

BERRYBROOK NEWS

May, 2007

May 2 & 3	School Pictures
May 9 & 10	N E Aquarium visits Berrybrook
Wednesday, May 16	Spring Fling sponsored by the BPA !
Tuesday, May 15 (Rain date - Fri, May 18)	Annual Trip to Duxbury Beach 2 Day, 3 Day & 5 Day classes @ 9:00 am 4 Day & 5 Day pm classes @1:00 pm
Tuesday, May 22	Kindergarten Trip 4 & 5 Day pm, <u>12:30*</u> *Children must arrive early!
Wednesday, May 23	Kindergarten Trip 5 Day am, 9:00 am
Wednesday, May 23	Berrybrook Board meeting 7:00 pm
Monday, May 28	Memorial Day, No School
Wednesday, May 30	Ice Cream Party <u>Last Day of School for 3 Day Class</u>
Friday, June 1	Ice Cream Party <u>Last Day of School</u>
Wednesday, June 6	Staff Appreciation - sponsored by BPA
Wednesday, June 6 Thursday, June 7	Visiting Day for Fall Classes Visiting Day for Fall Classes

More details for all of these events may be found on the following pages and will be appearing in your child's cubby over the next few weeks.

Notes from the Headmaster

The September to June whirlwind has never passed so quickly for me as it has this year at Berrybrook. It has gone by so fast, I have not been able to savor the countless wonderful moments that have happened this year. I barely got to marvel over the jelly making in the fall before the children celebrated spring with maple syrup! I haven't had enough time to tell our teachers how dedicated and wonderful and generous they are. They make the Berrybrook experience so special for the children. I have learned something new and important about working with children from each of our teachers and I appreciate their support of our school and the support they show me personally.

It is May already and I must remember to thank the children for being open and curious and enthusiastic. They greet every experience with such honesty and energy. I feel honored to be able to observe the astounding growth and development of our students. I learn something new from a child every single day. I thank all of our parents for sharing their children with us, and for sharing of themselves. We have had so many parents willing to volunteer to lend an extra hand. Parents have demonstrated their confidence in Berrybrook in so many ways throughout the year but especially during the move to our temporary classrooms. Berrybrook would not be the special community it is without the genuine commitment from so many families.

At Berrybrook we try to slow down the pace for children. We want them to be busy and engaged in activities, but not rushed. We try to maintain their childhood. But each year in May I wonder, where did the time go? When did the 2 Day students get so tall? Since when do the 3 Day students know all of the Berrybrook rules? When was the last time I had to zip a jacket for a child in the 4 or 5 Day classes? All of the children have grown so confident and independent, and it all happened so quickly.

When I was a parent of young children, people used to tell me, "Enjoy it, they grow up way too fast." Now that my girls are grown I can attest to the truth of that statement. We are heading into the last weeks of school, but there are still plenty of wonderful activities planned. My goal is to slow things down and enjoy every last minute of this school year. I urge all parents to do the same.

I am so happy all of you were here to participate in the dream **Katharine Mann** had for the Berrybrook School. I hope next year will not fly by as fast as this year did. But I suspect it will.

Pat Keeley

Classroom Activities

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. Teachers choose special books like *“My Teacher Said Goodbye Today”* to stimulate discussion about feelings of separation. (Yes, separation is a life long issue – remember the tears the first day of school?)

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 for all classes, will be on Tuesday, May 15, with a rain date of Friday, May 18. All parents are invited. Morning classes will meet at 9:00 am and afternoon classes will meet at 1:00 pm. Any parents who may not be able to make the trip are encouraged to make carpool arrangements for their children. Teachers will supervise children whose parents cannot attend. Many more details of this trip will be sent home soon.

On Tuesday, May 22, the Duxbury Community Partnerships for Children has arranged for the 4 and 5 Day afternoon classes to take a **Kindergarten Bus Trip** to the Chandler Elementary School in Duxbury. The 5 Day morning class will have their trip on Wednesday, May 23rd. While at Chandler, 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 what their school day will be like next fall. Parents can expect permission slips with more details to be sent home soon.

A very special Berrybrook tradition this month is the **Last Day of School Ice Cream Party**. 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 a relaxed and enjoyable way to say goodbye to good friends. On Wednesday, May 30th the 3 Day class will have their ice cream party. Children will arrive as usual at 9:00. At 10:30, all parents are invited to join us on the playground.

On Friday, June 1, morning children will arrive as usual at 9:00. At 10:30, all parents are invited to join us on the playground. The afternoon groups will arrive at 1:00 pm and their families will return to join us at 2:30 pm. The ice cream and farewells will be enjoyed until dismissal.

Berrybrook History

In 2005, The Berrybrook Board of Directors commissioned Robert Dente to research the origins and the story of the Berrybrook farmhouse. After two years of study, Mr. Dente submitted a comprehensive report to the Board listing 28 individuals in a "Chain of Title" for the house. On Wednesday evening April 11th, Mr. Dente came to Berrybrook to talk about the history of the house.

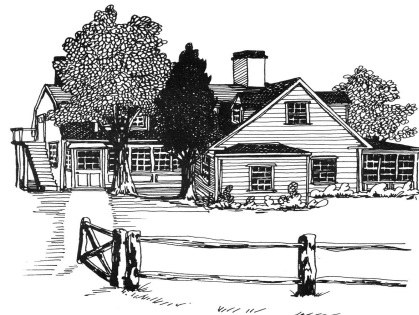
After talking about "The Second Division of the Commons of Duxbury and Pembroke in 1713", and how the original lot that the house is on was created, Mr. Dente focused in on the farmhouse itself. He has determined that the first occupants of the house were Blanie and Christian (Wadsworth) Phillips. While residing in what we know as the Berrybrook School, Blanie and Christian gave birth to 11 children - 6 boys and 5 girls.

"I believe that the house was probably started in the fall of 1732. This may only have been laying the foundation and preparing the materials needed. If Blanie was to be married in May of 1733, some forethought had to have been given to building himself a house... The goal would be for Blanie and Christian to have their house to move into when they married and set the date for May 23rd, 1733."

Based on Mr. Dente's recommendation, the Duxbury Rural Historical Society has issued a date board for the farmhouse –
Blanie Phillips c. 1733.

On the way home from the meeting I was thinking about all of the people who have lived or worked in the house that Blanie built. Mr Dente identified 28 different deeds over the last 274 years. If you think about it, Berrybrook School is relatively late on the scene. The building had already been here for 221 years before Mrs. Mann chose it for her "wonderful new preschool". The history that Mr. Dente provided put our stewardship of the house in a bigger context. The house has been through many changes and revisions since Blanie built this place for his bride. The occupants of the house made alterations and additions appropriate for their needs.

The house transformed from a residence to a school in 1954, and Mrs. Mann and others made modifications to the structure for the benefit of Berrybrook. Now, the Lucretia Prentiss Bailey Trust, created by Mrs. Mann in memory of her mother, and Berrybrook School will be making other changes and improvements as the house evolves to serve our community in new and important ways.



From Blanie Phillips, to Mrs. Mann and our Berrybrook School - the house has served us well.

Pat Keeley

Thank you

All of the Berrybrook staff would like to thank the Berrybrook Parents Association for all of their work this year. BPA Officers **Lindsay Ryan, Tara Campbell** and **Maureen Cederlund** did a wonderful job of organizing many enrichment activities for the children and arranging events for our families.

In addition, we'd like to thank all of the parents for taking the time this year to participate in our program by volunteering in the classroom, helping out with cooking projects or sharing a special talent at circle time.

Berrybrook enjoys tremendous support from parents. The mutually respectful and supportive relationships we share let children know that parents and teachers are truly working together for their best interests. We hope parents realize how much your thoughtfulness and generosity means to all of us. We appreciate the many thoughtful comments and lovely notes that we receive throughout the year. We are also thankful for the flexibility and cheerfulness all of you show with our many requests.

Children enjoy having their parents at school. They will never forget it.

Neither will we.

Mrs. Delano, Mrs. Piccuito, Mrs. Watts, Mrs. La Forest, Mrs. Swan, Miss Bent, Mrs. Fosdick, Mrs. O'Neil, Mrs. Caddle, Mrs. Neal and Mrs. Keeley

Welcome

Grayson Kirk-Elliot in the 2 Day Class has a new baby brother! His name is Lochlan Quinn Kirk-Elliot. Congratulations to Tammy Kirk, Stephen Elliot and big brother Nolan.

Only One

Hundreds of stars in the pretty sky;
Hundreds of shells on the
shore together.
Hundreds of birds that go singing by;
Hundreds of bees in the
sunny weather.

Hundreds of dewdrops to
greet the dawn,
Hundreds of lambs in
the purple clover,
Hundreds of butterflies on the lawn;
But only one mother
the wide world over.
- George Cooper

Happy Mother's Day!

Tuition

Because of our tuition payment schedule, families will have paid all 9 tuition payments for 2006-2007. Mrs. Watts will be in touch with any families who have a balance due. Thank you!

The Importance Of Reading Aloud To Children

By Sally Caddle

Recently, I attended a lecture by Jim Trelease, the author of *THE READ-ALOUD HANDBOOK*, *HEY! LISTEN TO THIS*, and *READ ALL ABOUT IT*. He is an outstanding speaker who is trying to spread the word to all parents about the importance of reading aloud to children.

"Few children learn to love books by themselves. Someone has to lure them into the wonderful world of the written word; someone has to show them the way."

(Orville Prescott, from - A Father Reads To His Children)

In his lecture, he quoted some amazing statistics on the amount of hours children spend watching television, playing video games and/or working on the computer. Competing with these electronic devices is not easy but it can be done. Parents should start reading to their children when they are still young enough to want to imitate what they are seeing and hearing. It is important to find books that will be of interest to both child and reader.

"Before a child can have an interest in reading, he must first have an awareness of it. The child who is unaware of the riches of literature certainly can have no desire for them."

(Jim Trelease, from – The Read-Aloud Handbook)

Reading aloud to children is so important because it helps to develop the child's vocabulary, imagination and enthusiasm for learning new things. Even in our busy hectic lives we can find some time to sit and enjoy a good book with our children.

"If we would get our parents to read to their preschool children 15 minutes a day, we could revolutionize the schools."

(Ruth Love, Superintendent of Chicago Schools)

My children are grown now, but some of our fondest memories are reading wonderful stories together. In fact, we still have many of those books on our shelves today because we are unable to part with them. I guess I'll just have to save them for future grandchildren.

**"You may have tangible wealth untold;
Caskets of jewels and coffers of gold.
Richer than I you can never be –
I had a Mother who read to me."**

**"The Reading Mother" by Strickland Gillilan,
from *Best Loved Poems of the American People***

The following is a copy of the handout we received at the end of the lecture listing some of Jim Trelease's favorite read-aloud books and his web site. Feel free to borrow *The Read-Aloud Handbook* from our Berrybrook parent's library, which includes a treasury of great read-aloud books.

The following titles and authors are often mentioned in Jim Trelease's talks, *depending on program length*. All titles are still in print and can be ordered either through local bookstores or through the publisher. Feel free to duplicate this list. Books marked with (*) receive more attention. A larger list can be found in *The Read-Aloud Handbook* and at www.trelease-on-reading.com/rah_treasury.html.

BY JIM TRELEASE

- * **THE READ-ALOUD HANDBOOK** by Jim Trelease (Penguin) softcover; the all-time bestselling parent/teacher guide to children's books
- * **HEY! LISTEN TO THIS**, by Jim Trelease (Penguin), softcover only; 48 stories for reading aloud to grades K-4
- * **READ ALL ABOUT IT**, by Jim Trelease (Penguin) softcover only; 50 stories for reading aloud to preteens and teens

NURSERY RHYMES

- * **THE NEIGHBORHOOD MOTHER GOOSE**, ill. by Nina Crews [Mother Goose] hardcover

PICTURE BOOKS

- * **THE DAY THE BABIES CRAWLED AWAY** by Peggy Rathman (Putman) hardcover
- ME, ALL ALONE, AT THE END OF THE WORLD** by M.T. Anderson (Candlewick) hardcover
- * **GRANDMA'S BEARS** by Gina Wilson (Candlewick)
- * **THE TRUTH ABOUT POOP** by Susan E. Goodman (Viking) hardcover
- * **MIGHTY JACKIE** by Marissa Moss (S&S) hardcover
- ROCKS IN HIS HEAD** by Carol Otis Hurst (Greenwillow) hardcover
- PANCAKES FOR SUPPER** by Anne Isaacs (Scholastic) hardcover

POETRY

- * **WHERE THE SIDEWALK ENDS** by Shel Silverstein

CHAPTER BOOKS/SHORT NOVELS

- * **JUNIE B. JONES** (series) by Barbara Park (Random) hard/soft
- * **MY FATHER'S DRAGON**; **series: ELMER AND THE DRAGONS; THE DRAGONS OF BLUELAND** by Ruth S. Gannett (Knopf) hardcover and soft
- HOOFBEATS: KATIE AND THE MUSTANG** (4 books) by Kathleen Duey (Dutton & Puffin) hard and soft
- * **THE SOS FILE** by Betsy Byars, Betsy Duffey, and Laurie Myers (Holt) hardcover

NOVELS

- * **THE STAR OF KAZAN** by Eva Ibbotson (Dutton) hardcover
- * **DELTORA QUEST: THE FORESTS OF SILENCE** by Emily Rodda (Scholastic) paperback
- * **KENSUKE'S KINGDOM** by Michael Morpurgo (Scholastic) hardcover and soft
- JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH** by Ronald Dahl (Knopf) hardcover; (Penguin) softcover
- * **BECAUSE OF WINN-DIXIE** by Kate DiCamillo (Candlewick) hard & soft
- DARBY** by Jonathan Fuqua (Candlewick) hardcover
- HATCHET; GUTS; and TUCKET'S TRAVELS** all by Gary Paulsen (Penguin/Delacorte) hard & soft
- ROLL OF THUNDER, HEAR MY CRY** by Mildred Taylor; **series** (Dial and Puffin, hardcover and soft)

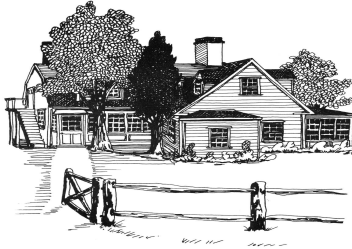
ANTHOLOGIES

- UNCLE JOHN'S BATHROOM READER FOR KIDS ONLY!** (Bathroom Readers Press) paperback
- THE AMERICAN STORY** by Jennifer Armstrong (Knopf) hardcover [100 true stories of U.S.]

REFERENCE BOOKS FOR PARENTS/TEACHERS

- BECOMING A NATION OF READERS** (Center for the Study of Reading), Univ. of Illinois, Champaign, IL (\$7.50 soft)
- * **GIFTED HANDS: THE BEN CARSON STORY** by Dr. Ben Carson (Harper/Zondervan) soft & hard
- THE POWER OF READING** by Stephen Krashen (Language Ed. Associates, PO BOX 7416, Culver City, CA 90233; tel 310-568-9338 (\$18 incl. tax and shipping))
- * **MEANINGFUL DIFFERENCES IN THE EVERYDAY EXPERIENCE OF YOUNG AMERICAN CHILDREN** by Drs. Betty Hart and Todd Risley (Brookes Publishing, Baltimore, MD); also an excellent 6 page synopsis is available online at: www.aft.org/pubs-reports/american_educator/spring2003/catastrophe.html

Information on audio and video of Jim Trelease lectures, as well as new book reviews, is available at this website: www.trelease-on-reading.com



Dear Parents,

Well the end of the year is upon us which brings me to our final Parents Association update. April brought visits from the much loved Spinner and Elyse McPherson, sign language teacher. In May we look forward to a visit from the New England Aquarium on the 9th and 10th. Please have the afternoon children arrive a few minutes early because the program starts promptly at 1pm. We have started planning for the spring fling, scheduled for Wednesday, May 16th 4:30 to 6:30. We are looking forward to entertainment by Jon Nelson, children's entertainer who will provide stories, sing along, and musical instruments for the kids to enjoy as well as a cook out. Put the date aside and look for fliers with an RSVP cut off so we can plan appropriately. It should be an afternoon to celebrate spring at Berrybrook, let's hope for some nice weather to end the year with!

We are happy to announce our officers for the 2007-2008 school year, Nancy Cooney will be taking over for me as President, Angélique Kania as Vice President, Breanna Kirk as Secretary, and Peggy Dickinson as Treasurer. They are amazing people who I know will do a great job organizing events and continuing to provide fantastic enrichment programs the Parents Association is known for. Please join me in welcoming them!

In closing I wanted to say a few thank yous. First and most important I wanted to thank Tara Campbell for all of her hard work and organization throughout this year, she has put so much time and effort into planning such a successful year of programs that I thank her as a president as well as a parent. I also wanted to thank the teachers and Mrs. Keeley for all of their support of the BPA, this school is the special place that it is because of them. And lastly a special thank you to the parents for all of your support in my role. I feel very lucky to be surrounded by such thoughtful and considerate people; it has reminded me of why I wanted this job in the first place.

Lindsay Ryan
President, BPA