

May 2014

Tuesday, May 20	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 14</i>	<i>BPA Spring Fling 4 - 6:00 pm</i>
Wednesday, May 21	Board meeting 7:30 pm
Wednesday, May 28	Ice Cream Party Last Day of School for 3 Day
Thursday, May 29	Ice Cream Party Last Day of School for 4 Day
Friday, May 30	Ice Cream Party Last Day of School for 2 & 5
Day	and Beginners
Wednesday, June 4	BPA Staff Appreciation Luncheon
Tuesday, June 10	Summer Program Begins



A Mother

A Mother is one who understands
 The things you say and do,
 Who always overlooks your faults
 And sees the best in you.

A Mother is one whose special love
 Inspires you day by day,
 Who fills your heart with gladness In her
 warm and thoughtful way.

A Mother is all these things and more -
 The greatest treasure known,
 And the dearest Mother in all the world
 Is the one I call my own.

Happy Mother's Day!

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 Eliot-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 assure 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 romping 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, yes. 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 kindergartner 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."

Notes from the Head of School

I thought all of you would appreciate the news article on the previous page. The “Wonderful New School” has now been serving preschoolers for 60 years. Today, parents often comment that Berrybrook takes families and children back to a simpler time. How ironic that statement is when you consider how “cutting edge” Berrybrook was when it began. It was a modern concept to send young children to school in 1954. Katharine Mann and Helen Wheeler were pioneers. Imagine exposing children to Mother Goose *and* Sputnik all at the same time!

Berrybrook still remains true to the core principles Mrs. Mann believed when she started this school. Mrs. Mann and Miss Wheeler were well educated, well trained and dedicated, just as our teachers are today. They believed that the transition from home to school “can be brutal.” Berrybrook still makes sure the transition is comfortable for children and parents by having a gradual start to the year, and by conducting home visits to build mutual support and trust early on. We still make sure that separation in September is handled with sensitivity.

When our school began, there was a “...consistent rhythm to the day’s program at Berrybrook, periods of romping activity followed by periods of calmness...” Our program still maintains a good balance for children, with adequate time for busy activity and quiet reflection as well as an indoor and outdoor play. “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.” Our current teachers build the curriculum around the children’s interests and do not impose lessons on children if they are not ready. They know that “interest is key.” Our teachers employ only the best developmentally appropriate practice in their classrooms. Academics at Berrybrook are imbedded in meaningful hands-on activities that promote learning in Language, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Health and Safety and the Arts. All while supporting the healthy social and emotional development of our children.

The world has changed significantly since our school opened, and Berrybrook has evolved to to meet the needs of children and their families. There were no fences surrounding our playground when Berrybrook started, and it seemed that peanut butter was safe for all children in those days. The lovely farmhouse where Mrs. Mann started Berrybrook gave way to our new school house and we are now able to serve younger children and more families. The buildings and grounds might not be recognizable to people who attended Berrybrook in 1954, however our vision, mission and values would be very familiar.

Berrybrook is an institution that has been around for a long time, but each September, it is a “Wonderful New School” to each new child that comes through the gate. It is as new and exciting as it was opening day, sixty years ago. I am so happy that all of you were here this year to participate in the magic that is Berrybrook. I’m looking forward to opening this “Wonderful New School” for new and returning families again next year. Have a safe and restful summer.

Mrs. Keeley

Beginners

Welcome back from Spiring Break!!

Spring has brought warmer weather to Berrybrook, and the opportunity to have more outside play time. The children learned about weather, and created a glittery sun project. They also learned about rainbows and the colors, with rainbow crayons. As we focused more on the Spring season, the children made an egg project with new glitter paint. At circle time, we all learned a new song about five green and speckled frogs.

Our Easter celebration included making a special egg to share with families and an egg hunt. We also had a special holiday snack of homemade sugar cookies and jelly beans.

Thank you to all parents who have come to volunteer in the classroom. The children enjoy having their mom or dad come to school, as much as other children like to interact with new adults.

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, May 30th. For ice cream day, children arrive at 9:00 as usual, and families can return at 10:30 to enjoy ice cream made by the children.

We have seen so much growth and positive changes in the Beginners students, it has been a great year with the youngest group of students at Berrybrook School. Thank you for helping to make this year so memorable.



Mrs. Delano,
Mrs. LaForest, and
Miss McNulty

First Year Program News

April showers bring May flowers! Spring has finally arrived! All first year classes have been exploring all aspects of planting and the growth of beautiful flowers...just as children grow when nurtured and loved. We celebrated the arrival of caterpillars to all classrooms and will enjoy observing and learning about their life cycle. What fun it will be to watch them turn into butterflies and see them fly during this month of May!

The Soule Homestead will be visiting us this month. We will learn about and get to interact with various animals as this is always a very enjoyable and educational experience. Our final yoga class with Miss Kim will occur this month as well and we will all say a great "Thank You Very Much, Boop!" to her for a beautiful year filled with fun, stretching, strength and peace.

Classes will culminate the year of monthly nature walks with a walk along the Berrybrook Nature Path. Families are welcome to join us. Information regarding nature walk dates and times have been sent to all families. Feel free to see teachers with any questions. Rain or shine, it should be a great time!

Children have been adding some of their class projects to their very own Memory Book with teachers throughout the school year. May is a wonderful opportunity to take time to look through their books then take them home to share with families. Teachers feel such joy when creating with them a book full of memories that families can add to if they wish. Seeing the memories they have created throughout the year helps children transition from the end of their Berrybrook first year experience onto summer and beyond.

Another Berrybrook tradition to celebrate the end of a wonderful year and the coming of summer is our Ice Cream Day held on the last day of school. All first year classes will hand crank their very own vanilla ice cream to be enjoyed by everyone!

Wednesday, May 28, 2014

3 Day Room 1 & 3 Day Room 3
Children arrive at 9am for a typical day.
Families return at 10:30am for ice cream!

Friday, May 30, 2014

2 Day Room 1
Children arrive at 9am for a typical day.
Families return at 10:30am 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, wonderful school year!

Mrs. Barlow, Mrs. Capasso, Mrs. Delano, Mrs. Dunn, Mrs. LaForest, Mrs. Piccuito, and Miss McNulty



Berrybrook
discover | play | learn

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 weeks 3 through 7

We have had Berrybrook alum sign up- FYI kindergartners are welcome!

Contact the office to reserve your spot!

Second Year Program News

This school year has flown by. It seems like just yesterday children were being dropped off for their first days of school. The children have had a wonderful year full of new experiences. It's amazing to look back and see how each child has grown. As the weather warms the children will be spending more time outdoors. We will be busy studying all living things. Seeds will be planted and observed as they grow in the classrooms. Each classroom has also recently received caterpillars which we will watch as they go through metamorphosis and release them back into nature. May is also a special time to remember mom, so mothers should look forward to something special!

On Tuesday, May 20th 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 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 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.



Another very special Berrybrook tradition is our 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 29 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 30th, 5 Day children will arrive as usual at 9:00. At 10:30, all parents are invited to join us.

We are also planning our annual field trip to the O'Neil Farm across the street. Teachers will be working with Mr. O'Neil to set the date for this trip. If it is not too hot, we will be walking to the farm. Children should come to school with sunscreen and bug spray already applied. Also, it would be important to wear close-toed shoes and long pants. The teachers are asking that we have as many chaperones as possible for this trip. Once there, everyone will enjoy a tour given by Mr. O'Neil which is usually highlighted by getting up close to newborn calves. More information will be headed your way. Please check your cubbies, and always feel free to ask your teachers about details.

As the school year comes to an end the children will have opportunities to reflect on their favorite songs and games, and will be getting ready to say goodbye. It is a bittersweet time in our classrooms, looking back at all the fun things we have done together, and how much our students have learned and grown. At the same time we are looking forward, helping to give students the tools they need to succeed in the next step of their journey. Thank you for sharing your children with us.

Mrs. Caddle, Mrs. Fosdick, Mrs. O'Neil, Mrs. Neal, Mrs. Piccuito, Mrs. Rosen, Mrs. Swan and Mrs. Worley



Lunch Bunch

The last day for Lunch Bunch will be Thursday, May 29. Thank you to all of the families who participated in our Lunch Bunch program. Mrs. Capasso, Mrs. LaForest and Mrs. Neal enjoyed having a casual lunch with the children on Tuesdays, 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.

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 for arranging playdates before school starts in September and appropriate 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. The conversations we have at pick up, the phone calls and parent conferences that you share with us demonstrate a true partnership between school and home.

Mrs. Barlow, Mrs. Caddle, Mrs. Capasso, Mrs. Delano, Mrs. Dunn, Mrs. Fosdick, Mrs. Keeley, Mrs. LaForest, Miss McNulty, Mrs. Neal, Mrs. O'Neil, Mrs. Piccuito, Mrs. Rosen, Mrs. Swan, Mrs. Watts and Mrs. Worley

Berrybrook Board of Directors

Sibling Personality Differences: How Does Your Family Measure Up?

By Marlene Najarian
Berrybrook Board of Directors

Is your oldest child the smartest? Is your middle child the most independent? Is your youngest the most carefree? Is your only child a perfectionist? Experts believe the secret to sibling differences lies in birth order and how parents treat their children as a result thereof. Alfred Adler, a contemporary of Freud, first introduced this theory in the early 1900s. Adler believed that birth order affects and helps develop your personality. Dr. Kevin Leman, a modern day psychologist, states your family position impacts who you are, who you marry and even what career you choose.

Firstborns

Firstborn children have first time parents and typically benefit from more one-on-one parent time. Every accomplishment is treated like a big deal. As a result, firstborns are natural leaders, often perfectionists, structured and don't like surprises. They feel a strong need of approval from authority. They may have the responsibility of teaching younger children which puts them under greater pressure to succeed and set examples. In 2007 a Norwegian study of 250,000 siblings found that firstborn children had a 3 point IQ advantage over their siblings.

Middle-born children

Leman believes the first two children in any family are usually very different. The middle child will often excel at something the firstborn child struggles with. Middle children can sometimes get lost in the mix and feel left out. This position can challenge them to be team players who know how to deal well with others. They tend to have many friends and act as mediators since their middle role allows them to see both sides of the situation. Middle born children tend to be entrepreneurs. Bill Gates, Donald Trump and Steve Forbes are all very successful middle children.

Lastborn children

The baby of the family may benefit from having experienced parents who have relaxed the rules a bit. The youngest siblings don't have as many responsibilities. As a result they tend to be more carefree, adventurous, risky and creative. Leman describes lastborn children as the comedians of the family. They are also uncomplicated, outgoing and enjoy being the center of attention.

Only children

Without any siblings to compete with, only children have all the support and expectations of their parents. The attention can be a privilege and a burden. They can sometimes act like mini adults and take on the traits of firstborns with added pressure. Only children tend to be mature for their age and strive to be model human beings. They also are likely to use their imagination more and get along well with older people.

No matter what science tells us, birth order is not the only factor shaping personalities. Our experiences, relationships and genders also play a role in personality development. For example, a second born child who is also the firstborn female may take on many

traits of a firstborn. Family size can also affect the way personality traits develop. Together these factors affect the people they become.

These theories have been contested for years and whether they're scientifically proven or not, they are interesting to think about as you raise your children. Some parents will find these descriptions are spot on and others will not. Each family position has its challenges. These traits are only tendencies and if we are aware of them we may be able to utilize them in our child rearing decision making. Regardless of when our children were born, we can help each child recognize what makes them unique and resist the urge to compare them to their siblings. Instead celebrate their differences to make sure every member of your family is a success.

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. Thanks to all who have participated and supported the BPA this year.

Please join us for the last **Family Fun Friday** at Dalby Farm in Scituate at 1pm on May 9th. A sign up sheet will be on the BPA table.

BPA Spring Fling 2014

All families are invited to the Spring Fling on Wednesday, May 14th (Rain Date May 21st) from 4-6pm for pizza and some playground fun. The spring fling is an annual event that helps us celebrate the year.

Thank you to the BPA officers- Amy Murray, Sherry Monroe and Danielle MacKinnon. And a big thank you to Jill Cooney for coordinating all the wonderful enrichment programs and family fun Fridays for the children.

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

Karoline Martin & Donna Hillary

Family Matters

We would like to extend a warm thank you to all families who visited our new site this year, **Family Matters**. As educators, and many of us parents as well, we strive to provide help, information and advice as we all navigate along the journey of parenthood through the preschool years.

We invite you to reach out to us over the summer should any concerns arise that you may need insight into. Families can always reach us by visiting www.berrybrookschoo.org and clicking on the **Family Matters** link on the left.

Please join us next year for even more ways to connect! Exciting additions are coming to our site, as well as opportunities for monthly gatherings with families and teachers so we can all continue to help and support one another and share ideas.

Have a wonderful, fun, and safe summer!
Sincerely,

Mrs. Delano, Mrs. Dunn and
Mrs. LaForest

**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 2014 Annual Appeal this month, we wanted to acknowledge the generous donors to the 2013 Annual Appeal which raised over \$3,475.00 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.

2013 Berrybrook Annual Appeal Donors

The Brown Family
Dan and Tara Campell
The Couto Family
Joan Davis
Kris and Tom Delano
The Dennison Family
James and Patricia Keeley
Kelly Family Foundation
Derek and Sherry Monroe
The Murray Family
Joan Neal
The Rees Family
The Stravin Family
Keith and Stacy Watts
The Zaniboni Family

Berrybrook Book Review

Kris Delano

*Children Learn What They Live,
Parenting to Inspire Values* by Dorothy
Law Nolte

The title of this book says it all. Children truly do learn by the words, actions and intentions of those around them. Mainly this is their parents, family and society. The book was an easy, comfortable, reflective and informative read. Each chapter has words of advice. However, if you are unable to read the entire book, simply choose the chapter that appeals to you.

Some words of advice I noted are...

- “If our kids grow up knowing that we will listen to them...they will be more willing to talk to us... page 8
- “Fear undermines the supportive environment a child needs...” page 26
- “Children learn to tap their inner strengths for the challenges they encounter” page 37
- “Steer them (children) away from self-pity and toward self determination.” page 47
- “Developing a strong internal moral compass is a life-long process...” page 69
- “Knowing when to step in and when to step aside...” page 83

- “The amount of patience needed to be a good parent is phenomenal.” page 104
- “...accepting our children unconditionally does not mean tolerating inappropriate or irresponsible behaviors...” page 121
- “Sharing needs to make sense to a child and to not feel like a loss.” page 152

As stated in the foreword, there is a bonus in this book ...along with learning how to be a more effective parent you will also learn how to be a better spouse, teacher or manager.

Enjoy the book!

April Babies

Congratulations to Lily Hannon!

(In 2 Day - Room 2)

**Lily and her family welcomed a
new baby girl named
Penelope Frances.**

**Congratulations also to
Mrs. Worley (5 Day and 4 Day
Room 2 Teacher) and her husband
Patrick on the arrival**

**of their son,
Luke Vaughan.**

