

June 2024

Wednesday, June 5

3 Day classes Ice Cream Day

Thursday, June 6

4 Day classes Ice Cream Day

Friday, June 7

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



Notes from the Head of School

My first thought is - how is it June already? Once again, the little ones who had their first Berrybrook days in September have grown into capable and confident students who are well prepared for their next step in their educational journey. Time seems so quirky these days, and I'm not sure if it's because I'm getting (much!) older and my personal perspective of parenting in the preschool years keeps waxing. Is it because in my role as Head of School, my toes are always dipped in three different years? We're always projecting a year ahead in terms of programing and enrollment, with our financial auditing process I'm a year behind with number crunching, and this is all while I'm enjoying the current school year. It's no surprise then when someone will ask me a 'date' question and I often will reply with a little chuckle and "What year are we talking about?" This doesn't help when I'm trying to enjoy the present, when I'm pulled into the past and present at the same time.

This is just a really, really long-winded way of saying what we already know: slow down and enjoy the moment. It's SO easy to think about what woulda/shoulda/coulda at the same time as worrying about the future. What happens in the meantime? We miss those important moments. On our traditional ice cream days coming up, savor the simplicity of the moment without worrying about what's to come. Enjoy the guilty

pleasure of our student-made ice cream with only the thought of how quickly you can eat it without it melting, but not-so-quickly you get brain freeze.

Thank you for another amazing year, and sharing your children with us. I'm never quite sure who gets more out of these years, the students or the teachers. We learn from your children as much as they learn from us, and we treasure all the moments and experiences.

Happy Summer ☀️

~ Mrs. Watts

Berrybrook's Annual Appeal 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. 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 Annual Appeal which has raised \$3,640 to date. 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.

2024 Berrybrook Founder's Day Annual Appeal Donors

Spencer and Emily Balboni

Kathryn Bray

Daniel Carr and Lauren Strazzula

Kyle and Jessica Christianson

Robb and Ellen D'Ambruoso

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Steve and Stephanie McGarry

Michael O'Keefe and Rachel Ezell

Elaine Piccuito

Conor and Meghan Quinn

Scott and Katie Szczesny

Keith and Stacy Watts

Bradford and Lucy Weilbrenner

It's not too late to donate! Please consider a tax deductible gift to the fund that has allowed hundreds of children to experience Berrybrook when financial means may have otherwise prevented enrollment at our amazing school.



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Teacher's Notes

"Do you remember?"

"Little Fishy went out to play" As teachers sing that song on a day in May to gather the children so they can discover what fun awaits them next during their time at school, the question is asked, "Do you remember we sang that song way back in September? That was when we first started the school year and we were all getting to know each other."

As the cow bell rings on the playground and sand covered, rosy cheeked children come running over and easily form a line behind each smiling classmate, teachers share ~ "Do you remember back in the early fall when the cow bell would ring and you would all come running and we would sit together before making our way indoors? Now you all know how to make a line, congratulations!"

When working at the project table and children find their needed supplies, copy the letters they see on to paper and "read" the word now created...trace, cut and paint or glue ... teachers mention, "Do you remember when you were all just practicing writing the letters in your name and learning how to make the scissors work? And then you learned the 'Tape Trick'? Now look at all you know how to do!"

When children spontaneously break out in song in spring and naturally the singing includes a couple of verses of Jingle Bells, teachers recall, "Do you remember when we sang all our songs for your families in the Big Room at holiday time?"

As we walk as a class down to the Nook and walk by the maple trees, everyone mentions, "Do you remember when we tapped the maple trees and got the sap? We had our Sugar On Snow party!"

As we spend time together now in June, we remember. When we remember, we smile. When we remember, we laugh. When we remember, we sing. When we remember we slow down and spend important time talking together about all we remember.

On Ice Cream Day this year let's remember together. Let's celebrate a fun and wonderful school year. Let's reflect on all the treasured seasons of Berrybrook and welcome in the glorious season of summer!

~ Mrs. LaForest

Mrs. LaForest teaches the 4 Day and 5 Day classes

From The Board of Directors

Dear Berrybrook Families,

As the school year draws to a close, emotions run high for many of us at Berrybrook. For some, it marks the end of an era as our little ones prepare to spread their wings and embark on new adventures beyond these familiar walls. As a parent whose child is in their final year at Berrybrook, I find myself reflecting on the remarkable journey we've shared together.

Seven years ago, when I first stepped through the doors of Berrybrook with my oldest child, I was so happy to be welcomed back (I went to Berrybrook myself) into the warm and nurturing environment I had such fond memories of. The caring teachers, vibrant classrooms, and enriching activities have provided the perfect environment for all three of my children to learn, grow, and flourish.

As I look back on our time at Berrybrook, I am filled with gratitude for the countless memories we've created. From harvest festivals to maple tree tapping, each and every day is filled with the highest quality programming that is steeped in tradition. However, it is truly the teachers, administrators, and staff (Mr. Murray!) that make Berrybrook the special place it is. I will miss them all dearly.

As I prepare to bid farewell to Berrybrook, I am filled with mixed emotions. While I'm excited to see what the future holds for my child, I can't help but feel sadness at the thought of leaving this beloved community behind. But as we say goodbye, I take comfort in knowing that the lessons learned and the memories made at Berrybrook will forever hold a special place in our hearts.

And to my fellow Berrybrook parents, thank you for sharing this journey with me. Your friendship, support, and camaraderie have made this experience all the more memorable.

With heartfelt thanks and best wishes,

Elle D'Ambruoso

Berrybrook Board of Directors

Berrybrook Parents' Association

Thank you all for your participation and enthusiastic support of the Berrybrook Parents Association this year! We were able to bring our Berrybrook family together for some new and fun events, as well as treasured traditions at the school. Whether it was attending a Family Fun Friday, the Harvest Festival, Moms Night Out, contributing to the holiday Giving Tree, children's enrichment program or the teacher lunch, each one of you helped to weave a strong social fabric here at Berrybrook. You are the glue which holds our community together and we can't thank you enough!

A big THANK YOU to all the parent volunteers, classroom parents, Mrs. Watts, Mrs. Piccuito, and Family Fun Friday coordinator, Michelle Crowley.

Family Fun Fridays

Our first Family Fun Friday at DBMS was quite the success! Children learned about whales through hands-on activities and were able to explore a life-sized, inflatable North Atlantic Right Whale model, [Delilah](#).

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, May 31st. We will send out a detailed email this week for the event!

We wish you and your family a wonderful summer and look forward to seeing you around!

BPA Officers 2024-2025

Please remember that EVERY parent is a member of the parents' association. New faces bring new ideas, and your commitment can be as little or as much you'd like. If you are interested in a BPA officer role or becoming a classroom parent next year, please reach out to us, Mrs. Watts or Mrs. Piccuito.

All the Best,
Your BPA co-presidents,
Stephanie and Alex