



May, 2011

**The Little Plant**

In the heart of a seed buried deep, so deep,  
A dear little plant lay fast asleep.  
“Wake!” said the sunshine, “And creep into the light.”  
“Wake!” said the voice of the raindrops bright.  
The little plant heard, and it rose to see,  
What the wonderful outside world might be.  
– Kate Louise Brown

*Tuesday, May 10*

*BPA Spring Fling 4 - 6:30 pm*

**Wednesday, May 18**

**Annual Trip to Duxbury Beach  
2 Day, 3 Day & 5 Day classes @ 9:00 am  
4 Day classes @ 1:00 pm**

**Tuesday, May 24**

**Kindergarten Bus Trip for 4 & 5 Day  
5 Day 9:30 (regular 9:00 arrival time )  
4 Day 12:30 (children arrive at 12:15 !)**

**Wednesday, May 25**

**Berrybrook Board meeting 7:30 pm**

**Wednesday, May 25**

**Ice Cream Party  
Last Day of School for 3 Day Classes**

**Thursday, May 26**

**Ice Cream Party  
Last Day of School for 4 Day Class**

**Friday, May 27**

**Ice Cream Party  
Last Day of School for 2 & 5 Day Classes**

**Wednesday, June 1**

**BPA Staff Appreciation Luncheon**

## Notes from the Headmaster

Back in May of 2000, I had my first visit to Berrybrook School. It was my job interview. I had seen an advertisement in the Boston Globe for a Director at a "Duxbury Preschool on 62 beautiful acres" and I was curious. I had worked in early childhood education on the South Shore for many years and had never heard of a preschool in Duxbury with that description. At the time, I had a perfectly nice position, but I sent my resume just to find out about this school. The evening before my interview, I took a ride to Duxbury to make sure I knew where the school was located and pulled into the parking lot at sunset. It was so quiet and beautiful and I thought, what a lovely place to come to work each day. The next evening, I reported for my interview with the search committee - *nine member* search committee - (Berrybrook Board members have always been very thorough and thoughtful decision makers !) I wasn't really nervous, because I really hadn't been looking for a new position, I was just curious about this interesting place. Upon arrival, I was asked to complete a writing sample, just a short piece that I might write for a school newsletter. On the table where I was seated, was a basket and in the basket were some books. They were hand made books with photographs of children in them. The books were simple and beautiful, the pictures worth 10,000 words. Those books inspired my writing assignment. They were genuine Berrybrook Memory Books and after looking at them, I knew I really wanted this job! The search committee members were all very nice, and totally committed to the vision of Katharine Mann, the school's founder. They wanted to know how I would ensure a quality early childhood experience for Berrybrook families. I was asked back for a second interview to meet with Berrybrook teachers. Happily, the search committee decided I was a good match and I was offered the position. It seems like it was just yesterday.

By now, all of you have heard about our Memory Books. They have been a long tradition at Berrybrook. It is impossible to capture every moment of the school year, but the books provide us with an opportunity to look upon each of our 104 children and to reflect on how unique and wonderful each one is. Each book will be different and each will tell a unique story of a child's Berrybrook experience. Every year, as I see the books being assembled they remind me of my first visit to Berrybrook and why I wanted to become part of this special place. Thank you for making memories with us this year.

- Pat Keeley

### *These are the Years*

*These are the years, the  
gentle years, the soft and  
sentimental years*

*when wee little fingers  
reach and touch  
and little eyes gaze  
with wonder and trust,  
when you love so  
tenderly  
and so so much,  
these are the gentle  
years.*

*These are the years, the  
rainbow years, the quiet,  
walk-on-tiptoes years,*

*the years of laughter  
and smiles and sighs  
when both of you  
watch with misty eyes  
the tiny bed  
where a cherub lies,  
these are the rainbow  
years.*

*These are the years, the  
tender years, the blissful,  
sweet-surrender years,*

*when your little  
treasure from above  
is the soul and purpose  
and center of  
your plans and dreams  
and dearest love,  
these are the tender  
years.*

- Barbara Burrow

## First Year Program News

During April, children were busy enjoying the spring. We watched and learned about plants and learned about some springtime animals. Children learned some springtime songs and crafted forsythias and pussy willows. Some classes even enjoyed making mud in the water table.

All classes enjoyed a favorite Berrybrook tradition—making beautiful painted eggs and enjoying an egg hunt at school. Thank you, parents, for sending in the blown eggs we know they are a lot of work!

May brings us almost full circle. Classes will explore insects, frogs and turtles. We will touch upon their life cycles and the transformations these creatures make in the spring. We will also be learning about the ocean and looking forward to our annual trip to Duxbury Beach. This trip is a Berrybrook tradition and the children enjoy going to the beach with their entire class. The trip for all classes will be on Wednesday, May 18, with a rain date of Thursday, May 19. All parents are invited to join us for a day at the beach with all their Berrybrook friends and teachers. Parents who are not able to make the trip are encouraged to make carpool arrangements for their children. Teachers will supervise children whose parents cannot attend. More details of this trip will be sent home soon.

The last weeks of school children will be making ice cream in preparation for ice cream day. Children and teachers will have an ice cream scoop countdown. Ice cream day has proven to be an age-appropriate and enjoyable way to say goodbye to good friends. On Wednesday, May 25 the 3 Day children will arrive at 9:00 as usual, and all parents are invited to return at 10:30 for ice cream. The 2 Day Class will have their ice cream day on Friday, May 27.

The 2 and 3 Day Classes will be taking time to remember all the activities we shared during the year. Didn't it go by quickly?

Thank you so much for all of your support this year.

Mrs. Capasso, Mrs. Delano, Mrs. Dunn  
Mrs. La Forest, Mrs. Piccuito, Mrs. Pisani

### Pussywillow



I know a little pussy  
Her coat is silver gray.  
She lives down in the meadow,  
Not very far away.

She'll always be a pussy,  
She'll never be a cat,  
For she's a pussy willow,  
What do you think of that!

Meow, meow ,meow, meow, meow  
Scat!

## Second Year Program News

Spring has certainly arrived and with the warmer weather we are enjoying more time outdoors. Second year students continue to study living things. Each class has a new raised bed on the playground we are hoping to plant seeds during our last weeks of school. May is also the time to remember mom, so mothers should look forward to something special!

May brings a close to your child's year at Berrybrook. For children, it brings mixed feelings – sadness at saying goodbye to friends, pride in their accomplishments, excitement about the summer and anticipation of new school experiences in the fall. At Berrybrook, teachers prepare children for this change. Children are encouraged to think about our remaining weeks so they may have time to request a favorite Berrybrook activity.

Three special Berrybrook activities take place in May. The first is our annual trip to Duxbury Beach. The trip has been happening at Berrybrook for many years and the children enjoy going to the beach with their entire class. The trip will be on Wednesday, May 18, with a rain date of Thursday, May 19. All parents are encouraged to attend. The 5 Day Class will meet at 9:00 am and the 4 Day Classes will meet at 1:00 pm. Any parents who may not be able to make the trip may make carpool arrangements for their children. Teachers will supervise children whose parents cannot attend. More details of this trip will be sent home soon.

On Tuesday, May 24, the Duxbury "Countdown to Kindergarten" group has arranged for the 4 & 5 Day children and their teachers to take a Bus Trip to the Chandler Elementary School in Duxbury.

The 5 Day morning class bus will leave at 9:30. Parents may drop off children to the classroom at the regular 9:00 start time, and are welcome to wait in the multi-purpose room or outside until 9:30 and then wave good-bye to the children as they leave on their exciting trip. The 4 Day Classes will start their trip at 12:30, so parents must arrive at Berrybrook at 12:15 on that day.

Although many Berrybrook students will be attending kindergarten in other towns in our community, we feel the trip is fun and very appropriate. The children will walk through a kindergarten classroom, peek at the bathrooms, and see the library, nurse's office, cafeteria and playground. The goal of this visit is to help children anticipate Kindergarten positively by providing children a glimpse of a kindergarten setting. Parents can expect permission slips to be sent home soon.

A very special Berrybrook tradition is the Ice Cream Day. During the last weeks of school, children make home made vanilla ice cream to share with families on their last day of school. Through the years it has proven to be an enjoyable "Berrybrook" way to say goodbye to good friends. On Thursday, May 26 the 4 Day children will arrive at 1:00 as usual, and all parents are invited to return at 2:30 for ice cream. On Friday, May 27, 5 Day children will arrive as usual at 9:00. At 10:30, all parents are invited to join us.



Thank you for sharing your child with us. We learn from them as they help us become better teachers.

Miss Bent, Mrs. Caddle, Mrs. Fosdick, Mrs. LaForest, Mrs. O'Neil, Mrs. Neal, Mrs. Rosen and Mrs. Swan

## The Little Things

It is the little things that count  
And give a mother pleasure -  
The things her children bring to her  
Which they so richly treasure...  
The picture that is smudged a bit  
With tiny fingerprints,  
The colored rock, the lightning bugs,  
The sticky peppermints;  
The ragged, bright bouquet of flowers  
A child brings, roots and all -  
These things delight a mother's heart  
Although they seem quite small.  
A mother can see beauty  
In the very smallest thing  
For there's a little bit of heaven  
In a small child's offering.  
- Katherine Nelson Davis

Happy Mother's Day!



## Berrybrook Outdoors

The warm weather is here and with it comes lots of outdoor time. Please apply sun block to your children before they come to school. Teachers will apply insect repellent to children before they go out to the playground. If you happen to be staying to play for a longer period, please remember that there is repellent available in the school if you want to reapply.

Also, please plan on sending children to school in closed-toe shoes - sneakers are a good choice. This allows children to run and climb safely and keeps sand and wood chips away from little feet.  
Thank you!



## Lunch Bunch

The last day for Lunch Bunch will be Thursday, May 26.

Thank you to all of the families who participated in our Lunch Bunch program. Mrs. Delano, Mrs. Capasso and Mrs. Neal enjoyed having a casual lunch with the children on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Thank you so much to all parents who were so careful to pack allergy safe lunches for their children. We appreciate our families who take the extra time to make sure all Berrybrook children are safe.



**Summer Enrichment**  
The Berrybrook Summer Nature Program  
will be offered again this year during  
June and July,  
on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays  
from 9:00 – 1:00.

There are still openings in the following  
weeks -

Week 5	July 12, 13, 14
Week 6	July 19, 20, 21

Berrybrook Parents' Association

Wow, the school year has flown by. I cannot believe we are already into May! There are a few more BPA activities scheduled for the end of the year.

The BPA is gearing up for our **Spring Fling May 10 4-6:30 pm**. We are planning a barbeque for the last BPA family get together of the year. We hope all families can attend. There is no charge for this event. If you would like to volunteer, please check the BPA table for some short but rewarding time slots.

May 2-6 is National Teacher Appreciation week. Tuesday May 3 the BPA is showing their appreciation to the teachers for all their hard work and dedication to our children. The BPA will be supplying a catered lunch for the teachers.

Share your Garden: The week of May 9-13, bring in your bulbs, flowers, vegetables, and plants that you would like to swap or share with other Berrybrook gardeners. Label your flowers with as much detail as you can. There will be a little exchange area on the left of the entrance to the main gate that you can share your extra flowers with.

June 1 is the Year End Staff Luncheon- (after the children are out of school). Every year, parents prepare luncheon items for all the staff at Berrybrook and drop off the items at school. A sign-up sheet for parents who would like to donate food will be posted by May 15 on the BPA wall and a reminder e-mail will be sent out. Please sign up to make something special for the staff at Berrybrook.

I just want to say thank you to all the parents and teachers who supported the BPA all through the year. Thank you to all of the families who donated their dues, to all of the Harvest Festival volunteers, to the classroom parents and to BPA officers -

Heather Canty and Pam Campbell. Thank you to Martha Dennison for coordinating all of the wonderful enrichment programs for the children, and thank you to Stacy Watts for serving as BPA Treasurer. It was a great experience for me and I truly encourage all parents to volunteer in the classroom or with the BPA when they can. Have a great end of school and a wonderful summer.

Mimi Gallagher, BPA President

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*Please Welcome Luca Rose to the Berrybrook Community!*

*Luca is the new brother of Hutchison in our 4 Day Room 2 Class.*

*Congratulations to the Rose family!*

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Tuition

Because of our 2010-2011 tuition payment schedule, families should have completed all 9 tuition payments in April. There is no tuition payment due in May.

Thank you!

*Spring Fling*

*May 10!*



Berrybrook School has had many exceptional teachers since Mrs. Mann Founded the school in 1954. Sandra D'Angona taught in our 5 Day Class from 2002 until 2005 when her family re-located out of state. Last week, we learned that Mrs. D'Angona passed away in Connecticut on April 18. Sandy was a well loved teacher with a warm, nurturing and joyful manner. She especially enjoyed cooking projects with her students and had gift for bringing stories to life when she read to the children.

#### Special Teacher

Thank you special teacher  
For helping me to know  
The things I need to learn  
To live my life and grow.  
I feel good with you because  
Your teaching makes me see,  
If I work at it, I can do it.  
Thanks for showing me!

*By Joanna Fuchs*

### Board of Directors Strategic Planning Update

The Strategic Planning Committee continues to meet regularly; we met twice in April, and we are making considerable progress toward our end goal of a Strategic Plan document.

After weeks of data collection, we have arrived at the strategic phase of analysis. We have completed worksheets on several topics. We have compared Berrybrook to other preschools, we have researched current programs in our region, and we have reviewed census statistics of our local towns; these are just a few examples of the early work we have done to prepare for next steps.

We have divided our work into three categories: Policies, Programming, and Buildings & Property. We have determined that a review of the policies of the School are a tactical – not strategic – initiative, and therefore require a worklist and not an analysis. The programming and the property, however, are strategic, and this past month we have begun the process of SWOT analysis. SWOT is an acronym for Strengths and Weaknesses, and Opportunities and Threats. From the current pre-school education philosophy to the desire to control growth, we acknowledge our strengths and weaknesses. From the current economy to the sustainability of new programs, we acknowledge the opportunities and threats ahead of us. This has been a learning experience for many of us on the committee, and we very much appreciate the expertise of our consultant, Teresa Goode, EdD.

It is important to note that a consistent Strength identified in this process has been the support of the Berrybrook community. From the beginning of this project, the committee set communication to the Berrybrook community as a key success factor. We thank you for your participation in our programming survey, your support and your involvement and feedback. We hope that these monthly updates are informative and make you feel included. Please be looking for upcoming opportunities to be involved in this important process, and please know that you can always reach us with questions and comments at [mlongsjo@comcast.net](mailto:mlongsjo@comcast.net).

Thank you,  
Mark Longsjo, Board President

## Berrybrook Beyond the Gate

Katherine Shepler, Berrybrook Board Member

*“What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others.” - Pericles*

It's always exciting when the weather begins to change from the seemingly never-ending winter to the warmer, gentler climate of spring. The New England change of season is evident all around us. Trees and flowers are blooming, the days are longer and the field that is the backdrop for Berrybrook is simply splendid to take in. On a sunny day, you can almost taste its beauty. Of course, the changes our children have undergone throughout the school year are obvious too. The friendships they have forged, their confidence with their surroundings and purpose, their mastery of classroom routine and pace, their success on the monkey bars and swings— all exciting indicators of their development to name just a few. Parents and teachers are not immune. We learn valuable lessons and develop lasting friendships alongside the students. No, these changes are not specifically unique to Berrybrook. What is distinctive, however, is the shared moment and place that some of these defining 'firsts' took place.

Carl Jung, a prominent Swiss analytical psychologist of the early 1900s, coined the term archetypes. The theory behind Jung's archetypes suggests that human kind, as a whole, holds a few common underlying basic memories which serve as the foundation to build individual, more complex and unique experiences. In other words, Jung suggests that we share certain unified unconscious memories. I am struck by this theory as it relates to the Berrybrook experience. For many, the mere mention of Berrybrook evokes a clear feeling – a sense. Although each student, family member and teacher encounters his or her own Berrybrook experience from an individual perspective, there are qualities and traditions that feel very cooperative. Very, well, Berrybrook!

I think about all the things that have changed at Berrybrook over the last few years since my children started attending. The physical school building, the layout of the playground, teachers, students, and so on. Then I think about the things that are constants: the rocket ship that has fueled many an imagination, the ever familiar gate we pass through that folds us in to our shared Berrybrook experience and then leads us out again. There is also the incredibly sound Berrybrook philosophy and its connection with nature. These elements serve as the bedrock of Berrybrook, allowing for stability amidst circumstantial or physical changes.

At some point, we and our children will no longer share a daily relationship with Berrybrook. We will pass beyond the gates, spreading our wings out into the world ahead. But we will carry with us a bit of our Berrybrook roots. We will hold with us the Berrybrook spirit of curiosity, exploration, kindness and patience. This will not change. It may grow and bend as we and our children do. It's not something we can touch, but it something we can feel, express and apply throughout our lives. It is something we can rely on as life unfolds and changes around us. The Berrybrook spirit transcends buildings, calendar years and life's changing scenery. It will find us along our path and reminds us of the importance of providing strong beginnings. How and when it will come, we cannot determine. Wait for it, though. It will come, time and time



again. We will remember our collective memory of the foundation we built. We will feel the Berrybrook spirit. A joyful memory- filled -- collective and individual -- summer to each of you!

### Helen Wheeler Scholarship News

Every year, the Berrybrook Board of Directors conducts an Annual Appeal to raise money for the Helen Wheeler Scholarship Fund. Each May, current and alumni Berrybrook families receive a mailing asking for support. 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.

Before we reach out with our 2011 Annual Appeal this month, we wanted to acknowledge the generous donors to the 2010 Annual Appeal which raised over \$3,550.00 for the scholarship fund. 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.

The Board of Directors

#### 2010 Berrybrook Annual Appeal Donors

The Brown Family	
Mr. and Mrs. Frederic M. Clifford, Sr.	
The Cooney Family	Joanne LaForest
The Couto Family	The Longsjö Family
The Davenport Family	The MacCallum Family
Kristen Delano	The Mahmud Family
The DeOrsay Family	Bill and Kristen McArdle
The Diamond Family	Derek and Sherry Monroe
The Donnelly Family	Tom and Laurie Murray
Sean Driscoll	Carl O'Neil
Jennifer and Mark Fallon	Sharon and David Pisani
Karen Fenton	Jane Redman
Carol Gibbon	Christina Rouleau
The Gooding Family	The Rubin Family
Angélique and Robert Kania	Allyn and Pamela Ryalls
Pat and Jim Keeley	The Shepler Family
The Kent Family	Patrick and Molly Smith
The Kohler Family	The Stravin Family
	Keith and Stacy Watts
	The Zaniboni Family

## Parent Discussion Group News

The last Parent Discussion Group of the year was held on Tuesday evening, April 26th. This meeting, as with all the others, was looked forward to with anticipation. We kept track as the hands of the clock moved toward the appointed hour. We listened for the sound of the front door opening. Yes! We heard approaching footsteps in the hall... closer and closer...and then in the doorway appeared a parent... and soon after another parent and another and another. How happy we were!

The topic for the meeting was transitions. The discussion soon focused on children with food allergies transitioning from preschool to public kindergarten. It was suggested that a support group might be helpful. This group could work with the schools to:

1. educate the children about food allergies
2. Support schools with the latest information available regarding children's food allergies
3. Support parents who have children with food allergies
4. Reach out to parents of children who do not have food allergies.

If you are interested in becoming involved in a support group, please contact Michelle Kelly in the 4 Day Room 1 Class or Katie Szczesny in our 5 Day Room 2 Class.

### Attention Dads!

### We would like your help!!!

We would like to make the annual "Dad's Night Out" Parent Discussion Group meeting as convenient and accessible as possible for all Dads. In an effort to do this, a questionnaire has been prepared which will soon be coming home. If possible, please take a few minutes to fill it out and return it to school with your child. A blue basket in the entry way will be waiting for its return. Your input is valuable for future planning of "Dad's Night Out" meetings.

Thank you.

Looking forward to next years' Parent Discussion Group meetings.  
See you in the Fall!

Mrs. Delano, Mrs. LaForest & Mrs. O'Neil

## A Little Act of Kindness...

Recently my daughter, Kate, ran a book drive for the classroom she volunteers with through the JumpStart program at Bridgewater State University. Originally she thought it would be nice to increase the classroom library, which consisted of **5 books** for a class of 20 preschoolers. She hoped to collect enough books to send one home with each child. Mrs. Keeley kindly allowed her to place a donation box at Berrybrook. The results have been **AMAZING!** Berrybrook families have donated over **200 books!!**

Watching the children place their old books into the donation box has touched my heart. I have had the opportunity to talk with several of the children as they were donating. Some have told me they were giving their books to "other children" and some have looked tentative. I have explained to the children that their books will be given to children who have very few books and thanked them for their kindness. All of the children I have spoken with have broken into a big smile when they realize they are helping other children. Behind that smile I can see a sense of pride and accomplishment.

When you donate, to this cause or any other, goods or time, you are teaching your children to care about their community. You are teaching them to look out at the world around them. You are teaching them that we all connected. You are teaching them to show to show kindness and compassion toward others.

At this point Kate has enough books to send each "JumpStart child" home with a packet of **4 books!** She has a large box of books to create a classroom library. There were many toddler books which will be donated to the toddler classroom at the school.

Thank You to all our Berrybrook families! Your kindness will touch the lives of many children. We all have a favorite story from our childhood. Think how many "favorite stories" will be created from the books our Berrybrook families donated!

With Sincere Appreciation,

Mrs. Capasso    Teacher, 3 Day Room 1  
Kate Capasso    JumpStart Orange Team Leader

