

October 2024

October 14	Columbus Day - no school
October 23	Berrybrook Board Meeting 7:30 pm via Zoom
October 29	Berrybrook Parent Association meeting 7:00 pm



Notes from the Head of School

Anyone else struggling with the time of year? Almost daily I am reassuring myself that it is the first month of our school year. It could be that I feel like I 'lost' the majority of the summer due to some commitments, or that there are Christmas items presently stocked on store shelves, or that the leaves were turning colors already, with one of our favorite trees at Berrybrook already bare of those pretty leaves from a particular windy weekend. The tree was just leafless before the calendar even told us it was the first day of autumn. It's no wonder we're a bit confused.

One other way I know it's the fall is the Berrybrook Harvest Festival, and since this year we are switching it back to the Spring Fling in May, it is also intruding with my seasonality. I'm sure that many, especially those who have enjoyed our Fests in the past, may feel a sense of disappointment. It was only after much discussion and reflection that we made this decision. The planning for the Harvest Festival begins months in advance and the summer is such a busy time for all, proving difficult to organize with so many of our planners going in many directions during that important time. However the biggest factor was that for some of our students, typically those who attend two days a week, are still settling into their routines with new faces in their new spaces. When they arrive for the Fest, those comforts they were starting to feel can sometimes be completely thrown off with the addition of a hundred or so more people, raffles baskets, face painting, music on the playground, and more. We tended to see a bit of a regression in some of the students post-Festival, and on the other spectrum we have some students who were disappointed there weren't hayrides during their class outdoor time when they came back on Monday! By May everyone will be more confident in their routines and have a true sense of ownership of Berrybrook being their school.

Traditions are a core of Berrybrook, and although the Fest will now be a Fling we will still celebrate our school in the most developmentally appropriate way, which again is another core of Berrybrook - finding the best and most appropriate way at our child-centered school. Enjoy this year, and all the traditions ahead!

~ Mrs. Watts

Teacher's Notes

Three Important Words

On Visiting Day in Room 2 the three words appear,
The 3 words are always new, every year.

Still in the same spot as before,
Next to Bear, now near the classroom door.

They are ready for all families to be able to see,
Out in the hallway, where they will be.

As tradition, in the past weeks the children have already shown,
A demonstration of each word...they've already grown!

"How can that be?" you ask. "You've seen it in which way?"
We've noticed the three traits in each and every child, each and every day!

Genuine ~

We share with them through story, "Be You!"
And model for all, "To yourself, stay true."

Attentive ~

We express to your children, "Truly listen and see..."
With practice and patience, this will become so easy!

Considerate ~

We model for them, "To your classmates and teachers take a great look..."
There are many ways to be kind at Berrybrook!

To be **genuine**, **attentive**, and **considerate**..what wonderful traits.
Rest assured, this Berrybrook school year is going to be great!

~ Mrs.LaForest

(Mrs. LaForest teaches in the 4 and 5 Day classes)

Berrybrook Parents Association Notes

We are excited to start the school year off with an abundance of opportunities for Berrybrook families to connect. As we get underway, please reach out if you have any questions about events as well as BPA communications.

UPCOMING BPA DATES:

October 3 - Mom's Night Out, 5:30-7PM

October 4 - Playground Family Fun Friday, 11:45-1PM

October 18 - Sauchuk's Family Fun Friday, 2-4PM

October 29 - BPA Meeting, 7pm

Seeking Class Parents: Are you interested in volunteering at Berrybrook during this school year? We are seeking one more class parent for the Beginners and 2 Day classrooms. Class Parent volunteer duties include organizing teacher gifts 2x per year for holidays and teacher appreciation/end of year and collecting funds, email communications to families, purchase gifts, and presents to teachers. You can email the BPA at berrybrookparentsassociation@gmail.com to sign up. An email will be out soon to connect class parents with families within each classroom.

Family Fun Fridays: Family Fun Fridays are monthly events that are a great way to meet other Berrybrook families while engaging in fun activities around the community.

It has been a beloved tradition for families to attend Gardens Aglow at the Heritage Museum and Gardens in the month of December. This year, due to a change in their group booking policies, they were not able to accommodate our group. Our partnership with Gardens Aglow is very important to us and we will revisit this partnership in 2025.

The Heritage Museum and Gardens does offer tickets to the general public starting the first week in October. More information can be found [here](#) if your family still wishes to attend on their own.

Please know that the BPA is working diligently to finalize the venue for our December FFF this year and we will communicate all information as soon as possible.

Community Outreach: BPA member Molly Buchanan is working to connect the children with seniors at the Duxbury Senior Center. Throughout the year, each class will be coloring on brown lunch bags. These bags will be used by the Duxbury Senior Center to deliver meals to individuals who receive homemade meals prepared by the Senior Center a few times a week. The Senior Center was very excited to partner with us and they look forward to seeing all the creative coloring by the Berrybrook students!

Enrichment Updates: The planning for this year's enrichment programming is already underway. Yoga with Miss Kim will start up for the 4 and 5 Day classes this month and will be introduced to the 3 Day, 2 Day and Beginners in January. Miss Kim has been visiting Berrybrook for many years and is always well-received and enjoyed by the students. We also have Jesse Stiglich returning this spring to engage the 4 and 5 Day students in a few fun drumming classes.

BPA Dues: Thank you to everyone who has already paid their annual BPA dues. If you have not already done so, the suggested \$40 contribution goes directly to our student enrichment program.

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

We look forward to seeing you around this fall!

Stephanie McGarry, Emma Kender and Michelle Crowley
BPA



Berrybrook Families are growing!!!!

Welcome

Thomas Crowley

(big brother Matthew is in the 3 Day class)



From The Board of Directors

Well, we're in that whirlwind again of bright and breezy fall days, hectic schedules, cool evening practices, and exciting new chapters. My three Berrybrook grads are beginning 8th, 5th and 2nd grades, and there's been quite the savory stew of emotions over here! Best friends are in other classes this year and we're working on making new friends. We're part of new sports teams and finding the courage to make mistakes and keep at it. Teachers have different personalities and styles than the beloved mentors we left in the spring. When challenges like these pile up each September, the pressure they exert can make our home a highly reactive environment!

Several Septembers ago, I recall feeling frustrations rise as my kids acted out their anxieties when they started a new year at Berrybrook. Back then there was a baby or toddler in tow, and there didn't seem to be room for the preschooler to fall apart on the way to school. But then Mrs. Connell would meet us at the classroom door with a smile full of understanding and patience and words full of respect for the small teary person learning to go to school on her own. Led by teachers who radiate compassion and kindness, Berrybrook classrooms become caring communities where my children first felt at home away from home. When Mrs. LaForest writes down a child's own words, or passes a "talking feather" to give each child uninterrupted time to speak, she recognizes the work and wonder of being a preschooler. And as my children felt seen and heard at school, they began to belong and thrive.

Thankfully, our family's time at Berrybrook continues to guide our relationships as my children continue the work of growing up. At dinner a couple of weeks back I told my kids how proud I was of them for navigating all of this newness. As my 8th grader stifled a smirk and the younger ones started to giggle, I insisted that children face the unfamiliar much more than adults do, and this takes tremendous courage! I watched their facial expressions soften as this affirmation took root in their minds and hearts. Thank you Berrybrook for teaching us to transition with joy and grace for each other.

And also for teaching us to celebrate! Singalongs! Parades! Thanksgiving Feasts! Birthday celebrations! Ice Cream Days! The Berrybrook year is punctuated by glorious celebrations - spontaneous or carefully planned - recognizing long-term accomplishments or enjoying everyday discoveries together in this learning community. It seemed only natural that on the first Friday evening of this school year we would celebrate our accomplishments and blow off steam at a pool party with some of our favorite Berrybrook friends. We met these families years ago, spending Friday afternoons together on the Berrybrook playground or on Family Fun Friday adventures at Sauchuk Farms or Tumblefun.

As the emotions of the school week bubbled over in shrieks of laughter, goofy dances, reckless water wrestling and sibling squabbles; I admired my friends' loving responses to it all. These parents truly enjoy spending time with their kids, feel deeply their responsibility to guide and teach them, and do the work to cultivate lasting, loving, respectful relationships. Their kids perform everyday acts of kindness and courage - speaking up to defend younger children on the bus and reaching out to anyone who's alone. They are friends my kids look up to. What an honor and a gift to go through life with these families. Thank you Berrybrook for being a community of kindness and joy and equipping us to build this kind of community wherever we go.

Each new school year brings with it so many daunting challenges, but here we are at the end of September! We survived! And sometimes thrived! And looking back on the past few turbulent weeks, so many of the skills and traditions and relationships that have carried us through came from Berrybrook. I am excited for all your family will learn and gain from Berrybrook - this year and for years to come.

Anna Reed

President

Berrybrook Board of Directors



The Lunch Bunch teachers

would like to thank parents in advance for being so careful to pack allergy safe lunches for their children.

We appreciate our families taking the extra time to ensure all Berrybrook children are safe.

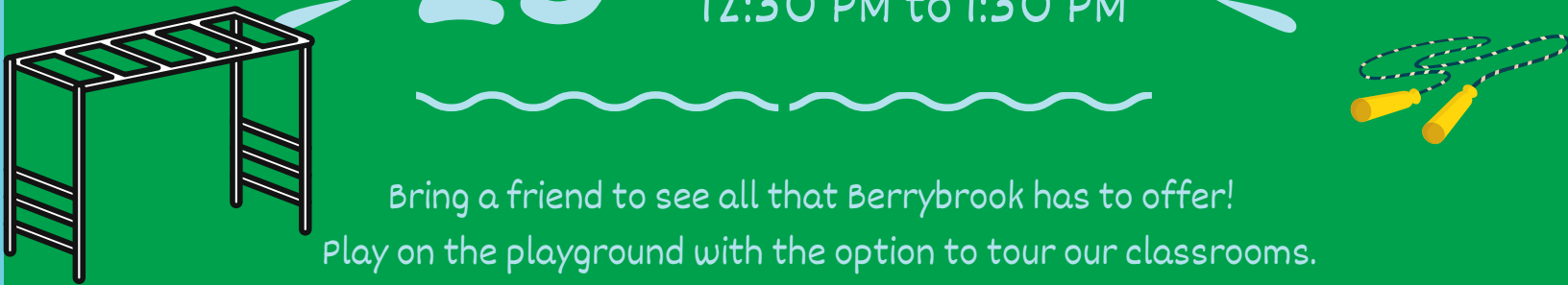


Berrybrook
discover | play | learn

Bring a Friend Friday



25 October 2024
12:30 PM to 1:30 PM



Bring a friend to see all that Berrybrook has to offer!
Play on the playground with the option to tour our classrooms.

Every current family who brings a friend is entered to win
a week at our 2025 Summer Nature Program!
(no maximum on the number of families/entries!)

267 Winter Street Duxbury MA 02332



Friend us on Facebook @duxburyall-sportstagsale

Duxbury's All-Sports Tag Sale to benefit

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skis	golf
snowboards	hockey
kayaks	soccer
surfboards	lacrosse
lifejackets	football
tennis	baseball
pickleball	softball
field hockey	and more!

donations of gently used sporting equipment will be accepted at St. John's Church at the following times *only*:

Thursday, 10/17, 9-noon

Friday, 10/18, 9-noon, 6-7pm

****if you wouldn't buy it, please don't bring it***

Saturday, October 19, 8-11am

@ St. John's Church

410 Washington Street, Duxbury

cash, check, major credit cards accepted