

## January 2025

**Monday, January 6**

**2025-2026 Enrollment Begins**

**Saturday, January 11**

**Berrybrook Open House 10am-12pm**

**Monday, January 20**

**Martin L. King Jr. Day - No School**



### Notes from the Head of School

**Someone said 40 years ago in 1985, and it didn't sit well with me-came as a shock.  
What's happening with time?**

I saw the above recently on FaceBook and it startled me. As someone in their “middle age years” I often think of what I have accomplished, and what I have yet to accomplish. This time of year is popular for reflections and goals for the upcoming year. For Berrybrook our goal remains the same: to provide high quality early education for as many children as possible.

January is the month for returning and alum families to submit their applications for the upcoming year before we open up the enrollment process to families new to Berrybrook. In order to provide a high quality environment that goes above and beyond, our tuition rates increase each year, much like everything else these days. Our wonderful founder, Mrs. Mann, had the foresight to set up a scholarship fund 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.

Berrybrook has provided high level, quality education for children for over 70 years and I'm confident that Berrybrook will be going strong for at least another 70 more. I certainly won't be at Berrybrook then, but will be so happy knowing how much I accomplished during my Berrybrook years!

Happy New Year to all!

~ 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**

## ***Teacher's Notes***

December comes and goes so quickly, filling our schedules with holiday cheer and routine changes. After the hustle and bustle of the holiday passes us by, we're welcomed by the calm reset of January. Many people start the new year asking, "What is your New Year's resolution?" It gives us a chance to reflect on the past year and think of some habits we'd like to change or adapt, or new habits we'd like to start. This time last year I was hunkered down at home on maternity leave with a new baby. My New Year's resolution last year was to figure out how to be a parent!

Something I've learned in my first year of parenting is that every stage and every tough thing is just a phase, and there is constant reflecting and learning going on. So making one big sweeping New Year's resolution feels silly to me. We're in a phase right now where every object is being taken out and put into something else. So if I can't find something, it's probably at the bottom of a basket or a hamper. The other night I was watching baby August take face clothes out of a basket and put them back in over and over and over and over again. And she was content doing this for quite a while. The next day I watched her repeat this activity with spoons and a cup.

Young children thrive with repetition. It's how they learn, and master new skills, or develop new understandings. When a child is exposed to the same songs, books, phrases, environments, tasks; they are building neural circuits. We've all heard the phrase "neurons that fire together, wire together." In early childhood, these neural connections happen quickly, but happen even more rapidly with repetition. For example, we hope that our children will be able to get dressed for the cold weather independently, so we repeat "hats, jackets, mittens," and give ample opportunity to practice. With repetition and patience, this new skill will be mastered eventually!

Repetition also creates predictability, which fosters safety for children. When a child feels safe in their environment or with their expectations, they feel more confident to explore and learn new things. Repetition looks different for different ages. At Berrybrook we implement scaffolding in order to increase the difficulty of tasks at an age appropriate level. In order for a child to master a new skill, they need repeated exposure and opportunities to work on that skill in many different ways.

My New Year's resolution this year is to try to appreciate and find the joy of each stage of development my daughter is in. And to remind myself that the hard parts are just a phase and with consistency and patience everything will be ok. I'm excited to see what phase of learning August enters into next. Whatever it is, I'm sure we'll be doing it over, and over, and over, and over again!

*~Ms. Ellsworth*

*Ms. Ellsworth teaches in the 3 Day and the Beginners classes*

# Parents Association Notes

## **Hello Berrybrook Parents!**

Happy New Year! We hope you all enjoyed some time off with friends and family! The Holiday Sing-Alongs were such a special way to end the year, and we'd like to thank our amazing student performers as well as the Berrybrook staff for putting on a great show.

We are extremely grateful for your support with the Plymouth Family Resource Center Giving Tree. Together, we were able to fulfill twenty children's wish lists this holiday season! Thank you for helping make this season magical for the children of the PFRC!

On a final note, we greatly appreciate your continued support and participation in the BPA. Because of your generosity, the BPA dues that many of you submitted at the beginning of the year are going towards fun and exciting enrichment programs coming up in the new year! Please know that it's never too late to contribute to the funds that support these activities. The suggested contribution per family is \$40 and can be sent via Venmo to the @BerrybrookParentsAssociation account.

## **UPCOMING BPA DATES**

- January 10 - Family Fun Friday at Tumblefun Gymnastics, 4:00 - 5:00 PM

## **Family Fun Fridays**

We had a successful Family Fun Friday at Edaville's Festival of Lights. We hope everyone enjoyed the beautiful light displays, the festive decor, and the train ride!

We're excited for this month's Family Fun Friday at Tumblefun on January 10th! The fun begins as soon as the children join the instructors in the gym; one full hour of games, gymnastics, obstacle courses, jumping in the foam pit and much more! There are still a few spots open and you can register [here](#). Looking forward to seeing you all there!

**Spring Fling:** We are looking forward to kicking off our Spring Fling planning this month. As a reminder, the Spring Fling will be Saturday, May 17th. Please keep an eye out for the Sign Up Genius with volunteer opportunities in the next few weeks. We rely on the BPA members to help make this a fun-filled event for the kids and their families and hope that you will consider volunteering for one of the openings!!

**[CLICK HERE FOR A FULL CALENDAR OF BPA EVENTS](#)**

Stephanie McGarry, Emma Kender, and Michelle Crowley  
[berrybrookparentsassociation@gmail.com](mailto:berrybrookparentsassociation@gmail.com)

## ***From The Board of Directors***

### Embracing the Quiet of January

I have always loved the fresh start of the new year – even more so after having children. The sparkle and excitement of the holidays has passed. The new toys are familiar, the last bits of tinsel, pine needles and confetti have been swept up and the crisp winter stretches ahead.

The holidays take us out of our routine in a wonderful way – we leave the golden fall days and leaf piles and before we know it we've all *passed through the seven levels of the candy cane forest* and found ourselves in the land of rosy cheeks and remembering to wear our mittens to school, and maybe some sledding (if we're lucky these days!)

One of my favorite things about Berrybrook when my now-much-bigger children were there was always the appreciation of the present. Not just the exciting seasons and routines but the quiet ones too. January always meant thinking about snow and winter animals, appreciating a simple icicle and wondering about how it formed. These meditations and ponderings on a quiet time of year, seen through the eyes of my children, always helped me to be present and appreciate these months that can feel long and dark and chilly.

May your January routines be filled with hot cocoa and cozy moments, and hopefully some snowflakes too. Take it all in and enjoy the quiet.

~ ***Beth Marois***

*Berrybrook Board of Directors*





## **Colder weather is here...**

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 9 am 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 outdoors in January. 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 with your child's name.**

\*\*\*\*\*

***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.***





## Admissions Open House

Saturday, January 11

10 am - 12 pm

*If you know of any families looking for a preschool  
for their child, be sure to let them know!*

---

*New this year..... admissions applications can now  
be submitted online at*

[www.berrybrookschool.org/apply](http://www.berrybrookschool.org/apply)