

# BERRYBROOK NEWS

*February, 2009*

And nobody knows (Tiddely pom),  
How cold my toes (Tiddely pom),  
How cold my toes (Tiddely pom),  
Are Growing.

*The House at pooh Corner, A.A. Milne*

Wednesday, February 11 BPA meeting 7:30 pm

February 16th – 20th Winter Break

Tuesday, February 24 Parent Discussion Group 1:15

Wednesday, February 25 Berrybrook Board of Directors 7:00 pm

Monday, March 2 Berrybrook BPA presents Jeanine Fitzgerald

## *Notes from the Headmaster*

February is the month that has a special day to send thoughtful notes to people we love and care about. Valentines bring warmth and joy to an otherwise cold and dark month. I find that at Berrybrook, Valentines arrive not just on February 14<sup>th</sup>, but all during the year. I notice children, parents and teachers sending lovely messages and doing thoughtful things for each other every day. One day last week, a student was upset because one of the boots she wore to school that day was missing when it was time to go outside. She was in tears (and rightfully so!) because she was looking forward to her playground time. Teachers located some Berrybrook boots but none seemed to fit. When Mom arrived, she handled the situation beautifully reassuring and calming her daughter, but there was still a missing boot. Suddenly, a classmate and her father who were getting ready to leave noticed their friend in distress, and offered to take their boots off and loan them. They appreciated their friend's situation, and let her know they were available to help. What a kind gesture to take the boots right off your feet and give them to another! Problem solved. It is so typical of Berrybrook children and parents to offer a helping hand. Just as expected, the missing boot turned up the next day found by another thoughtful friend. There is more than one way to send a valentine, and at Berrybrook we send them all year through.

*Pat Keeley*

## 2 & 3 Day Classroom Activities

February at Berrybrook is a **LOVEly** time of year! The children are comfortable and settled into their daily routines. They are eager to socialize with their classmates. They have learned to trust, respect and express their ideas with their teachers. We are truly a team. In February many expressions of love will be created with pink and red glitter, paint and paper. You will see many heart shaped projects coming home. Children will hear many stories, games, and songs about love and caring. What could be a better theme!

For the 2 and 3 Day class valentines we ask that the envelopes do not have any names on them to enable the children to distribute one to each classmate independently. Sometimes children may ask to bring in valentines with candy for their classmates but because of our students with food allergies, Please remember that candy should be enjoyed at home. The children will be preparing treats here at school for the celebrations.

In the classrooms the **Berrybrook Hospital** has taken the place of housekeeping for a couple weeks. This provides a wonderful opportunity for children to show care for people (week 1) and animals (week 2). This hand's on play-experience is valuable for any past or future hospital visits your child/family may encounter.

Next the housekeeping area transforms into the **Berrybrook Post Office**. This time the children enjoy "working", stamping, addressing envelopes,

sending mail, etc. This leads up to their first field trip a real Post Office. They will buy a stamp and mail their Valentine home to their families.

After vacation week the classroom activities may focus on woodworking and bears in winter.

Outdoor play is a valuable part of any preschooler's day. Many children have become quite proficient at getting into all their snow gear. We appreciate your patience at home, as we do here at school, in talking them through getting themselves dressed. They are well on their way to becoming independent individuals...let's support them best we can.



## 4 & 5 Day Classroom Activities

February 2<sup>nd</sup> is Groundhog Day. Will the groundhog see a shadow or not? Watch for a little groundhog puppet, made by the children, on this special February day.

### HEART

I put my hands together,  
that is how I start.

I fold my fingers right around,  
and now I made a heart.

This month the 4 and 5-day classes will be preparing decorations, snacks, cards and gifts to celebrate Valentine's Day. We are half way through the school year now and the children have made many new friends. Valentine's Day gives the children an opportunity to give and receive special notes of friendship from their peers. We are asking everyone to bring in valentines that are signed and addressed to each classmate by February 12<sup>th</sup> for the 4-day class and by February 13<sup>th</sup> for the 5-day class. A class list is attached to this newsletter to assist with the names. Due to allergies we are unable to have candy brought into the school so the children will be making a special allergy free snack to enjoy that day after they have delivered all of their Valentines.

### ***My Valentine***

I have a little Valentine that someone  
sent to me.  
It's pink and white and red and blue, and  
pretty as can be.  
Forget-me-nots are 'round the edge,  
and tiny roses too:  
And such a lovely piece of lace, the very  
palest blue,  
And in the center there's a heart, as red  
as red can be!  
And on it's written all in gold, "To you  
with love from me."

Last month in our housekeeping area, we had the Berrybrook hospital, that will soon transform into our Berrybrook Post Office. The children will experience writing and mailing letters to their peers. They will have the opportunity to purchase stamps and to study some of the cancelled stamps we have received from families. Thank you for sending in

your used stamps and holiday cards. The children will enjoy looking at all of them.

At the end of the month we will study musical instruments. The children will make various instruments and have the chance to try the Berrybrook's rhythm instruments. If anyone has a musical talent that they would like to share, please let us know so that we can make arrangements for a time that would be convenient to visit the classrooms. The children would surely enjoy seeing and listening to any type of instrument. We do have a piano in the multi-purpose room if anyone would like to play some tunes for the children.

Just a reminder to the children and their families: We have been studying Space where we talked about the planets, the sun, stars, comets, rocket ships, astronauts, astronomers and the different phases of the moon. If the sky is clear on February 9<sup>th</sup>, we should see the full moon rise at 5:30 PM from the eastern horizon. It is quite amazing!

### ***Office Update***

Thank you for submitting your child's 09-10 application. As I was entering the applications in my student database for next year, I noticed that there have been several changes to some parents' information. It is very important to let us know if any information changes. If any of your contact information changes or you have a new cell phone number, please let us know and I will make a note on your child's file. It's important that we have your updated contact information in case of an emergency. Thanks for your help!

~ Mrs. Watts

*The Berrybrook community is growing!*

**WELCOME**

*Brooke Taylor Ryalls*  
(Jordan, 3 Day)

*Everett Patrick Ding-Jian Pang*  
(Campbell 5 Day & Eva 3 Day)

*Lilah Rose MacQuarrie*  
(Henry 2 Day)

Congratulations to the Ryalls, Pang and MacQuarrie Families!



***Summer at Berrybrook***

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

Children must be turning 4 by September 1<sup>st</sup> to register. Current Berrybrook families will have the opportunity to register first, and then families from the community will be invited. All families will receive complete information about the program and registration the week of March 16, 2009.



***Snow Cancellation Policy***

Berrybrook will cancel school if Duxbury Schools or the Silver Lake School District close due to a snow emergency. **In the case of a delayed opening, there will be no morning classes.** Please watch the news for cancellation notices. Parents may call the school to check the voice mail message if they are unsure about a snow cancellation.

Thank you

***Wanted:***

In the past, the Berrybrook playground had a small boat for the children to play on. It was a popular item that sparked a lot of imaginary play. We would like to continue that tradition by adding a boat to the playground in the spring. If you have a small boat (with no sharp edges – doesn't have to be seaworthy!) please contact Mrs. Keeley.

Tuition payment # 7 of 9 is now due

2 Day \$209.00  
3 Day \$307.00  
4 Day \$381.00  
5 Day \$449.00

Thank you

## *Berrybrook Board of Directors*

### **Games, Museums and Winter Activities Suggestions**

As the winter weather continues and the novelty of the holiday gifts wane, I thought it would be appropriate to compile a list of fun games, activities and museums to share with the Berrybrook community. Thank you to the many people who contributed to the list below. Although the list is far from comprehensive, there are a lot of new and interesting ideas for all to enjoy! Happy winter!

*Christina Rouleau*

#### **BOARD GAMES**

<b><u>Game Title</u></b>	<b><u>Recommended Age</u></b>	<b><u>Possible Age</u></b>	<b><u>Manufacturer</u></b>
<b><u>Pre-School</u></b>			
Animal Scramble	3 – 6	3	Wild Planet
Balloon Lagoon	5+	4	Cranium
Cariboo	3+	2	Cranium
Charades for kids	3-90	3	Pressman
Disney Bingo (on DVD)	3.5 – 8.5	3.5	Mattel
Hullabaloo	4+	3	Cranium
Hungry Hungry Hippos	4-7	3	Hasbro
Piranha Panic	5-12	3	Mattel
Pop up Pirate	4+	2	Tomy
Sequence for Kids	3-6	3	JAX Ltd
Toss Your Cookies	8+	4	Gamewright
Uno	7+	4	Mattel
Yahtzee Junior	4+	4	Milton Bradly
Zingo	4-8	3	Thinkfun
3D Labyrinth	4-8	3	Ravensburger
<b><u>Grades K-2 +</u></b>			
Apples to Apples Junior	9+ (family)	5	Mattel
Bananagrams Junior	7+	6	Bananagrams
Blokus	5+ (family)	5	Education Insights
DinoXcavator (like Operation)	5 +	5	Uncle Milton
Doodle Dice	6+	5	Jax ltd
Double Shutter	8+	6	Blue Orange Games
Gobbet Junior	5+	5	Blue Orange Games
Hyperdash	7-10	6	Wild Plant
Life	8+	6	Hasbro
Monopoly Junior	5-8	5	Hasbro
Pay Day	8+	6	Hasbro
Pictureka	6+	5	Parker Brothers
Quelf	10+	7	Wiggity Bang

			Game
Quirkle	6+	6	Mindware
Ruckus	7+ (family)	5	Funstreet Games
Sorry	6-11	5	Hasbro
Sorry Sliders	8-15	10	Parker Brothers
The Touch Game	5 +	4	Anthony Innovations
Through the Desert	10+	8+	Fantasy Flight Games
Zooreka	8+	5	Cranium

### **INDEPENDENT PLAY**

- Busy Bugs, ages 3+, by Discovery Toys
- Gearation (magnet gears) ages 3 + by Tomy
- Legos – all ages
- Magna Tiles (2+)
- Moon sand
- Play-doh – all ages
- Rushhour junior, traffic jam game, ages 6-8, by Thinkfun
- Zoomorphs – build animals and create your own, ages 4 +, by River Dolphin Toys

### **CREATIVE PLAY**

- Fort Building (indoors) – get out the sleeping bags & head lamps & tell stories
- “Fun Tubby” – a bath with a twist – incorporate foam, bubbles, or bath paints
- ‘Grab bag game’ – purchase and wrap inexpensive items. Give children chores (clean up toys, room etc) and reward them with a choice from the grab bag.
- Play ‘Halloween’ – have the kids dress up in costumes with trick or treat bags. Have the parent move around the house and go to different rooms while the kids count to 10. Then have kids look for the adult, knocking on different doors and saying ‘trick or treat’. Give them raisins, cereal or other healthy option as a ‘treat’.
- Pretend beach parties during the winter. Put on bathing suits & spread out beach towels on floor and enjoy a ‘beach’ picnic.

### **MUSEUMS**

- Art Complex Museum (Duxbury)
- The Children’s Museum in Easton (Easton, MA) – a great museum and not very crowded!
- The Children’s Museum in Boston (Boston)
- The Dr. Seuss National Memorial @ the Springfield Museums (Springfield, MA)
- Edaville USA (Carver, MA)
- The Edward Gorey House (Yarmouthport, MA)

- The Eric Carle Museum (Amherst, MA)
- The Harvard Museum of Natural History
- The Museum of Fine Arts – they have stations set up throughout the museum on Feb and April vacation weeks with kids’ activities and it’s not the mob scene that the other popular places can be. One idea is to borrow a book from the Duxbury library on the Boston MFA, select artwork to ‘find’ while at the museum and go on an art ‘hunt’.
- The Museum of Science (Boston)
- The Mystic Aquarium (Mystic, RI)
- The New England Aquarium (Boston) – can also walk down the waterfront to Christopher Columbus Park and the kids can play on the playground next to Joe’s Bar & Grill.
- The Wheelock Family Theater (Brookline) – 3+ depending on play
- Zoos (Southwick Zoo (Mendon, MA), Roger Williams Park Zoo, Providence RI, Buttonwood Zoo, (New Bedford, MA))

### **GET AWAY IDEAS**

- Overnights in Boston – museum visit, dinner, movie in hotel bed with cocoa & dessert room service

### **ACTIVITIES**

- Alley Kat Lane (Kingston) – bumper bowling
- Boomerang’s Playland (Carver) – Indoor play structures, arcade and more
- Carousel Skating Rink (Whitman) – upbeat music, disco ball. \$7 admissions, \$3 skate rental
- Creative Playthings (Pembroke) – playgroup reservations available
- Expressions (Duxbury) – paint pottery and more
- Feeding the Birds outside your house – make your own suet to hang or put in bird feeders & watch the birds eat, identify the birds and learn about them together
- Ice skating (The Bog (Kingston), John Armstrong Memorial Skating Rink (Plymouth), Pilgrim Skating Arena (Hingham))
- Imagination Island (Plymouth) – open play time
- Jungle Plex (Plymouth) – open play time
- Make a skating rink in backyard – buy boards & plastic liner (Home Depot), add spotlight for night skating
- Mass Audubon at North River (Marshfield) has some great winter activities for the kids, a once a month gatherings for the little ones, and a few outings for the whole family. They also have great summer camp programs
- My Gym (Kingston) – open gym select hours per week
- Nature hikes (Duxbury Town Forest or Berrybrook Grounds, Duxbury Beach, The South Shore Natural Science Center in Norwell)
- Scaliwags (Pembroke) – open play time
- Sledding/Tubing (Miramar, North Hill, Berrybrook)

- South Shore Quests – a treasure hunt & game outdoors (booklet available at South Shore Natural Science Center in Norwell)
- Storybook Cove Bookstore (Hanover – Merchants Row) features a lot of great story times and activities for the children. Check web site for schedule. All activities are free.
- Swimming at the town pool (Percy Walker Pool, Duxbury)
- Take the train to South Station & have lunch. Take train from Plymouth which has easy parking and perfect times for a lunch outing.
- Trustees of the Reservation have several kids activities for a range of ages at properties throughout the state, many on the south shore ([www.thetrustees.org](http://www.thetrustees.org))
- Winter Marshmallow Roasting – roast about the fire pit in the back yard

### **RESTAURANTS & COOKING**

- Charlie Horse (Plymouth) – they have a small arcade & pool tables
- Joe’s Bar & Grill (Hanover) – on Sunday nights the “Balloon Guy” is featured during dinner time. He walks around from table to table and makes balloon animals, hats etc for the kids.
- Make your own” \_\_\_\_\_” – pizza, tacos, burritos, salads, etc

## *Berrybrook Parent’s Association*

Hope everyone is enjoying the beauty of all this snow! I love to see our children cherishing the outdoor play time at Berrybrook – digging snow tunnels, making snow people, and even creating snow cones. Last month we started some new traditions of community fun and sharing with both our sledding party and library launch. Our first official sledding gathering was a big hit with many families taking advantage of the nice hill in back! And, thank you to Heather Edwards for providing the delicious hot chocolate. We hope you will hit the slopes with us in

February for more sledding adventures! Our story time was also well attended, and we’re happy to have started our BPA sponsored library – The Book Share. Many children signed and donated books, which are now available for check out at the BPA table (1 week period). Please feel free to add books and borrow books – and expand your child’s love of reading! February and the months ahead will offer Berrybrook students and their families many more opportunities to explore, learn, and enjoy with our schedule of events



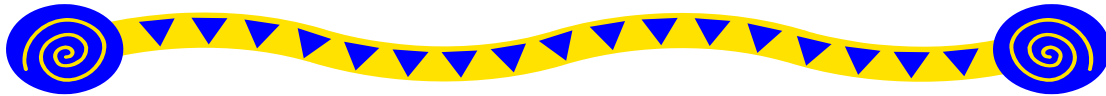
## *BPA Activities Calendar*

February 11 <sup>th</sup> , 7:30 pm	Memory Book Meeting – focus on the process of creating Memory Books
February 18 <sup>th</sup> , 10:00 am	Sledding Party- if the weather is good!
February 25 <sup>th</sup> and 26 <sup>th</sup>	Big Tall Ryan, storyteller, visits in classrooms.
March 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 7:00 pm	<p>7:00 pm reception and 7:30 pm discussion. This will be our first community-wide event with Jeanine Fitzgerald- <b>“Parenting Together.”</b> Jeanine is an internationally recognized trainer, certified human behavior consultant, family/professional coach and mentor. The response to her work has been tremendous! Attendees and participants say that the dynamic experience of her work adds profound value to their relationships, their work and their lives.</p> <p>Enjoy an evening out with refreshments, and engage in an informative discussion about creating an environment (as a couple) of common values for motivating and teaching your children. Preregistration and payment (\$8 pp/or \$12 per couple) is required, as space is limited. Information will be on the BPA table for this event.</p>
March 13 <sup>th</sup> , 12:00 pm	“The Three Little Pigs and Other Tales” by the Gerwick Puppets. Enjoy a wonderful 45 minute performance of some favorite tales with your family and friends. Please fill out the signup sheets as space is limited, and leave an envelope with payment (\$5 per family) in the BPA box.
March 26 <sup>th</sup> , 9:00 to 5:00 pm	Silhouette Artist Event – This is a fundraiser with Carol Lebeaux, who creates beautiful silhouettes of children – which are classic keepsakes. Samples of her art work and the signup sheet (10 minute slot per child) will be available on the BPA table.

April 7 <sup>th</sup> , 7:00 pm	Spring Fling Meeting – this will begin planning for our big family event.
April 13 <sup>th</sup> , 9am	Sibling Story time – This is an opportunity for younger siblings to enjoy stories and snack at the Berrybrook main meeting hall.
April 16 <sup>th</sup> , 9 am & 1pm	Sibling Story times
April 15 <sup>th</sup> and 17 <sup>th</sup>	Planting to make pizza gardens for 2-3 Day classes
April 16 <sup>th</sup>	Bonnie the Snake Lady for 4 & 5 Day classes
May 5 <sup>th</sup>	Su Escuela - Spanish activity in the classroom
May 12 <sup>th</sup> , 4:00 to 6:00 pm -	Spring Fling
May 21 <sup>th</sup> , 7:30 pm	BPA End of Year Party
May 27 <sup>th</sup>	Teacher Appreciation Luncheon

Don't forget to mark your calendars with these events, especially our Memory Book meeting on February 11<sup>th</sup>. Wishing you all a month filled with warmth and love! Happy Valentine's Day!

Regards, Tammy Kirk, BPA President



*Make new friends, but keep the old...  
One is silver, the other gold.*

by Joanne La Forest

One of the most commonly asked questions of a teacher from a parent is, "Does my child play with other children? Is he/she making friends?" Most often the answer is yes, however the stages a child goes through to include themselves with or to be included by others follows no set timeline. Every child is unique in their social capabilities. This is very true of the 3 to 4-year-old child where preschool may be one of their first experiences with a group of children.

What many parents may not know is that so much is being learned by observing others. While two children paint next to each other at the easels, explore side by side at the water table or create two separate structures in the block area, so much is being noticed by each child. Each may learn how to mix different paints

to make a new color, build a strong building that won't topple over, find a new way to make an object float, or learn a new word to add to their vocabulary.

They just might discover that they have something in common.....

**And then the magic begins...**

First child: "I'm building a house for my dog."

Second child: "I have a dog, too!"

First child: "Let's build a house for him!"

In the child's eyes they have made a friend. A friend, to them, may be someone who shares something in common with them, someone they sat next to at Snack Time that day or someone they giggled with when they discovered glitter in the playdough.

Michael Thompson, author of *Best Friends, Worst Enemies*, writes that "parents (or significant adults in a child's life) have a huge role in shaping the social abilities of the child who goes out to meet other children." He goes on to say that when a parent is "responsive to their child's needs, this responsiveness involves give-and-take" just like the give-and-take of a friendship. Responsiveness is yet another example of respect and demonstrates how important this core value is to a child's social being. How amazing it is that almost every developmental topic involving children always comes back to respect.

Throughout a child's day at Berrybrook there are many opportunities to play alone, play alongside a classmate, be involved with one or two others, be part of a small group and also be together with the entire class. At Circle Time and Snack Time the qualities of friendship are represented: respect when we take turns talking, joy when laughter comes from the reading of a good story or singing a silly song, problem solving when we work together on an idea, discovery when we learn something new, and wonder when we realize endless possibilities by learning from each other. Remember, also, all the gifts that come from forming a friendship with someone. Happiness when you laugh together. Compassion when you feel for one another. Sadness when you're told they don't want to play with you. Pride when you come up with an idea together so that feelings aren't hurt anymore. There are so many gifts friends give to one another.

With Valentine's Day fast approaching, remember your friends and why they are so precious to you. Remember how you first met and the things you have in common. Sometimes it's the same with children. What brings friends together may be just the thing that keeps the friendship going. Just recently two children were playing in the Housekeeping Area. As one friend began to put on an apron and the other reached for some cooking utensils, one turned to the other and asked, "Are you still my friend today?" The friend responded, "Of course I am! We're cooking!"

Happy Valentine's Day!