

## December 2024

<b>Wednesday, December 18</b>	<b>3 Day Class Holiday Sing-Along</b>
<b>Thursday, December 19</b>	<b>4 Day Class Holiday Sing-Along</b>
<b>Friday, December 20</b>	<b>Beginners, 2 Day and 5 Day Holiday Sing-Alongs</b>
<b>December 23 - January 3</b>	<b>Holiday Break</b>
<b>Monday, January 6</b>	<b>2025-2026 Enrollment begins</b>



### Notes from the Head of School

The turkey and sides have been barely cleaned up and the focus is onto the next festivities ~ anyone else feel that stress? Considering that the December holiday color palates have been in full-effect since Halloween though, contributes to the stress starting earlier and earlier each and every year. And each year I swear to take a beat and enjoy the merriment of the holidays. In 100% honesty, that happens infrequently. The “have-to accomplish” list seems never ending, and then there’s the ever-looming “should” list. I end up beating myself up that I am not accomplishing what I feel must be done. Then January rolls around with its resolutions and yet again I feel like I’m behind what I should be doing.

Please join me in giving it the ol’ college try enjoying this month of merriment. Take time to look around and see the wonder in our children’s’ eyes and remember that half the time what we feel is a chore or burden is a highlight for children. I always joke that many people might not enjoy the chore of raking leaves; give a Berrybrook student one of our tiny rakes and they are in their glory!

It’s so trite, however the saying ‘the days are long but the years are short’ seems extremely apropos during December. With that in mind, enJ♥Y this time of year and remember to look at everything through the eyes of your child!

~ Mrs. Watts

## ***Teacher's Notes***

### **Learning Through the Holidays**

Every year I feel like the holidays begin earlier and earlier than the previous year. They creep in and as soon as I see, hear or feel the first sign of the season, I'm all in.

At Berrybrook, this time of year gives us so many wonderful opportunities to combine learning with all the fun the season brings...creativity, language & social skills, fine and gross motor skills, learning how different cultures celebrate and the gift of song to name a few. Here are some examples of how your children learn daily.

*How do children learn through making their holiday projects?*

They are learning multi-step processes through their project and crafting time. They engage in hands-on learning experiences that differ each day as they learn about different holidays. Cutting, gluing, tracing, painting and drawing all require hand-eye coordination and fine motor skills. They are strengthening the small muscles in their hands and fingers as they write out sing-along invitations and create holiday gifts for their families.

*How do children learn through singing holiday songs?*

When your child is learning, listening or singing a song, they are developing many areas of their language development. Listening to and singing songs help them with vocabulary building, hearing sentences and repeating patterns, rhyming, how to pronounce words, using their memory with learning new songs. We look forward to sharing our gift of song with all of you at our sing-alongs.

*How do children learn through reading and listening to holidays stories?*

Children enjoy us reading holiday themed books to them through the month of December. This sparks interest and questions about how families celebrate different holidays. The children hear new words and expand their vocabulary and comprehension skills. New concepts are talked about and they get excited to hear their favorites stories.

*How do children learn at gather time during the holidays?*

The children enjoy learning about each other's holiday traditions during our gather time. We ask them what traditions their families enjoy each year. This is a really neat way for each child to learn and understand that everyone celebrates in their own way. Some similar and some different, but they all celebrate. They ask questions and listen to all the great ideas given and may hear something that they want to start as a new tradition within their family.

*How do children learn in the housekeeping area during the holidays?*

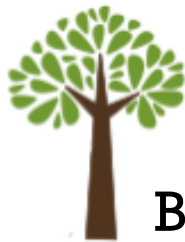
We fill our housekeeping area with many festive holiday themed items during December. The placemats, dishes, dress up, etc...all allow the children to get involved in planning and setting up for family to gather together. They enjoy setting up the table to fit more than their own immediate family and dressing up to host. They plan parties and hand out invitations for all to enjoy celebrating together. They are learning through their own traditions.

I hope these explanations brings you more understanding to what goes on within all of our classrooms at Berrybrook during the month of December. We enjoy teaching your children all the wonderful gifts the holidays give to us. Family, traditions, memories, celebrating what is important to us and the joy of being together with our loved ones.

Wishing you all a wonderful holiday season!

~ Mrs. Knight

*Mrs. Knight teaches in the 4 Day class*



## **BERRYBROOK ADMISSIONS OPEN HOUSE**

**Saturday, January 11th  
10:00 am - 12:00 pm**

**Spread the word!**

## ***Parent Association Notes***

### **Hello Berrybrook Parents!**

We hope all of you and your families had a happy Thanksgiving! We've been very thankful to our Berrybrook families for all of the continued support and participation over this past month. The students provided the Duxbury Senior Center with some beautiful placemats and cards to contribute to their Veterans Day and "Friendsgiving" celebrations. Shout out to Molly Buchanan for coordinating these special crafts.

As we kick off this busy time of year, there are a lot of activities and traditions planned at Berrybrook this month for everyone to look forward to.

### **UPCOMING BPA DATES**

- December 2 - Contributions due for staff holiday gifts
- December 6 - FFF @ Edaville, 4-9 pm
- December 16 - Please return ***unwrapped and labeled*** gifts for the Giving Tree

### **Holiday Giving Tree**

Join the BPA in helping make this holiday season an especially memorable one by sponsoring a child of the Plymouth Family Resource Center. A Giving Tree is set up inside the school entrance. Each ornament features a child's age and gender along with their wishlist. All gifts will be due, unwrapped and labeled, no later than December 16th.

### **Holiday Gifts**

As a reminder, the BPA co-presidents and classroom parents are collecting optional contributions for Berrybrook staff holiday gifts. If you would like to participate, we ask that you send all contributions by December 2nd so that the BPA elves have time to shop. If you have any questions, or do not know who your class parent is, please reach out!

### **Family Fun Fridays**

The children had a blast letting out their energy during our November Family Fun Friday at Strive! They offer 6 week Kids Sessions that run throughout the year. The class runs similar to how our event did. They run a dynamic warm up, show movements and do a quick work out, play games, and complete an obstacle course. The age range is 3 - 7 (3 & 4 year olds' caretakers must be present) and the class runs from 4:15 - 5 pm. Their goal is to encourage health and wellness in a fun and exciting way! First class is free if anyone is interested in coming to try before signing up!

We're excited for this month's Family Fun Friday at Edaville's Festival of Lights on December 6th! Please reach out to Michelle at [berrybrookparentsassociation@gmail.com](mailto:berrybrookparentsassociation@gmail.com) if you'd like to be added to the waitlist.

**Berrybrook Apparel:** Our new Berrybrook apparel is here just in time for the holidays! Apparel is available at the BPA table inside Berrybrook. Be sure to take a look during pick-up!

**BPA Dues:** Thank you to everyone who has already paid their annual dues. If you have not already done so, the suggested \$40 contribution goes directly to our student enrichment program.

Best Wishes and Happy Holidays!

Stephanie McGarry, Emma Kender, and Michelle Crowley  
[berrybrookparentsassociation@gmail.com](mailto:berrybrookparentsassociation@gmail.com)

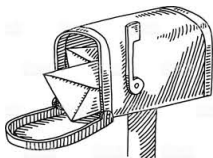
**[CLICK HERE FOR A FULL  
CALENDAR OF BPA EVENTS](#)**

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**It's that time already!!**

## **2025-2026 ENROLLMENT INFORMATION**

**will be mailed out at the end of December. Please be on the look out for Berrybrook mail and let the office know if there are younger siblings (who will be 3 by next December 1st) who need an additional application.**



## ***From The Board of Directors***

A few weeks ago, my five-year-old questioned why I had skipped Thanksgiving and only decorated for Christmas. Mind you, I only created a candy cane walkway up to our front door. (Full transparency, there's still cobweb remains on our front bushes from Halloween), but to him I was already in holiday "mode" and that didn't include an inflatable turkey for our front yard.

His question made me pause and think about why I tend to decorate "early" each year for the holidays. As I've gotten older and started my own family I've begun to view the holiday season as in fact, a season, and not one day or week or month. I assure you that I don't kickstart the holidays before Thanksgiving because I love the hustle & bustle of wrapping gifts, baking, or consciously avoiding bringing Elf on the Shelf into our home. While all those things do bring joy to my life (aside from the Elf) I find that I love this time of year due to the traditions our family has created.

Traditions can look different to every person and in our family, they range from a quick trip to Lowe's to see the holiday decorations or as our children call it, "Santa's Village" to Edaville's Festival of Lights. This year, I'm most excited to attend our three-year-old's holiday celebration at Berrybrook. I'm already picturing him walking into the Big Room with a sly grin on his face filled with excitement to sing songs with his Berrybrook friends and family.

The holiday season can bring out mixed emotions and memories for people and I urge you to have patience with all during this time of year. Most importantly, try to find peace in the little moments, embrace the crazy and don't be shy about singing along during your child's holiday celebration this year.

I wish you and your family a happy and healthy holiday season.

***Michelle Crowley***

***Berrybrook Board of Directors***





## **Colder weather is on its way...**

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 9am 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.*

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 into December. Once the snow flies, children should bring snow pants and snow boots. Children are welcome to change into 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.**