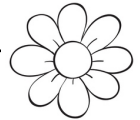




May 2023

*Tuesday, May 2	3 Day Class Pictures
*Wednesday, May 3	4 and 5 Day Class Pictures
*Thursday, May 4	2 Day and Beginners Class Pictures
Monday, May 29	Memorial Day - no school

***Rain dates will be scheduled as needed**



Notes from the Head of School

This morning I received an email that a student would be late to school, due to their kindergarten screening/registration appointment. “Exciting time!” I replied to the family. Seconds later my personal email pinged with a notification to sign up my son Brady, who just committed to college, for his “Bengal Bound” orientation experience. Exciting time? Yes. No. Maybe? I’m excited for him....should I also be sad he’s leaving? Should I be anxious? I’m not sure what/how to feel. He’s my oldest. But the Berrybrook email I received earlier was regarding their oldest’s kindergarten registration. Brady will be 1,600 miles away, not just down the road at Chandler! ARGH! Welcome to Mrs. Watts’s mind, where it seems that squirrels running in multiple directions have come to stay and play.

These past weeks, the Berrybrook personnel have seen three of our children commit to colleges. Mrs. Bonner’s firstborn Maya, my son Brady, and Mrs. Piccuito’s youngest, Anna, all solidified their freshman year plans. To say that

I've been so very thankful to go through this process this year with Mrs. Bonner and Mrs. Piccuito is an understatement! So many times during this past year I feel like I have been flying blind, with no clue what we are doing or (more frequently) what we *should* be doing. Mrs. Piccuito may very well be sick of me asking her approach when her son went through the college selection process two years ago. Was her daughter's college process any less stressful or less meaningful since she is Mrs. Piccuito's youngest? Of course not. And just like you all, when it's your child's turn for their next stage - whether it is kindergarten or the next level of Berrybrook programming - it's no less special when it's your first, last, or middle.

Each experience is unique. As a parent YOU may have gone through the kindergarten registration, have had a child enrolled in the 4 or 5 Day class, or go off to college before. For the child, it's THEIR first experience with this. Enjoy it, but don't stress about it. Children will make their own paths through these experiences and it's THEIR experience to have. It's great to call upon others and ask their situation and how it went for them, but recognize that it's unique to each person and each person's perspective.

It's such an exciting time for everyone! In the meantime from now until Brady packs up for Louisiana, if I look a little disheveled or frazzled, or waffling between laughing or crying, just know it's those darn squirrels!

~ Mrs. Watts



Teacher's Notes

This month we have added a past, but still very relevant, article written by a past Head of School

As I was showing a prospective parent around Berrybrook last week, she asked me, "What part of the day would the children be learning?" her question caught me by surprise. I suppose it is because at Berrybrook we know that children learn everywhere and at all times. Children learn at arrival, holding hands in the parking lot, holding the door for others, and greeting teachers and friends. They are learning self help skills hanging things up in their cubbies. During independent choice they are learning how to concentrate and problem solve and at circle time they are learning how to be part of a community. Snack provides an opportunity to master hand washing and table manners. On the playground there is unlimited development of motor skills and an abundance of observations of the natural world. My response to her question about what time of the day children learn is every second. Every moment is a teachable moment and children are learning from their environment, peers, parents and teachers every waking moment. Math, Science, Literacy, Social Studies and Health are all part of the interconnected curriculum at Berrybrook.

Teachers arrange classrooms and activities to include all of these important areas, but also included are interactions to help children develop social skills. Berrybrook teachers design their classrooms and curriculum to promote a sense of empathy and community, and conflicts between children are seen as opportunities for helping children become sensitive human beings. One way teachers help children develop empathy is by being active listeners. Teachers model good listening and encourage them to listen to each other. We suggest that they look directly at each other when they have something to say. We encourage responses that include how they feel about things. When children know they will be listened to, they are more apt to listen to someone else. Children in fact, are able to recite many ways to be kind and good to friends. Intellectually, they know the right choices, but developmentally, they are just beginning to put them into practice. It is our job to provide them with opportunities to demonstrate how kind they are and to practice being a good friend.

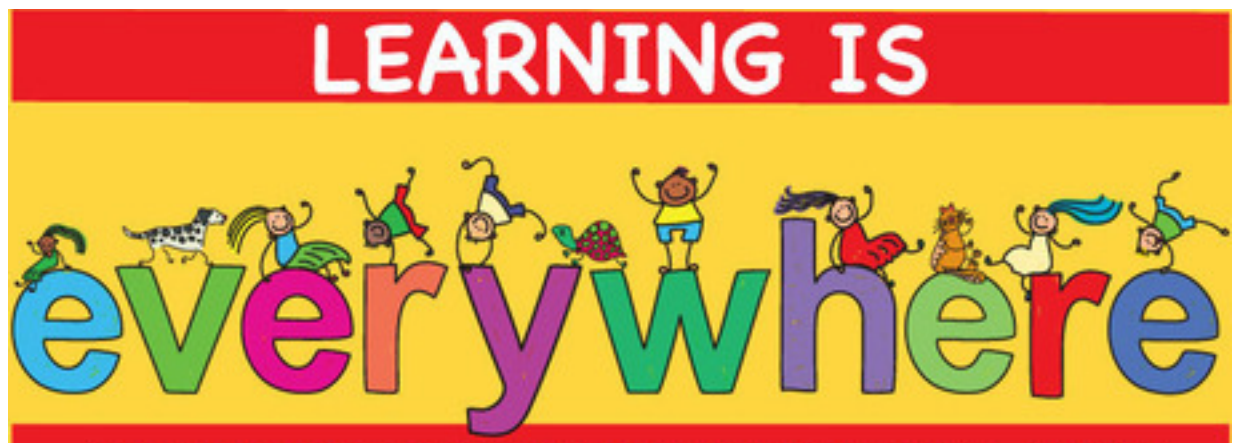
At Berrybrook, we believe that children learn everywhere and at all times. Teachers see even the tiniest incident as an opportunity to help a child learn something about the world or themselves, and then the beauty of our work is that we get to see the child put what they have learned into practice. Teachers and I celebrated a recent milestone we observed in two of our students. In the multi- purpose room during an enrichment program, a younger student stood up in front of an older student and blocked the view. There were several teachers in the room and we were interested in seeing how this situation would develop, so we did not intervene. The older student said very clearly, "Please sit down I can't see." The younger student turned around and looked at the speaker, but did not sit down. Then the older student repeated the request in a slightly firmer voice, "Please sit down, I can't see." This time it worked. The younger child sat down and the older student could now see what was going on. It was perfect. Problem

solved with no teacher intervention. The older child has learned to get his needs met in an appropriate, respectful way, and the younger child has learned to listen to a request and respond with understanding. Teachers and I were thrilled with the outcome because we know how many individual Berrybrook moments went into building those important skills in those two children.

It is so important for teachers and parents to remember that children are learning not just in the classroom, or in a piano lesson, or a karate class or a soccer camp. They are learning from every situation. Sure they are learning from us when we are reading a book or cooking with them or teaching them a specific lesson, but they are also learning from us in other daily interactions – in the ways we treat and speak to them and others. The manner in which we handle difficult situations or problems will determine how they will respond to a similar situation in their future. We teach children how to read and write, but they also learn from us how to be compassionate and flexible and patient. If we want children to have all of those qualities, we must model them. Our children are learning all the time, everywhere.

~ Pat Keeley

Mrs. Keeley was Head of School at Berrybrook from 2000 - 2016



Parents Association Notes

We hope everyone enjoyed April vacation week! It's hard to believe that the school year is soon coming to an end. What a year it has been! Thank you to all who have participated and supported the BPA this year!

Enrichment

Miss Kim will be returning for yoga in May, and will continue to build on the skills she's been teaching the children throughout the year.

Moms Night Out

Moms Night Out is back! Our first event will take place on Thursday, May 4 at Station 8 in Marshfield. We hope to see you there!

Family Fun Fridays

Our May Family Fun Friday will be taking place on Friday, May 12th, at JEM Equestrian in Duxbury. We're excited to spend an hour and a half at JEM Equestrian where the children can feed many types of animals and snuggle with some bunnies.

*****REGISTRATION IS OPEN STARTING TODAY FOR OUR ANNUAL ICE CREAM CRUISE*****

We are so excited to be bringing back our annual ice cream cruise for our last Family Fun Friday of the year! The cruises are booked for **Friday, June 2nd**. We added a 4th cruise to allow as many families to attend as possible! We hope everyone who wants is able to attend this beloved Berrybrook Fun Friday.



- **Alex Casamassima and Stephanie McGarry**
BPA Co-Presidents

The Board of Directors

Our Berrybrook Community

When people describe their child's experience at Berrybrook, they often refer to it as a "special place," but what makes Berrybrook so special? Is it its 69 year-old history? Its spacious building that pays homage to the original farmhouse? The beautiful grounds with numerous play spaces and our beloved Berrybrook Nook? The teachers and administrators who give their heart and soul into what they do? Of course it's all of these things, and much more, that set Berrybrook apart from other schools, but what ties it all together is our beloved Berrybrook Community. It's the parents, caregivers, teachers and administrators that work together with the common goal of giving our children a childhood full of wonder, learning and happiness. We are also a welcoming community that supports, respects, and cares for one another.

We see evidence of this at morning drop-off, where parents and caregivers hold the gate for one another, smile, wave, and sometimes stop for a quick chat. And then of course there is the after school pick-up where it seems every year around this time, when we are gifted with a few bright and sunny days, that the Berrybrook community truly comes alive. Like our daffodils coming into bloom, our children's little faces shine brightly in the sun as they burst out of the school and out into the sunshine to play on the rocket ship, the playhouse, and the S.S. Berrybrook.

I hope that all of you have gotten a chance to experience this wonderful sense of Berrybrook community. Maybe from a friendly smile in the pickup line, at the Harvest Festival or at one of our Family Fun Friday activities. And don't forget, we have an upcoming "Mom's Night Out" planned for Thursday, May 4th so we can have the opportunity to connect outside of the school grounds.

I'll conclude with one of my favorite springtime poems:

And Now It's Spring

By L.H. Theaker

The grass is green across the hill,
But yellow blooms the daffodil.
It's sunshine on a little stalk,
A friendly flower, I bet they talk...

Of little kids, too long inside
They burst outdoors to play and hide.
Tracking mud and bringing bugs.
Look, there's footprints on the rug!

Tiny whirlwinds, these little tykes,
They skin their knees while riding bikes.
They rip and roar, they're running wild!
What fun it is to be a child.

It grows warmer every day.
Shoo the children out to play!
Pick the flowers, play in mud.
Too much rain, here comes a flood!

My snowy, winter days are gone.
I mourn them, but I hear a song
Of birds in trees; wind chimes ring.
I guess it might as well be spring!

Ellen D'Ambruoso
Berrybrook Board of Directors





Berrybrook's Founder's Day and Helen Wheeler Scholarship Fund

Every year, the Berrybrook Board of Directors conducts an Annual Appeal to raise money for the Helen Wheeler Scholarship Fund. This year, we set a goal to raise \$5,000 by March 30, in honor of Mrs. Mann's birthday. Every dollar donated to the Annual Appeal reinforces our commitment to provide tuition assistance for families who wish to send a child to Berrybrook but cannot because of financial constraints. The funds also enable current families who may experience a sudden financial emergency to continue at Berrybrook.

We would like to acknowledge the generous donors to this year's Founder's Day Annual Appeal which raised \$3,820. We are so grateful for their financial support and their dedication to Berrybrook. Gifts to the Annual Appeal have made a lasting difference in the lives of many children and their families who are experiencing Berrybrook because of their generosity.

2023 Berrybrook Founder's Day Annual Appeal Donors

Spencer and Emily Balboni

Daniel Carr and Lauren Strazzula

Bertie and Allison Cayzer

Mike and Ali Collentro

Thomas and Kristin Crowley

Robb and Ellen D'Ambruoso

Tom and Kristen Delano

Michael and Andrea Doton

Joseph and Claire Gochal

Jon and Katie Hanlon

Hawk Ridge Capital Management

Ayaz and Lori Mahmud

Michael O'Keefe and Rachel Ezell

Tommy and Katie Parker

Conor and Meghan Quinn

Shane Treadway

Keith and Stacy Watts

Bradford and Lucy Weillbrenner

Matthew Wheble and Susannah Clark

Brian and Emma Kender

Joanne LaForest