have a few quiet moments to reflect on the holiday season. I am sure you will find more lessons that the Berrybrook teachers and staff devise that enable our children to discover, play, and learn.

Andrea Doton

Berrybrook Board of Directors



Colder weather is here...

It is our policy to cancel classes whenever Duxbury Public Schools are closed due to weather emergencies. Families should watch Channel 7, WHDH for a school cancellation at Berrybrook. Every attempt at notification will be made through email messages, text messages, phone calls via OneCallNow and/or social media.

In the event Duxbury Public Schools require a one hour delay, Berrybrook will have the usual 9 am arrival time.

In the event Duxbury Public Schools require a two hour delay, the AM session, as well as Lunch Bunch, will be cancelled.

Beyond a formal cancellation, we urge parents to use their best judgment about driving young children to school in inclement weather.

As the weather changes, be sure to dress children appropriately for outdoor play, including the Nook. Now is a good time to locate all hats, mittens, gloves, and warm jackets that will be necessary as we head outdoors in January. Once the snow flies, children should bring snow pants and snow boots. Children are welcome to keep slippers, sneakers, or crocs at school to make sure they are comfortable in the classroom.

Please remember to label all clothing with your child's name.