

May 2016

Wednesday, May 4	“Transitions” discussion 7:00pm
Friday, May 6	Berrybrook Play Date/Open House!
Wednesday, May 18	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 !)
<i>Wednesday, May 18</i>	<i>BPA Spring Fling 4 - 6:00 pm</i>
Monday, May 30	Memorial Day No School
Wednesday, June 1	Ice Cream Party & Last day of school for 3 Day Classes
Thursday, June 2	Ice Cream Party & Last day of school for 4 Day Classes
Friday, June 3	Ice Cream Party & Last Day of School for 5 Day, 2 Day and Beginner Classes
Wednesday June 8	BPA Staff Appreciation Luncheon
Tuesday, June 14	Summer Program Begins



Thank you

Berrybrook teachers would like to thank parents for everything they do to support us during the school year. Thank you to the BPA and especially co-presidents Jill Cooney and Danielle MacKinnon for arranging September playdates, our wonderful Harvest Festival, and engaging enrichment programs for our children and families. We also appreciate the snacks classroom parents arrange for our after school meetings! Thank you to all parents for working with us to provide the best possible experience for the children. We are grateful for all of the smiles, nods, suggestions, and words of encouragement and appreciation that nourish us and make our work at Berrybrook so rewarding. Thank you for creating a true partnership between school and home.

Notes from the Head of School

I have really enjoyed putting together these pages every month for the past 16 years. Over that time, there have been some major events to write about in the Berrybrook Newsletter -

- 2000 - New Headmaster, Mrs. Keeley, Internet access and Voice Mail arrive at Berrybrook!
- 2002 - Very First Harvest Festival
- 2003 - Rocket ship rebuilt, NAEYC Accreditation
- 2003 - First 5 Year Strategic Plan complete
- 2004 - Berrybrook 50th Anniversary!
- 2007 - Berrybrook moves from farmhouse to temporary classrooms
- 2008 - Construction of new schoolhouse
- 2008 - Lucretia Prentiss Bailey Trust sells 27.23 of open field and 13.3 acres across the street to the Town of Duxbury for conservation
- 2008 - Berrybrook School moves into new school house
- 2010 - New Berrybrook Logo by Nancy Booth, Berrybrook parent
- 2010 - NAEYC 5 Year Accreditation
- 2012 - Berrybrook creates a Facebook page!
- 2012 - Second 5 Year Strategic Plan complete
- 2012 - Luther Sampson Workshop discovered
- 2013 - Beginners Class created at Berrybrook
- 2014 - Berrybrook 60th Anniversary!
- 2015 - NAEYC 5 Year Accreditation
- 2016 - Outdoor Classroom created
- 2016 - Stacy Watts appointed next Head of School!

Next fall, Stacy Watts, our New Head of School, will be welcoming over 80 families to our NAEYC accredited program in a sunlit schoolhouse with beautiful playgrounds and a brand new Outdoor Classroom. She will lead a group of hard working teachers with a combined 197 years of teaching *at Berrybrook* who believe that children are lovable and capable, and who believe that along with preparing children for kindergarten, their job is to prepare them for life.

In 60 years Berrybrook has achieved some some remarkable milestones, but of course, we know that it is our community that makes Berrybrook so special. What I consider Berrybrook's greatest achievement, is our ability to maintain the school's philosophy. Berrybrook is still what Mrs. Mann called a "family" school. We have an atmosphere and culture that preserves childhood, respects each child as an individual, and prioritizes relationships and healthy social and emotional development. Every year since 1954, families have experienced the beauty of the trees, and fields, and sky, that is Berrybrook and we all have that Berrybrook connection. There are thousands of us. I do not know if Mrs. Mann could have foreseen our numbers, but I am certain she had faith that there would always be people to take good care of Berrybrook and carry on her vision. Our last day of school is just around the corner, and for me it will be my last Ice-cream Day as Head of School. I look forward to enjoying every minute. I am forever grateful to be among the teachers, parents and children who have known and loved Berrybrook. Thank you for your support of our school and its philosophy. I am so happy all of you were here. I am going to miss this special place very much.

Mrs. Keeley

"If you want to feel rich, just count all the things you have that money can't buy."

I Scream, You Scream, We All Scream For Ice Cream!

Joanne LaForest

It's May! Ice Cream Day is upon us at the end of the month on the last day of school. First of all...yum!! Secondly, what a way for families to celebrate a full year at Berrybrook! At first glance, the simplicity of a vanilla ice cream cone may not be the most appropriate representation of all that is involved in a year at Berrybrook. However, upon taking a closer look, one might notice it is just that simplicity that best represents it after all. Simplicity doesn't necessarily mean easy. Something that is simple can be magical, clear and easily understood and truly seen *because* of its simplistic nature.

A vanilla ice cream cone is simplistic in its ingredients:

*a cone

*a scoop of vanilla ice cream

(vanilla - not a fancy flavor, not a mix of flavors, and with no extra things mixed in, like gummy worms or chocolate chips)

A vanilla ice cream cone is simplistic in the way it is enjoyed:

*scoop

*hold

*eat

Berrybrook is simplistic in its "ingredients":

*respect and validation = "the cone"

*emotional and academic learning = "the ice cream"

Berrybrook is simplistic in the way it is enjoyed:

*respect each other's ideas and opinions

*validate the feelings and perspectives of others

*embrace a love for learning

In the same way we hold an ice cream cone, we hold onto the importance of respect and validation for one another. An ice cream cone is strong to withstand the tasting and melting of the ice cream. This is also true of the strength of respect and validation at Berrybrook. It holds all of the emotional and academic learning, the practice of problem solving, the building of friendships, the understanding of numbers and letters, the remembering words to a song or story and the awareness and appreciation of the world around us.

"What? No sprinkles on the ice cream cones on Ice Cream Day?" you ask? There is no need! Toppings, like "the icing on the cake" are just that – the extras, the visual celebration of something already great. The smiles, the laughs, the joy on Ice Cream Day among all the families will be the sprinkles!

Simple? Yes! Delicious? You bet!
How delicious the year has been, thanks to all of you!
Happy Summer!

Beginners



The month of April was busy in the beginners classroom. We had fun playing with turtles and frogs in the water table, and catching flies at circle time. We learned a new song about five speckled frogs, and had musical parades. The children continued to explore the “big” playground, and are learning that some equipment, such as the parallel bars, are things that they will be able to try and master as they continue to grow. We also enjoyed watching the all the trucks and equipment working on the Outdoor Classroom through our classroom windows.

Coming up in the month of May, we will be exploring topics such as barn animals, insects, and the ocean. We will take advantage of the (hopefully) beautiful weather and spend more of our mornings outdoors, exploring nature and doing activities such as blowing bubbles.

It is hard to believe that we are moving into May, and wrapping up the school year! Often at this point in the year, the teachers take a moment to reflect back over the past year. We are always so amazed at how fast the time goes! These children entered the classroom back in September, all a little hesitant of what Berrybrook, and school, was all about. Over the past months they have all learned so many things; safe walking feet inside, waiting for a turn, playing with friends at school is fun!!! They have been so busy learning the building blocks for the next year of their journey. We will miss them, but look forward to seeing them moving on to new adventures in the fall.

Please join us for our traditional Ice Cream Day on the last day of school. We would like you there as we celebrate a wonderful school year with the children! It is on Friday, June 3rd

. Children arrive at 9:00 as usual, and families may return at 10:30 to enjoy ice cream made by the children. See you then!

Mrs. Piccuito, Mrs. Rosen, Mrs. Fosdick and Mrs. LaForest

First Year Program News

Now that April vacation has come and gone, the weeks will seem to fly by. It's truly amazing to see how much each child has grown. We are all enjoying playing in the fresh air and rediscovering our playgrounds! The children have grown and developed many new skills over the winter. It has been so joyful to watch as they pump themselves higher on the swings, steadily balance on the balance beam, or climb over the anthill with ease.

Last week, the children enjoyed a visit from Soule Homestead and the very patient animals Miss Bert and Miss Laurie brought. The bunny (Bella) and chicken (Henny Penny) were a big hit and most of the children wanted to hold and pat them. They also learned about the sheep on their farm and the wool they produce. Thank you so much to the Berrybrook Parents Association for arranging the visit.

This is such a busy time for our first year students! During May, the children will examine caterpillars and learn about their life cycle. Caterpillars are on their way, and soon we will be able to observe up close the metamorphosis take place. All the children at Berrybrook have been

Second Year Program News

able to watch frog eggs hatch and turn into tadpoles. It will be exciting to see the transformation as they develop into frogs over the next few weeks.

As the month comes to a close, we will be wrapping up our First Year together by making Berrybrook's famous hand cranked ice-cream. Ice cream Day is a celebration of all our time together and sharing this yummy treat with the children and their families!!!

Wednesday, June 1, 2016

3 Day Room 1 & 3 Day Room 3

Children arrive at 9am for a typical day.

Families return at 10:30 am for ice cream!

Friday, June 3, 2016

2 Day Room 1

Children arrive at 9am for a typical day.

Families return at 10:30 am for ice cream!

We look forward to enjoying these final days of school with your children. We cherish the time together and thank you for a wonderful school year!

Mrs. Barlow, Mrs. Capasso, Mrs. Delano,
Mrs. Dunn, Mrs. McDonough and
Mrs. Savoy

Three Little Polliwogs

*Three little polliwogs swimming in a pail,
Every single one of them had a funny tail.*

*Every little polliwog
grew and grew and grew,
Out came the first leg, then came two!*

*Three little polliwogs left their shiny pail,
Out came the front legs, off came the tail.*

*Three little polliwogs paddled by a log,
Each took a deep breath
and turned into a frog!*

It's been said that the end of the school year is bittersweet – we will be saying goodbye to what we've known and learned all year and saying hello to what's to come in the school year ahead. Endings of one thing involve beginnings to another and children and adults alike respond differently to each. Therefore, all second year classes will be involved in conversations and discussions about children's feelings, singing songs we've sung together throughout the year, and perhaps reading once again stories read and revisiting favorite activities.

It often helps when discussing transitions with your child to talk about what's to come so children know what to expect, but in a way they can understand and with a certain amount of information needed along the way. To explain about the coming months of summer and that a new school experience will start in the fall helps children to understand that this experience, whether seen as an adventure, an opportunity, or met with some hesitation, will be explored after the summer time. Later in the summer would be a more appropriate time to discuss detailed information about the fall. This allows your child, and your family, to enjoy being in the moment.

During this month of May, all classes will be exploring the outdoors more frequently. We will enjoy planting seeds and observing the transition from seed to flower or grass. We will also learn about the transition from caterpillar to butterfly as we observe this metamorphosis among the caterpillars in our classrooms. There is a story that tells of a boy who, watching a butterfly – as it appears to him, “struggle” out of its cocoon- decides to help it by opening the cocoon himself. The butterfly was then unable to fly because it did not have the right amount of time in the cocoon to strengthen its

wings. The same is true for children. Let's let them be in the moment, for when it is the right time they will then fly onto their new adventure.

On Wednesday, May 18 the 4 & 5 Day children and their teachers will 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 the children off in their classroom at the regular 9:00 start time, and are welcome to wait in the multi-purpose room or outside until 9:30. **The 4 Day students 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 to Chandler School is fun and very appropriate. The goal of this visit is to help children anticipate kindergarten positively by providing them a glimpse of a kindergarten setting. Permission slips will be available soon.

We look forward to seeing all families, on ice cream day, our last day of school:

5 Day Morning Class - Friday, June 3rd
Children arrive as usual at 9 am.
Families return at 10:30 for ice cream!

4 Day Classes - Thursday, June 2nd
Children arrive as usual at 1pm.
Families return at 2:30 for ice cream!

Thank you so much for all of your support and kinds words this year and for sharing your children with us. We have enjoyed our time with them very much.

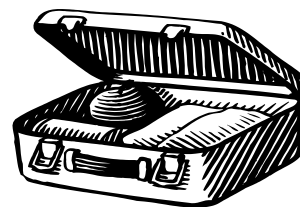
Mrs. Caddle, Mrs. Fosdick,
Mrs. LaForest, Miss McNulty, Mrs. Neal,
Mrs. O'Neil, Mrs. Piccuito, Mrs. Rosen
and Mrs. Richardson



Berrybrook Vanilla Ice Cream

5 cups heavy cream
5 cups whole milk
2 cups sugar
2 Tbs. vanilla
 $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. salt

Mix all ingredients, place in ice cream maker, and crank until it's thick and creamy!



Lunch Bunch

The last day for Lunch Bunch will be Thursday, June 2. Thank you to all of the families who participated in our Lunch Bunch program. Mrs. Capasso, Mrs. Neal and Mrs. Savoy want to thank 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.



Blessings and Celebrations

April 9 was a beautiful day and not just for the sunny skies when rain showers were once predicted. The team put together in support of our Joanne LaForest, Be A Blessing, had a fantastic showing at The Race for the Cure®. The largest team in number (over 150 participants!) and the highest raiser of funds (almost \$12,000 - more than TWICE our goal of \$5,000!!), the pink "We love JoJo" shirts were quite a presence.

This was my first time participating in a Komen event, and I wasn't sure what the mood would be. I had wondered if it would be somber in memory of those lost to breast cancer. Instead, the mood was festive and supportive of all the survivors. Many wore their bright pink cards pinned to their shirts on the "In Memory of....." side. Our family and teammates were happy to write "JoJo" on the "In CELEBRATION of....." side. While that day was so important, in reality we've been celebrating Joanne since the beginning of her journey. Each and every person who stopped in the office to ask about her treatments was a celebration of her progress, even if at times they seemed like baby steps. Every card or drawing that was left in the blue mailbox was a celebration of the thoughtful person she is; the return correspondence that arrived in children's cubbies was always a nice surprise! Each meal offered to be cooked was a celebration that Joanne had her nurturing family to share the meal with and support her. Each time my two year old, Maya, asks to wear her "JoJo shirt" (which seems to be every three days!) it is a celebration of the special relationship she has with Joanne, plain and simple.

My oldest son, Brady, has decided that next year he wants to run the race as a family. Jameson, my middle child, is not so sure about the running part but he knows he wants to participate again. On April 8, 2017 we will celebrate once again in support of Joanne and countless others who are battling cancer and who are survivors. Thank you for everyone's support!

Welcome

**Congratulations to Hazel Clark!
(3 Day - Room 1)**

Hazel and her family welcomed a new baby boy, Everett.

**Congratulations to Adeline Sabados!
(4 Day - Room 2)
and her family on their new baby brother, Harvey**

**Congratulations to Jax Callahan!
(3 Day - Room 1) and his family on the arrival of little sister, Jocelyn.**

**Congratulation to Sam Johnson!
(3 Day -Room 3)
and his family on their new brother, Liam**



"Babies are such a nice way to start people."

Berrybrook Parents Association

It is hard to imagine this is the BPA's final newsletter for the school year! What an amazing year it has been and it is all thanks to our wonderful Berrybrook community. Thank you to all who have participated and supported the BPA this year. We really could not do it all without your help.

Enrichment

Our enrichment activities are winding down for the year as the end of school nears. Miss Kim will return one last time this month for yoga (which continues to be an all-time favorite activity for the kids).

Family Fun Friday

Please join us for the last Family Fun Friday of the year on Friday, May 13th. The outing will be an ice cream sundae cruise around Plymouth Harbor with Plymouth Cruises. The children will get a boat ride, some stories, games and dancing, and a make-your-own sundae treat. The cost of this trip is \$13 per person. The cruise will be at 1PM on Friday May 13, but please plan to arrive at 12:30. As this is a boat excursion, all persons in your party (babies, adults, and preschoolers) will count toward the head count for the outing and be charged the full amount. Maximum passenger capacity for the boat is 50. The sign-up sheet is already on the BPA table and the cruise is filling up fast so be sure to stop by and sign up if you haven't already!

In addition, Mix It Up Kitchen has offered Berrybrook children another wonderful cooking class (Pizza & Cannoli) at a discounted rate of \$20/child. We are currently working on rescheduling this class as the original date of 5/13 conflicts with the Sundae Cruise. We will send out additional information with the new date once it has been finalized.

BPA Spring Fling 2016

All families are invited to the Spring Fling on Wednesday, May 18th (rain date May 19th) from 4-6pm for pizza, a treat for the kids and some playground fun. The spring fling is an annual event that allows us to celebrate the end of the Berrybrook school year together. Be on the lookout for an evite coming very soon for this event!

BPA Playdate for 2016/2017 students

Stay tuned for information about a BPA sponsored playdate on the Berrybrook playground in June (date TBD) for all students currently enrolled (new and recurring) for the 2016/2017 school year.

The BPA Facebook Page

The Berrybrook Parents Association Facebook group page is now up and running! The BPA Facebook page is a closed group so only members that are added can see what is posted. During the process of creating the BPA page, we thought long and hard about the appropriate privacy settings for the group. After much consideration, we have decided for the safety and security of the students that only parents and guardians of current students will be approved on the page. Please feel free to share any information we post with caregivers. As this is our first attempt at a social media

page, we welcome feedback and will make necessary changes as we utilize the group page more consistently. As always, we will continue to distribute information via the BPA email. Thank you for your understanding as we try this new platform.

BPA Officers 2015-2016

We are thrilled to welcome some new BPA officers for the 2016-2017 school year! We can always use additional members so if you are interested please message us. Your commitment can be as little or as much as you like. New faces bring new fresh ideas and definitely, the more, the merrier!

We would like to give another HUGE thank you to Sabrina Kaplan and Jen Cross for organizing all of the amazing family fun Friday programs for the children and Berrybrook families.

Have a great end of school and a safe and wonderful summer!

If you have any questions, concerns or feedback email us at berrybrookparentsassociation@gmail.com

Thank you!
Jill Cooney & Danielle MacKinnon

Berrybrook Board of Directors

Is Mother's Day A Hallmark Holiday?

Is Mother's Day a Hallmark holiday? That's what my mother called it when we were children. She'd receive cards from all 4 of us, and then go about her business of cleaning up again.

We knew she was thankful, but giving a Mother's Day card was an act of duty, not a natural showing of love. Instead my Mom appreciated acts of love in other ways on different days; a surprise clean-up of the kitchen or a love poem left under her pillow before bedtime.

Today in this busy world of ours, we have many instances of multiple mother figures in our lives. These additional mothers including good friends, nannies, other family members, babysitters, and teachers are stepping in to help out. How lucky are our children to have more than one mother? They are benefiting from additional trusted channels of motherly love,

So yes, let's celebrate Mother's Day with a Hallmark card or however else you'd like to commemorate, but if you've haven't already done so, surprise the other mothers in your household on an 'off day' with a special thank you.

Luci Scott, Berrybrook Board of Directors

**Berrybrook 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. 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 2016 Annual Appeal this month, we wanted to acknowledge the generous donors to the 2015 Annual Appeal which raised over \$3,455.00 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.

2015 Berrybrook Annual Appeal Donors

The Brown Family
Kevin and Sally Caddle
Lois Caddle
The Cooney Family
Thomas and Shelby Czarnota
Larry and Cindy Dunn
Michael O'Keefe and Rachel Ezell
The Frazier Family
Mary Anne Ghantous
Skip and Margie Gray
Joe and Sherri Hussar
Pat and Jim Keeley
Kelly Family Foundation
Joanne LaForest
Lexis Nexus Company Gift
Thomas and Natalia Livelli
Ayaz and Lori Mahmud
Jesse and Karoline Martin
The Murray Family
The Najarian Family
Andrew and Melissa Rees
The Sanmarco Family
Keith and Stacy Watts

Wonderful New School

Education Extended Now To Four and Five-Yr.-Olds

By CRAIG FLEMING

DUXBURY—Thirty-two South Shore children will enter Duxbury's Berrybrook School next month with one hand clutching mommy and the other a blanket.

So begins an "exciting adventure in education" for the four and five-year-olds venturing into the strange and wonderful world of nursery school and kindergarten.

Berrybrook is an endowed, non-profit school operated by Mrs. Richard D. Mann and directed by Miss Helen M. Wheeler, both of Duxbury.

Both are graduates of what once was known as the Nursery Training School of Boston and now as the Elliot-Pearson School, a Tufts University affiliate.

'Can Be Brutal'

Miss Wheeler is also a former public school teacher and director of Boston's South End Day Nursery.

Both will readily admit that not every child should have schooling before the first grade or that lack of kindergarten experience need be a major handicap in the years of formal education.

"But," Miss Wheeler added quickly, "the evidence is that nursery and kindergarten training do help, not only in the first grade, but all the way through."

"For the child leaving the shelter of home for the first time, first grade can be a brutal experience." One reason is the "appalling schedules of many first grade teachers."

The Berrybrook teachers are aware that nursery school can be a brutal experience and take every precaution to insure that the child has no unhappy associations during the first crucial days.

Mothers Go, Too

A mother is expected to remain with her child until the youngster himself indicates he no longer needs her loving presence. Some get waved off almost at the door. Occasionally a mother

will attend school for a week or two before the youngster emerges from his cocoon and enters into group activities.

One of the "great thrills" of Miss Wheeler's previous teaching career came from a five-year-old who one day suddenly took over the leadership of his playmates after standing quietly on the sidelines for a year and a half.

There is a consistent rhythm to the day's program at Berrybrook, periods of rumpus activity alternating with periods of calmness—including a rest time with the precious blanket from home. But there are no "subjects" to be taught.

If a child happens to learn the important and difficult skill of tying shoelaces, all to the good, but such an achievement is a mere side product.

Group Feeling

One of the biggest problems facing the youngster is in learning that the school's toys don't belong to him but to the group, the teacher said. Often a youngster will sneak one of the toys home.

"But to crack down on him for such a little thing could scar the child mortally," Mrs. Mann said. The school asks only that he return the toy and request permission the next time.

By the age of four, children need the company of other children the same age, Miss Wheeler said.

"The biggest thing they learn here is how to get along, not only with other youngsters, but with adults other than their parents."

Constant Adventure

If this experience is good and happy they can accept additional new experiences more easily.

New experiences lie in every corner and cubbyhole of the eight-room school, a former farmhouse



Announcing The Opening Of BERRYBROOK SCHOOL

RFD Winter Street, Duxbury
For Children of Nursery School Age
Hours 9 to 12 Monday thru Friday

For Further Information
Call Miss Helen N. Wheeler (Kingston 2426)
or Mrs. Richard D. Mann (Kingston 2081)

on 50 acres west of Route 3.

"Everything should be first-hand," said Mrs. Mann, and a pair of wet mittens drying on a radiator can provide a fascinating first-hand experimental science.

"We try to follow through," she continued. "A fire in a boy's home upset him and other members of his class. We all went to the house after the debris had been cleaned up and we returned for another visit when the carpenters had repaired the damage."

"Things happen to us, yet. But there is something we can do about it."

Interest Is Key

The teachers are convinced that parents are "drawing their children out more."

One result is the addition of a book about Sputniks to the library of Mother Goose.

But bright children always have asked questions such as "what happens to the sun at night?"

A grapefruit and a flashlight were the props used to satisfy one kindergarten at Berrybrook.

"What the children learn," said Mrs. Mann, "they learn because they are interested. And the residue at the end of the year should be the finest kind of teaching because nothing is imposed on them."

Thank you to all 2015-2016 families for being part of our
"Wonderful New School"