

January 2019

Wednesday, January 2	2019-2020 Enrollment Begins
Thursday, January 17	Connections Curriculum Night
Monday, January 21	Martin L. King Jr. Day - No School
Wednesday, January 23	Board Meeting 7:00 pm
Saturday, January 26	Berrybrook Open House 10 am - 12 pm



Notes from the Head of School

Have you ever heard the business adage “quality, quick, or cheap . . . pick two”? You can either get something of really high quality in a timely fashion, but it won’t be cheap, or you can get something discounted and fast, but it won’t be of great caliber. In the early education world, there’s a similar vibe in terms of quality of care and cost.

Many years ago, my dad gave me an article to read about the high cost of daycare, and the struggle to provide quality care for children at an affordable price for parents. In summary, it spoke of how difficult it is to provide quality care to young children at an affordable cost, without compromising something - such as the qualifications of teachers or a low student to teacher ratio. The Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) is requiring more and more training and education from their teachers, but centers are struggling to keep up the pace of higher salaries that are commensurate to qualifications of staff or comparable to public school salaries. Private schools and daycares almost everywhere have the same struggle to provide quality education at a reasonably affordable price for families.

You may not be aware that at Berrybrook, everyone receives a tuition rate that has been subsidized by a Trust; our operating budget is not strictly supported by tuition, as with most schools. About ten years after founding our school, Katharine Mann placed legal responsibility for Berrybrook’s welfare in the hands of the Berrybrook Board of Directors. Part of the Board’s job is to keep an eye

on the school's expenses while also ensuring that the students have a quality early childhood education under the guidance of skilled experienced early childhood educators. Mrs. Mann's foresight also created the Lucretia Prentiss Bailey Trust in honor of her mother and her ongoing charitable gift through this Trust allows the Board to set tuition rates about 20% below the true cost of our programs. What this means is next fall for example, the true cost of the 5 Day tuition for families is almost \$8,600, but because of the Trust's contribution the 5 Day tuition rate is \$6,980. The Board is responsible for, and strives to, keep tuition rate comparable to other schools while maintaining the low student to teacher ratio, competitive staff salaries, plentiful resources, and more that Berrybrook is proud of.

Mrs. Mann also set up the Helen Wheeler Scholarship Fund, which is the primary source of tuition assistance for Berrybrook families. The purpose of this fund is to provide tuition assistance to parents and/or guardians of children who have been accepted to Berrybrook, and who would not be able to attend without financial assistance. Mrs. Mann never wanted to the cost to prevent a child from attaining a quality early childhood education.

Without the Trust's support and tuition increase, Berrybrook might be forced to reduce the number of teachers per group, thus impacting the wonderful teacher: student ratio of 1:6, which is much lower than the state regulation of 1:10. Without the Trust support and tuition increase, the quality of our program might be compromised. Without the Trust support and tuition increase, we may not have as many supplies and materials to offer the children. Without the Trust support and tuition increase, Berrybrook would feel different.

This month is the time for families to enroll, or reenroll, at Berrybrook for the 2019-2020 year. We look forward to the next stage with your children and thank you for your continued support of Berrybrook.

Wishing you a wonderful 2019! ~ Mrs. Watts

Thank You !!!

We would like to thank all the families for their generosity this holiday season.

All the notes, goodies, and gifts were very much appreciated.

Mrs. Piccuito and Mrs. Watts



Beginners Notes

Welcome Back !!

Happy New Year to all of our Beginners and families! We hope your holidays were filled with joyous family time and memories. We would like to thank all the families for attending our Holiday Sing-Along; the children were so excited! It was so nice to see everyone enjoying the special cookies that the children baked and listening to the songs they learned.

We are so happy to have everyone back and are looking forward to a great second half of the year. The teachers have so much planned for January! First, let's hope for some snow because we will be spending this month exploring the cold weather, snow, and ice. We will be introducing snow activities, learning about dressing warm, and maybe even have some ice experiments in the water table. We will continue to practice getting dressed for the cold weather. The "flip trick" for putting on jackets will be introduced and the order of putting on our outdoor clothes will be practiced as well (snow pants, boots, jacket, hat, and then mittens). You will be surprised at the end of the season how well the Beginners can master this feat! We try to get outside everyday that the weather permits so please make sure to send in warm clothing and shoes daily.

As we get back into our routine, we will be welcoming volunteers to come in and have some fun with us. There will be a sign up sheet for this posted on our bulletin board in our classroom shortly. Children in the Beginners class really enjoy having visitors in the classroom - a short story being read, a puzzle being put together, or just being creative in the block area with a visitor will make the children smile. Teachers will give all volunteers our *Visitor Guidelines for Beginners* informational sheet with helpful tips before joining us for the morning.

The Beginners will also start to take part in monthly yoga sessions with Miss Kim. She has been instructing students at Berrybrook for many years and always has fun ways to help us learn about yoga.

Be sure to check our Shutterfly site for all our recent photos. This is a fun way to have your child talk about what we have done, the friends they have made, and the activities they have enjoyed. This is a great bonding experience also!

Our Beginners class has really developed into a wonderful group of friends. We look forward to getting to know them even more and exploring all that we have to offer together!

Happy New Year from the Beginners Teachers!!

~Mrs. Connell

Mrs. Connell teaches in the Beginners, 3 Day Room 3, and 4 Day Room 2



2 Day and 3 Day Notes

Sensory in the classroom

Welcome back! I hope everyone enjoyed their holidays and time with their families. We are happy to start a fresh new year with your children!

The 2 and 3 Day classes will be focusing on winter and winter activities in the next few weeks. Please remember to send in snow gear with your child every day. This includes: boots, snow pants, winter coat, hat, and mittens. We spend time outdoors daily, and even if there is no snow on the ground, snow gear may be needed to keep your child warm and comfortable. Please label every piece of clothing, as items can get quite mixed up while the children are getting dressed!

The children will be doing a unit on woodworking in January. One of the projects they will be creating is a wooden collage. The end product that waits to be taken home in your child's cubby went through many steps to be created. The children choose a wooden shingle to be the base. They apply glue with a brush to the wooden shingle, and choose various items to glue onto the shingle. They have to think about and choose each item to be placed on their creation. They have to decide if they want an item to stand up, lay flat, lay diagonally, or lay on top of another item. They have to decide how many items they would like to have on their creation. Some children may only choose one or two items, and some may cover their entire shingle! Some children's focus may be just be the glue itself!

This project is actually one of the first "follow through projects", meaning that it has two steps and will take two days to complete. After their creation dries, the children will be painting it. This will be another example of individual creativity because some children may paint all of it, and some children may only paint a few of their items on their collage. It is up to them to create and each piece is different and unique! Please look for your child's wonderful creation this month!

Keep warm!

~ *Mrs. Fosdick*

Mrs. Fosdick teaches in the 3 Day Room 1 and the 4 Day Room 1 classes.

Berrybrook would like to thank everyone who donated to the Kingston Animal Shelter. The animals are more comfortable and content this winter because of your generosity.

4 Day and 5 Day Notes

January is for the birds



In the month of January, the 4 and 5 Day year students do a unit on birds. They learn about the differences and similarities of birds, where they live, the sounds they make, the eggs they lay, etc. We have a few projects where we create different birds using various classroom materials, such as, construction paper, glue, feathers, markers, water colors, scissors, etc. The children have to trace, cut, and assemble the birds in regard to the bird's body, head, wings, legs, feet, eyes, and beaks. They really have to think about what the particular bird they are working on looks like and then create their own. What I enjoy most about these projects is how different and unique each child's bird is! No two birds are alike! You really can see how they use their imagination and their creativity.

During this unit, the children make a penguin (the penguin's body is actually traced from your child's shoe!), an owl, create bird tracks, learn some fun bird songs, and we read some great books about birds. One of the books we read is Owl Babies, written by Martin Waddell and illustrated by Patrick Benson. This is a story about a mother owl and her three owl babies. The mother owl left the nest to hunt and the three owl babies are contemplating where she went and are wondering if she will be back. Each owl baby has a different personality, and the teacher demonstrates this with the use of owl finger puppets as the story is read. The illustrations by Patrick Benson are absolutely beautiful. The children are engaged listening to this story and await the outcome of the mother owl's return with as much anticipation as the owl babies themselves!

The children make their own owl at the project table. They have to think about and decide the shape of the owl's head and body. They use pencils, construction paper, and scissors to draw and cut the shapes of the head and body. They use glue and a glue brush to secure them together. They have to think about and decide what else their owl needs to look like an owl. Eyes? Beak? Ears? Feet or talons? Wings? Hair, fur or feathers? They assemble the remainder of the owl using construction paper for wings, talons, ears, and a beak. They use reinforcement stickers for the eyes, and they can add feathers to the body. Each owl is unique and you can really see your child's personality in what they have created!

This project, as well as the other bird projects, solidify the information they have learned about birds. They enjoy this unit and enjoy learning and creating their own birds. Look for your child's work as it will be displayed in the hallways, and in our classroom. You will see, as we teachers do, the thought and creativity that your children have put in!

There's someone sitting on a big, high hill, I wonder who it could be?
There's someone sitting on a big, high hill, who always answers me!
Whooooo - whooooo? Whooooo- whooooo?
I wonder who it could be?

~ Mrs. Fosdick

Mrs. Fosdick teaches in the 3 Day Room 1 and the 4 Day Room 1 classes

Parents Association Notes

Happy New Year! We hope you all enjoyed the holiday sing alongs and had a wonderful holiday break!!

We wanted to thank the entire Berrybrook community for helping us to contribute many requested and needed toys to Horizons For Homeless Children. The outpouring of support for our giving tree was just another example of how our community comes together to help those in need.

Thank you to those that attended the Gardens-Aglow event at the Heritage Museum and Gardens in Sandwich. The weather was seasonably perfect and many smiles were seen while visiting with Santa and riding the beloved carousel.

We will be working on the details of some enrichment opportunities for the community upon the children's return in January. Stay tuned!

As always, thank you to those that have already paid their BPA dues! If you have yet to do so, it's not too late! We ask for a \$30 contribution per family, which goes directly toward student enrichment in and out of the classroom. A big thank you to our Berrybrook families for your continued support and participation!

Thank you!

Diana Stewart and Jenna O'Donnell Co-Presidents
berrybrookparentsassociation@gmail.com

The Berrybrook Staff would like to thank the Parents Association for arranging snacks for our monthly after-school meetings. Each month we have a 2 hour meeting to discuss curriculum and other matters. These meetings are scheduled from 4:15-6:15 and we appreciate having a snack to fortify us. We are thankful for all of the support and encouragement we receive from parents. It is very thoughtful of parents to take time from their busy schedules to prepare refreshments for us.

Thank You Very Much!!

From The Board of Directors

Routines?

That's a wrap! Another holiday season behind us. December tends to be a month where we don't know if we are coming or going. We try to fit in celebrating with family and friends, attend a child's concert or go see a holiday play. It seems there aren't enough hours in the day or days in the week to get it all done. Our daily routines are often put aside during this busy time. Somehow it all gets done, bringing smiles and creating memories.

Then January rolls in and there is a sense of peacefulness as the kids return to their activities and school. Regardless of how busy their regular day may be, there is a sense of calmness when there is a predictable routine. When my children were younger, they thrived on routine. Knowing what to expect and when to expect it helped them to eat and sleep better. There was also less anxiety since they had an idea of what to expect next.

This is one of the many things we loved about Berrybrook. Regardless of which program your child is in, the routines are very similar though the content may vary from class to class. By establishing the rules and routines in the 2 and 3 day classes, the transitions into the 4 and 5 day programs seem to be easier. The child is familiar with the school, but they also know what to expect with the daily routine.

My kids are now 15, 13 and 11 years old. Though their needs have changed from the preschool years, they still thrive on a routine. In fact, I (age undisclosed) also do better with consistency. It always takes a few weeks of a "new schedule", like the start of winter sports, to adapt to a different routine.

So what happens when Mother Nature messes with our peaceful, predictable routine? It has taken me a while to appreciate the unexpected break in the routine. I admit, when my kids were younger, I used to dread snow days. School gave me a few hours a day when I could run errands, clean the house, or maybe even workout. Snow days are the few days a year our family has nowhere to rush off to. It's time we can pull out a board game or a puzzle. Also, my kids do great jobs shoveling when they know there is hot cocoa with marshmallows afterward. The Duxbury Schools just sent everyone home with Blizzard Bags so the students can do school work at home on these snow days and they will be counted as a school day. So parents, now is the time to work on your own "Blizzard Bag". Fill it with a game, a puzzle, even some hot cocoa. Maybe it will make a snow day more fun.

Michelle Maguire
Berrybrook Board of Directors



Colder weather is on its way...

It is our policy to cancel classes whenever Duxbury Public Schools are closed due to weather emergencies. Families should watch Channel 7, WHDH for a school cancellation at Berrybrook. Every attempt at notification will be made through email messages, text messages, phone calls via OneCallNow and/or social media. In the event Duxbury Public Schools require a one hour delay, Berrybrook will have the usual 9am arrival time. In the event Duxbury Public Schools require a two hour delay, the AM session, as well as Lunch Bunch, will be cancelled. Beyond a formal cancellation, we urge parents to use their best judgment about driving young children to school in inclement weather.

As the weather changes, be sure to dress children appropriately for outdoor play, including the Nook. Now is a good time to locate all hats, mittens, gloves, and warm jackets that will be necessary as we head into December. Once the snow flies, children should bring snow pants and snow boots. Children are welcome to keep slippers, sneakers, or crocs at school to make sure they are comfortable in the classroom. **Please remember to label all clothing.**

BERRYBROOK ADMISSIONS

OPEN HOUSE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26, 2019

10 A.M. - 12 P.M.

SPREAD THE WORD!!!