

# Muddy Brook Elementary

## Specialist Learning Link



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### Specialist Areas & Grade Levels

#### Art

Mrs. Benton  
PK— 4th Grade

#### Library

Ms. Smith  
PK— 4th Grade

#### Music

Mrs. Moran  
Kindergarten  
Music  
Mr. Gillespie |  
2nd Grade—4th Grade

#### Technology

Mrs. Candee  
2nd Grade—4th Grade

#### Physical Education

Mrs. Soule, Mrs. Fleming,  
Miss Warner  
KDG—4th Grade

April 10, 2015

### April News

Dear Muddy Brook Families,

The animals are starting to move outside and we are ready to join them! This week there was a beaver sighting in the pond next to the playground. We are also watching five cardinals, three males and two females, flit on the edge of our woodland. What animals are moving in your neighborhood?

In the next weeks, we can expect to start seeing ticks again. The Center for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) reminds us to do a check upon return from potentially tick-infested areas. Places ticks like to bite are:

- Under the arms
- In and around the ears
- Inside the belly button
- Behind the knees
- In and around hair
- Between the legs
- Around the waist

Please do get outside and explore and then also check for ticks.

After vacation, 4th grade, with the support of the Yolk Project, will incubate chick eggs. There will be duck eggs incubating in Ms. Thompson's office. Do stop by and see! We are sure new life will arise from this deep, cold winter. We look forward to hallways filled with the miracle of life and lots of peeping.

Tonight is our Spring Family Dance. The gym looks and feels like a huge circus tent. Thank you to the PTA for hosting this joyful event. Please come! Tickets are available at the door for \$6 a person or \$24 a family. Scholarships are available.

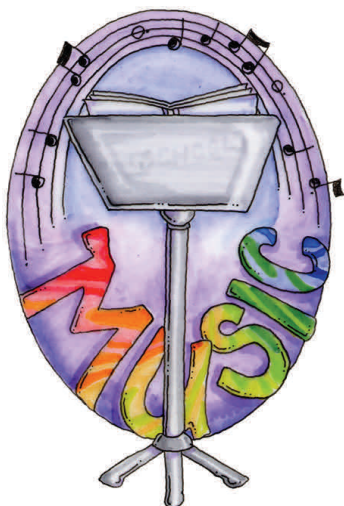
Next week is PTA Movie Night! Please join us this Wednesday, April 15 at 6pm. Parents, please do attend the PTA meeting and students please do come enjoy the movie "Wall-e". All of our children benefit from our creative, strong, and vibrant PTA. Almost all field trips and special events are funded by the PTA. We are very grateful for your participation and support in making Muddy Brook wonderful.

Our unicycle team is getting ready for Mud Day and Memorial day parades in Stockbridge and Great Barrington. Attached is our annual t-shirt order form. Please don't forget to order a shirt for your unicyclist. All riders will receive a shirt regardless of ability to pay. We must receive an order form from you to place an accurate order. Thank you for helping with this.

Enjoy the sunny weekend,

Ms. Berle and Ms. Thompson

## Music Notes from Mr. Gillespie



Happy Spring!

2<sup>nd</sup> grade music classes are really beginning to get a handle on the recorder. Over the next month they will be learning recorder pieces for the Spring Concert. The students will also be reviewing good singing technique and starting to learn songs to sing at the Spring Concert.

In April the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade music classes will be finishing their study of the “Orff” instruments by learning 2 pieces to practice and perform together. Each piece will involve 4 or 5 different instrumental and singing parts that happen simultaneously. They will also begin learning their Spring Concert songs. This year our concert theme is “Movie Songs”.

The Muddy Brook Band and Select Chorus are in the process of practicing their Spring Concert music. Weekly rehearsals before school are helping these ensembles grow and improve.

Parents: don't forget to sign your child in to their 8:00 lessons and/or rehearsals!

## Orchestra Outlook by Juraye Moran

During the month of April, Advanced string students will be preparing for their Strings on Tour concert. It will be held on May 1st a Friday afternoon beginning at 1:30. Students will be travelling alone and in small groups to every classroom. They will perform a short piece and be able to answer some questions from their audiences. Parents are invited to attend and will gather in the Community Room. This year we have over 20 advanced 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade Advanced string students. This is also a very busy month for beginner string students as they are preparing for their Spring Concert later in June. Parents are also reminded to sign in right outside the stage door each morning when dropping off students for early morning string lessons.

Morning Kindergarten music classes are learning about the differences between solos, duets and trios. They are all getting the opportunity to sing in these groups with their classes. Songs about animals are the theme this month. Students will be singing about monkeys, whales, roosters and many more. Ask your child to share their new songs at home.





## Welcome to the Technology Lab

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

Students have been focusing on developing keyboarding skills. We will continue that practice as well as put it to work as students conduct a short research project. They will choose an animal and collect information about the animal's diet, habitat, and life cycle. This information will be displayed on a fact sheet created in Word. Students will then exercise their mouse finger as they explore Paint, a digital drawing tool. Their task will be to create a picture of their animal in its habitat using various digital tools such as the marker, circle, shape, line, paint bucket, color picker and more. Look for these projects to come home in early May.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

The 3<sup>rd</sup> grade is beginning a study of the American Revolution in classrooms. In technology we will be supporting that learning with a Biography project. Students will choose a notable person from that time period to study. They will use teacher-selected internet resources to locate, collect, and organize information about that person's life. This project will give students an opportunity to demonstrate proper keyboarding skills and techniques. As well apply what they have learned about word processing (i.e., font size/style, line spacing, margins) to format, edit, and print a document.

### 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

Students are busy working in pairs on an exciting project that will be featured during the 4<sup>th</sup> grade Regions Fair in June. They are working in both Technology and Library to create a travel video about an American Landmark. Pairs are using teacher selected internet resources to locate, collect, and organize information about their chosen landmark. They are then using that information to plan a travel video that will be created using iMovie on the iPads. This project is providing students with an opportunity to express themselves creatively through the use of technology.

## New & Noteworthy

### NASA App



Common Sense Media says:

Information-packed tool delivers videos, photos, and more.

Parents need to know that the free *NASA App* is an official NASA app, jam-packed with more information on the U.S. space program and astronomy than you could digest in a lifetime. With new information added daily from a variety of NASA sources, including NASA's public television channel, this app can launch you into outer space from your couch, on the bus, or in the classroom.

### ATTENTION 3<sup>rd</sup> GRADERS!!!

### Ansel and Clair: Paul Revere's Ride



Common Sense Media says:

Fantastic app makes historical figures relatable for kids.

Parents need to know that *Ansel and Clair: Paul Revere's Ride* is an interactive app for kids to learn about the beginning of the American Revolution and about Paul Revere. Ansel and Clair are aliens who come to Earth to learn about this historic time. Puzzles and mini-games (such as matching the 13 colonies by their shapes into a U.S. map or dragging bags of tax money away from angry colonists and toward King George) help kids learn about life in the colonies, from their geography to taxation without representation. Kids can also take photos of things they see and write their observations in a journal. The app includes multiple choice quizzes to check if kids are learning the information.

### Design Squad Nation



Common Sense Media says:

Fun PBS site introduces kids to engineering. Parents need to know that Design Squad Nation is a PBS Kids site that teaches kids about science and engineering through fun games and activities. It's free and there are no ads.

Enjoy!

Mrs. Candee



# Library Update



## April is National Poetry Month!

In celebration, poetry books will be on display in the library and poetry will be incorporated to varying degrees in each grade level.



**Pre-K and Early K** will be reading books about Spring throughout the month of April. We will discuss the signs of Spring, what we enjoy about Spring, and will complete activities related to the books we read. We also will read some funny poems!



**Kindergarten** will be reading some of our new picture books throughout the month of April! We've already had a blast reading *Wednesday* by Anne Bertier and *My Teacher is a Monster (No I'm Not!)* by Peter Brown. It's wonderful discovering new stories and sharing them with our friends.

We also will be reading some funny poems!

**1<sup>st</sup> Grade** will be exploring different kinds of poems! We have already created acrostic poems, next we will be making "I am..." poems and shape poems. We will be reading a wide range of poetry including some by Jack Prelutsky, Douglas Florian, and Shel Silverstein.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Grade** is also exploring different kinds of poems! We have already created concrete poems and acrostic poems. Next we will be making "I am..." poems. We will also be reading poems by Jack Prelutsky, Shel Silverstein, and others. After April Vacation I will be introducing the library's online catalog so students can locate books more independently.



**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade** is finish up their Atlas project and has started exploring dictionaries. We discussed the different parts of a dictionary and how they can find entries quickly. After April Vacation we will begin studying biographies and students will create a biography about a classmate.

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade** is in the midst of their major project for the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the year! In both library and technology, students are researching a U.S. Landmark with the ultimate goal of creating a video convincing people to visit their landmark. Once they have completed their research, they will write scripts, find pictures, and finally film their video using iMovie. These videos will be shown at the Regions Fair in June.

Happy Reading!

Elisabeth Smith  
School Library Media Specialist

## Greetings from the Art Studio by Ali Benton

Greetings from the MBE Art Studio!

It was wonderful to see many families visit the studio to work together and talk about their children's art at the Student Showcase! Thank you, families, for actively talking with you children about their thoughts, wonders and opinions about art and their observations of the world around them.

As we finally spring into spring artists are busy thinking, making and talking about their artistic processes in the studio. Students are making connections to other learning in class and personal interests. We are using wonderful books, entertaining video clips, and art history to connect art concepts and illustrate the measure of personal growth and perseverance. I am observing artists thinking deeply, exploring materials and techniques, solving problems, celebrating peer success and teaching and learning from each other.

Students are sharing their art ideas with each other during art class and displaying work in the hallway gallery. Many artists are taking home unfinished work to complete because they cannot wait until their next art class! At Muddy Brook we encourage children to celebrate the joy of learning through the art making process. The final piece is secondary to the experience of working. Please talk with your student weekly about their time in art class.

There are many opportunities for artistic play indoors and out now that the weather is warming up. Please encourage your artist(s) to create, explore and have fun with art outside of the school day!

Artfully Yours,

Ms. Benton

[Alexandra.benton@bhrrsd.org](mailto:Alexandra.benton@bhrrsd.org)



Jordan and Tilly (1) experiment with painting.

Isaac and Sebastian (2) work with our new woodworking tools!



Zack paints his structure next to a group mural.





## Physical Education News



Greetings Muddy Brook Families and Friends! We have been busy working hard in Physical Education this past month. We bid farewell to Jill Fleming, with many thanks for an exciting and fun-filled Circus unit. We now have Fran Locke (a familiar face to Muddy Brook) working with us until the end of April. We are thankful to have her join the PE team, if only for a little while!

The end of March had Grades PK-2nd working on small group games, with the intention of creating a cooperative climate. From there, we moved on to yoga, focusing on balance, strength, and relaxation. We are now in the midst of our nutrition unit which combines movement with making healthy food/drink choices.

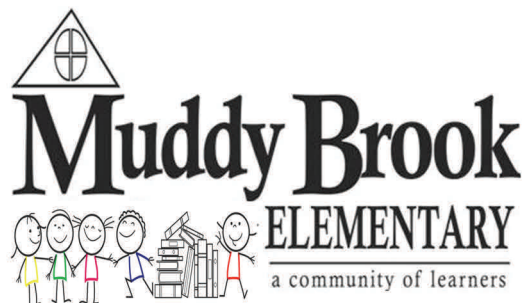
Grades 3 and 4 finished March learning about heart rate and estimation using pedometers. From there, they learned a variety of skills/strategies in our Net games unit led by Julia Warner. We are now focusing on nutrition; learning about making healthy food choices while moving our bodies.

Prior to vacation, we will be having a special guest, Jenny Schwartz, joining us to offer a healthy cooking and nutrition program through the Berkshire Co-op.

Our student-led portfolio afternoon was a success. Students from various grades brought their parents/guardians through the gym with guided questions, showcasing all the wonderful activities/skills they have learned over the past few months.



Everyone at Muddy Brook is doing a terrific job collecting their spare change for Pennies for Patients this year. The first week we collected \$502. The Leadership Team has been very diligent about making announcements every morning. The program will run for one more week. Our goal this year is \$1700. Thank you everyone for making this a successful project and for helping sick children in the process.

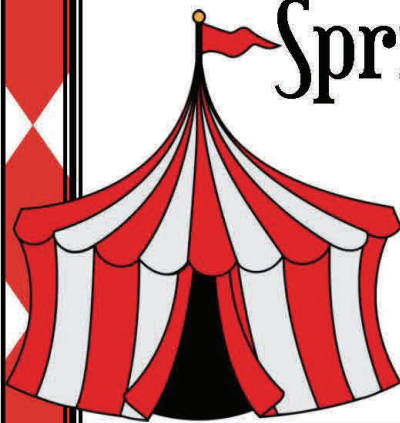




# STEP RIGHT UP



## It's a Circus at the Spring Family Dance



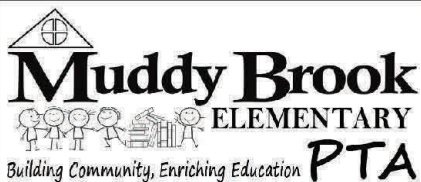
DJ DANCIN' DAVE

PHOTOS BY JOHNNY MILLER

REFRESHMENTS

FRIDAY APRIL 10<sup>TH</sup> 6:00 – 8:30 PM

MUDDY BROOK GYMNASIUM



[muddybrookpta.com](http://muddybrookpta.com)

### TICKETS:

IN ADVANCE \$4 PERSON/\$16 FAMILY  
AT THE DOOR \$6 PERSON/\$24

FAMILY

FAMILIES OF ALL AGES INVITED  
SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE



**IT'S A CIRCUS  
DANCE  
PHOTO CARD FUNDRAISER**

DURING THE DANCE  
PHOTOS OF YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS WILL BE TAKEN  
BY  
PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER  
JOHNNY MILLER OF *PHOTOCARD DAY*.

ON-SITE PRINTED PHOTOS MAKE GREAT  
**SOUVENIRS!**

PRICES:

- 1 - 4 X 6 PRINT FOR \$6
- 3 - 4 X 6 PRINTS FOR \$15
- 5 - 4 X 6 PRINTS FOR \$20
- MAGNETIC SLEEVES \$2
- LAMINATED NECKLACES \$2



ALL PROFIT FROM THE SALE OF PHOTOS GOES TO THE MUDDY BROOK PTA

CASH AND CHECKS ACCEPTED





**BHRSD Mud Day**  
**Color Splash 5k**

## ColorSplash 5K Run or Walk/ 1 Mile Kids Fun Run

May 16<sup>th</sup> 8 a.m.

MMRHS Cross Country Trail

Registration from 8 a.m. – 9 a.m. at the High School

- Entry Fee – \$20 for adult / \$10 for students (\$25 adult/ \$10 for students/kids day of event)
- 5K Run or Walk starts at 9:15 a.m. / Kids Fun Run starts at 10 a.m.
- Wear a plain white t-shirt or a shirt that you do not mind getting color on!!!
- There will be stations of volunteers with harmless colored powder which will be thrown throughout the race. Have fun and come out colorful!!!
- After the race, join the Mud Day event at the Elementary School!!!

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ M \_\_\_\_\_ F \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone:( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

5K Run or Walk (  ) Kids Run (  )

\$20 Pre – Reg (  ) \$10 Pre – Reg (  ) \$25 Day of (  ) \$10 Day of (  )

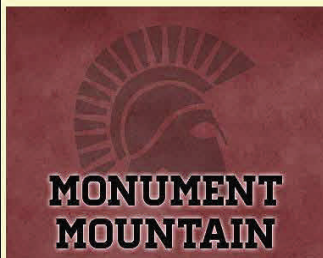
**Please make checks payable to:** Berkshire Running Center and mail your check and registration to 42 Summer Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201. You can also turn it into to Mr. Kelly or Mrs. Campbell at the High School.

Register online at [www.berkshirerunningcenter.com](http://www.berkshirerunningcenter.com) under the registration tab as well!

**Waiver:** In consideration of foregoing, I myself, executors, administrators, and assigns, do hereby discharge the personnel of MMRHS, and all sponsors and their representatives and successors from all claims of damage, actions, and causes whatsoever, in any matter arising or growing out of my participation.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

(Parent or guardian signature for participants under the age of 18)



**\*\*Proceeds go to updating the Monument Mountain  
weight room**





April 10, 2015

Dear Unicycle Team Families,

Your children have done a wonderful job bringing joy, balance, and focus to riding unicycles this year. We have over one hundred children in the district riding with some independence.

Over ten parents have volunteered during practices regularly. Participation rates and the progress students have made learning new skills exceed all predictions. If you have not had a chance to observe on a Tuesday or Friday morning between 8 and 8:30 at Muddy Brook please do consider joining us for a practice. Thank you for supporting your children in being part of our team!

We have a couple of upcoming events. On **Saturday May 16**, the team has been asked to perform and then share tips with prospective riders at the Muddy Brook Mud Day Festival. On **Monday May 25**, we will ride in the **Great Barrington and Stockbridge Memorial Day parades**. Please mark your calendars and attend with your unicyclist(s) if possible. Details about where and when to meet for each parade will be forthcoming. These events are not mandatory, but will be fun for those who can attend.

We've placed a t-shirt order to organize our look for these events. The cost of each shirt is \$18.00.

Please return the attached form and payment Christine Kelly (MBE front office) or Linda Lavoie (MVM front office). **Checks should be made out to the Muddy Brook PTA and earmarked Unicycle Team.** Your payment will make it possible for the team to continue with the tradition of team shirts.

We are also accepting donations above the cost of shirts. We will use donations to provide shirts for all students who have regularly practiced regardless of their ability to purchase a shirt. Any donations above and beyond the cost of shirts will go towards purchasing additional team unicycles. We purchase all of our equipment through donations. If you have any questions, or would like to discuss a possible unicycle donation, please contact me at [mary.berle@bhrsd.org](mailto:mary.berle@bhrsd.org). There is no obligation to contribute.

With gratitude for your support,

Mary Berle, Principal  
[mary.berle@bhrsd.org](mailto:mary.berle@bhrsd.org)



## 2015 Unicycle Team Shirt Order Form

Full name of unicyclist(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Homeroom \_\_\_\_\_

Name for the back of the shirt (first or last name only) \_\_\_\_\_

Number and size of shirts:

	# of shirts @ \$18.00 Each	# of shirts @ \$18.00 Each	# of shirts @ \$18.00 Each	# of shirts @ \$18.00 Each
Student size	XS	S	M	L
Adult size	S	M	L	XL

Grade and homeroom teacher(s) of student(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Attached is our check for \$18.00/shirt ordered and made out to the Muddy Brook PTA – Unicycle Team.

\_\_\_\_ We are contributing an additional amount to cover the cost of a shirt for another child.

\_\_\_\_ We cannot contribute to the costs of team shirts at this time. Thank you for providing a shirt for my child.

\_\_\_\_ I'd like to discuss making a contribution towards purchasing unicycles for the team.

Please return order forms by April 17 to Christine Kelly in the Main Office at Muddy Brook or Linda Lavoie in the Main Office of Monument Valley.



# RENAISSANCE ARTS & WELLNESS CENTER

## SPRING VACATION PROGRAMMING

APRIL 20 - APRIL 24



# DREAMCATCHER!

JOIN US OVER APRIL BREAK AS WE CELEBRATE NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE & CULTURE. THROUGH STORYTELLING, MOVEMENT & ART, WE WILL EXPLORE THE HISTORY OF THE HOPI KACHINA MOUNTAIN SPIRITS, SPIN DREAMCATCHERS WITH OJIBWE SPIDER WOMEN & BUILD ALGONQUIN TOTEM POLES. SPECIAL APPEARANCES WILL BE MADE BY CHEROKEE CHARACTERS, RABBIT THE TRICKSTER, DANGEROUS THUNDERER AND THE STONECLAD ROCK GIANTS.

420 STOCKBRIDGE ROAD SUITE 11  
413-528-9600

GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230  
GBRENAISSANCEARTSCENTER@GMAIL.COM



# Renaissance Arts and Wellness Center

## SUMMER VACATION PROGRAM

"Round the world and home again, that's the sailor's way" -William Allingham

JOIN US AS WE TRAVEL THE WORLD THIS SUMMER!  
EACH WEEK WE WILL BE EXPLORING A NEW COUNTRY/CONTINENT THROUGH: MYTHS, FABLES, STORYTELLING, DANCE, ART, MOVEMENT, PAINTING, CREATIVE WRITING, DRAMA, SCIENCE, GARDENING, MAPS AND MORE!

EACH STUDENT WILL RECEIVE A RENAISSANCE ARTS PASSPORT TO FILL WITH STAMPS AND STICKERS FOR EACH COUNTRY VISITED!

JOIN US FOR ONE WEEK OR MANY.

9 am - 3 pm

Early and Late Drop off/Pick up are available for a additional fee

June 22-26=China	June 29-July 3=Egypt
July 6-10=Australia	July 13-17=India
July 20-24=Japan	July 27-31=Russia
Aug. 3-7=Africa	Aug. 10-14=Central/South America
Aug. 17-21=Iceland	Aug. 24-28=Italy
Aug. 31-Sept. 4=Greece	

Please bring 2 snacks, a drink, and a lunch daily (RAC is a peanut free environment)

Dress appropriately for weather. Please wear closed-toe shoes

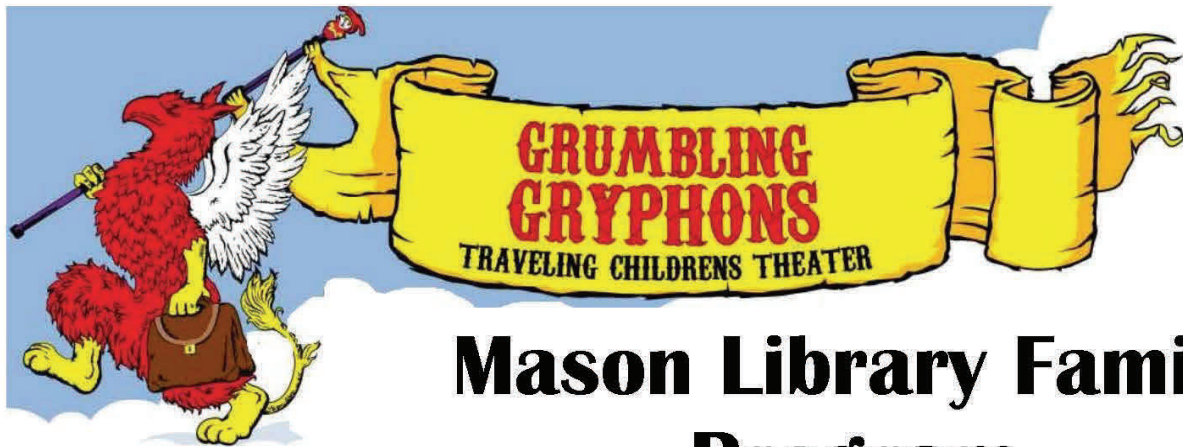
420 Stockbridge Road Suite 11 Great Barrington, MA 01230

413-528-9600

GBRENAISSANCEARTSCENTER@GMAIL.COM

RENAISSANCEARTSCENTER.ORG





## Mason Library Family Program

*Saturday May 2 1:15-2:30pm*

### **GRUMBLING GRYPHONS TO PERFORM: "TRICKSTER COYOTE SHARES THE FIRE" A PLAINS INDIAN STORY**

*This tale of Trickster Coyote tells how Coyote cunningly outwits the greedy Fire Beings, risks his life and brings the treasure of fire to humans. Children will engage in singing Native American songs, dances and play dramatic roles in the performance, wearing masks and costumes.*

*Good for ages K & up*

GREAT BARRINGTON  
LIBRARIES  
MASON • RAMSDELL

IT'S A GREAT BIG WORLD IN HERE



Trudy Richmond, former chief of the Schaghticoke Indians - "Your sensitivity to Native American life ways and culture is appreciated...thanks for the wonderful performance!"



**This program is supported in part by a grant from the Great Barrington Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.**



You Are Invited to:  
**The Third Annual Evening of the Arts**

A Celebration of Students and Teachers in the  
Visual and Performing Arts

Sponsored by:  
**Renaissance Arts and Wellness Center**

on  
April 30th

6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

at

Crissey Farm  
428 Stockbridge Road  
Great Barrington

Admission: \$10

A portion of the proceeds funds scholarships for local graduating  
students of the arts



**Presentors:**

Dr. Peter Dillon - Superintendent, Berkshire Hills  
Regional School District

Marianne Young - Principal, Monument Mountain  
Regional High School

Patricia Navarino - Owner Renaissance Arts and  
Wellness Center