

February 2025

February 17 - 21

Vacation week

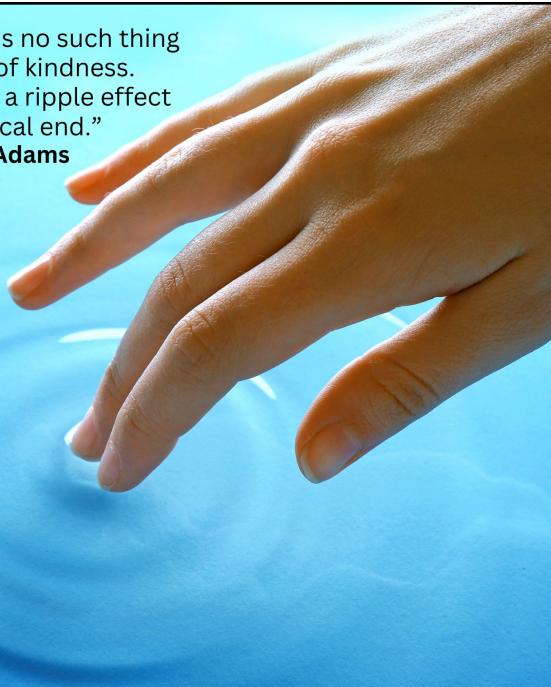


Notes from the Head of School

Love is patient and kind. (excerpt from 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a)

Love is Berrybrook. (Mrs. Watts's belief).

“Remember there's no such thing
as a small act of kindness.
Every act creates a ripple effect
with no logical end.”
— **Scott Adams**



Every day at Berrybrook you can find patience and kindness from adults, who are modeling these attributes for students in the hopes that they will in turn go on to model these traits for others. ‘Go forth and multiply’, for us, is our greatest hope that each and every experience will manifest in multiple positive ripples throughout so many. Our interactions today, will hopefully impact the future of so many children and families. Every day at Berrybrook is an expression of love to help make the world a better place, one interaction at a time.

~ Mrs Watts



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 will be cancelled.*****

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

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



2 and 3 Day Classes

***Duxbury Post Office Field Trip
56 Depot Street***

Remember to save the date and meet your teachers there at 9 a.m.

3 Day: *Wednesday, February 5*

2 Day: *Friday, February 7*

Teacher's Notes

The Impact of Music and Movement In Early Childhood

For the past year and a half while working at Berrybrook, many of my own early memories of school have been pushed to the forefront of my mind. While I have the privilege of teaching and learning from your children each day, I am reminded of so many things I loved myself as a child. Something that has stuck out the most has been the importance of integrating music and movement into each day.

There are countless times throughout the day we find ourselves singing or dancing. Teachers may sing to grab children's attention, gather as a group, or give next directions. Songs that seem simple become routine and an effective avenue to transition. Some of these songs are traditional, and have been sung by Berrybrook children and teachers for many years. We are also frequently finding ways for children to move or dance (especially so during these cold winter months when outdoor time is more limited).

It is evident that music is a universal language, and a powerful way to bring about a sense of community. Song and dance unite ALL people and is so much more than just a form of entertainment. During the first few years of life, music and dance impacts your children's cognitive, language, social emotional, and motor skills in such profound ways.

Cognitive Skills

There are SO MANY benefits that music has on your children's cognitive skills during these early, formative years. Songs and dances that include repetition or rhyme can help your children to anticipate patterns, improve their analytical skills as well as memory. These skills go on to lend themselves to subjects like mathematics and reading.

Language Skills

Songs are a great way to introduce new words and ideas. There are times where we might sing and a child asks "what does that word mean?". Music is a wonderful segue to present new vocabulary. Listening to music and singing also helps children pronounce words and differentiate between sounds.

Social-Emotional Skills

Song and dance can aid in your child's social-emotional development. Singing and dancing at school allows your children to express themselves in a safe, familiar environment. This can boost self-esteem and students' confidence. Using music is another one of many ways we help children to identify and manage emotions they may experience.

Motor Skills

Music and particularly dancing, is such an important part of developing young children's gross and fine motor skills. Dancing games can directly target students' coordination and rhythm. This goes for practicing with instruments as well. We are so fortunate to have many types of instruments here at Berrybrook. The 4/ 5 Day programs also focus on making their own musical instruments as creative projects several times throughout

the year. Songs and poems we sing during gathering times might include fingerplays, which allow your children to practice fine motor movements.

I love working with and learning from teachers here at Berrybrook for so many reasons, one of those being because they value music as a part of our curriculum. My hope is that this gives some insight into the importance of song and dance to your young children. There is nothing quite like being able to see students embrace singing and dancing and have fun with their classmates!

~ Miss Celino

Miss Celino teaches in the 2 Day, 3 Day, and 4 Day classes



The Berrybrook Summer Nature Program

***is offered during June and July three days a week
from 9:00 – 1:00.***

***Children must be 4 by September 1st,
(or a current Berrybrook Beginner!) to register.
We also welcome children up to their 7th birthday.***

***All current families will receive complete information about
the program and registration process during the week of
February 24, 2025.***

BERRYBROOK PARENTS ASSOCIATION NOTES

Hello Berrybrook Parents!

Spring is right around the corner and warmer weather will be here before we know it. We have officially kicked-off planning the Spring Fling and are excited about what's in store! As a reminder, the Spring Fling will be **Saturday, May 17th**. We rely on the BPA members to help make this a fun-filled event for the kids and their families. Please keep an eye out for the Sign Up Genius with volunteer opportunities in the next few weeks. We hope that you will consider volunteering for one of the openings!!

UPCOMING BPA DATES

- **February 7** - Family Fun Friday at Little Hands Craft Corner, 2:00 - 3:00 PM
- **May 17** - Spring Fling Family Event

Family Fun Fridays: The children had so much fun at Tumblefun last month enjoying the bounce house, trampolines, balance beams, and climbing structures!

We're excited for this month's Family Fun Friday at Little Hands Craft Corner in Hanover on February 7th! Whether taking care of puppies at their vet station, baking a fresh pie at their pizzeria, or prepping for space exploration at their dress-up corner, they have unique creative-play opportunities for every Little. Your child's ticket will also include the option to participate in a Valentine's Day craft! There are still a few spots open and you can register [here](#). Looking forward to seeing you all there!

Enrichment: The BPA is continuously working on enrichment opportunities for the students. The younger children were excited to start yoga with Miss Kim last month. She teaches various yoga poses, and all the ways that yoga is beneficial to their bodies. Along with yoga, the 4 and 5 Day classes also started a series of classes with Jesse, from the Jesse Stiglich Music School in Hanover. Jesse and the children explore tempos and beats and create music that gets everyone to tap their toes and dance

Apparel: If you haven't already, be sure to check out our Berrybrook apparel. We have toddler/kids sweatshirts, t-shirts/long sleeves, hats and fleece blankets available for purchase. All proceeds go towards enrichment program funding.

Other News: We are looking for a new-co-president! If interested in volunteering for this position, please email us at berrybrookparentsassociation@gmail.com for more information.

As always, thank you to those who have already paid their BPA dues! If you have yet to do so, it's not too late! We ask for a \$40 contribution per family, which goes directly toward student enrichment in and out of the classroom. A big thank you to our Berrybrook families for your continued support and participation.

Stephanie McGarry, Emma Kender, and Michelle Crowley
berrybrookparentsassociation@gmail.com

[CLICK HERE FOR A FULL CALENDAR OF BPA EVENTS](#)

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Valentine's Day Celebration

   
All of our classes will be celebrating Valentine's Day by delivering cards and enjoying a special Berrybrook snack.

We ask that the children bring a valentine for each classmate. Please remember, because we have children with food allergies, valentines should not include candy.

ALL CANDY SHOULD REMAIN AT HOME

From The Board of Directors

With the turn of our calendars to February, I am feeling optimistic for the month ahead. Valentine's Day has become a special holiday, to look forward to and prepare for, with our children. Their excitement around classroom exchanges and valentine deliveries is contagious. It's the little bit of anticipation and joy we need to get us through one of the most wintery months.

While reflecting on the month ahead, I realized that for the first time in many years I will not be hearing back on our Berrybrook enrollment for next year. It feels like something is missing! My middle daughter will be off to kindergarten, and my youngest will still be home with me. This will be the first time I haven't had a child attending Berrybrook since we moved to town almost 4 years ago.

With this feeling, I began to reflect on just how important Berrybrook has been in our lives these past years. Berrybrook has become our home away from home. My children have grown and played in its classrooms, hallways, and outdoor spaces. They entered unsure; and left confident and ready for their next chapters at elementary school.

Next year while I am in the "intermission" of our Berrybrook years I will most certainly feel as though something is missing. I will miss the drop-offs and pick-ups, seeing familiar faces, and the sense of connection it gives me. I am thankful that my youngest still has her Berrybrook days ahead.

So while I'll be missing Berrybrook next year, it also makes me feel grateful; grateful to have such a wonderful school for our children.

Meg Quinn
Berrybrook Board of Directors