

APRIL 1, 2016
MUDDY BROOK WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE

Dear Families,

If your child is in third or fourth grade, please ask them about the Berkshire Theater Festival (BTF) kick-off today. A group of young and inspired actors and actresses from the BTF presented a short play and talked with fourth graders about how each of them will write a dramatic play. At the end of the school year, each class will act out one of the student authored plays. We are all looking forward to the stories that come from this!

Second graders were outside today observing around the pond both from a scientist's perspective and as poets. They saw a snapping turtle, tadpoles, frog's eggs and many birds. PE classes were also outside today. Please start checking your children for ticks every day. We love to be outside.

Today second graders were writing about the book, *The Lion and The Mouse* by Linda Ross with Mrs. Way. Here are some excerpts:

The lesson is don't judge small or big. You can still be friends. – Emily

Judge them by the content of their character. – Jacob

Never judge someone by their size, but by their personality. – Daniel

The lion learned to make friends not enemies because if you get in a trap, your friend can help you. - Italia

Also today, I ate lunch with second graders. We discussed what is working well at Muddy Brook and what we might do better. Here are thoughts they shared.

I love storytelling at Muddy Brook! – Tyler

I love reading at Muddy Brook and writing and doing math. – Lexi

I do have a lot of good days. And we can work at being nicer to each other. – Thomas

I like people noticing my strengths, like doing nice things for people and having good ideas. – JJ

My favorite thing at school is recess. I like to play tag with my friends. - Karl

I like art & music. I love to paint, draw, make things and I love to sing. I would like more time for art - Jordan

My favorite thing is my friends. – Connor

Looking ahead we will be celebrating Poem-in-Your-Pocket days this month. Please be on the lookout for favorite poems to bring to school and share.

Thank you to all parents and families for the wonderful work you do preparing your children to come to school ready to learn each day. We are full of possibilities thanks to your support and effort.

With gratitude,

Mary Berle, Principal

MUDDY BROOK WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE

UPCOMING EVENTS

MONDAY, April 4

8:00-8:30 a.m.

Chess Club

12:00-1:00 p.m.

Magic the Gathering Club

TUESDAY, April 5

8:00-8:30 a.m.

Unicycling

6:30-8:00 p.m.

Cub Scouts

WEDNESDAY, April 6

8:00-9:00 a.m.

School Council

8:00-8:30 a.m.

Chess Club

5:30-7:00 p.m.

Kindergarten Registration & Orientation

THURSDAY, April 7

8:00-8:30 a.m.

Ukulele Club

FRIDAY, April 8

8:00-8:30 a.m.

Unicycling

8:00-8:40 a.m.

YOLK Project

8:00-8:45 a.m.

Select Chorus Rehearsal

1:30-2:45 p.m.

Grade 4 Amazing Animal Adaptations (families are invited!)



Please join us for

Parent Coffee Hour

Come share your parenting tips and quips with other Muddy Brook parents! Stay for an hour or visit for a few minutes over a cup of coffee and meet other parents.

We meet next Wednesday, April 13th from 9—10am upstairs in Room 301. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

Hope to see you on the 13th!

Melinda Olds, School Counselor

Paint for the PTA on WED, 4/13/16 7-9pm
To benefit Muddy Brook Elementary PTA.
Learn to paint this regional landscape of
"Man on Monument Mountain" on a large 16x20 canvas.

Muddy Brook Elementary
318 Monument Valley Road
Great Barrington, MA

All painting materials and instruction included for \$35.

No alcohol permitted. Reserve your seats at
www.berkshirepaintandsip.com or call (413) 205-8346



IS183
art school

Making Art for 25 Years!

Art Camps

SUMMER 2016



Register by March 31 to Save 10% on Tuition! IS183.org 413.298.5252 ext.100

PTA

CONNECTING TO:
TEACHERS
FAMILIES
OUR LAND
OUR HISTORY

Literacy Month Success

- PTA YPs Joshua Briggs & Patty Melville, along with K-teacher Jack Curletti and 3rd graders kicked off our month-long celebration of literacy with an all-school performance.
- Each day for a week, children voted on book preferences for Principal Mary Berle to read that night. The following day, she presented morning book reports.
- Read-a-thon raised \$800+ and encouraged student goal setting and achievement plans.
- Librarian Patty Melville organized MBE's Read Across America to include multiple civic leaders. Children learned how civic engagement connects people within our community.
- We welcomed professional storyteller Diane Edgecomb for two outstanding in-school performances and one engaging family workshop.

Thanks to all who participated, organized, and attended!

PTA Sponsors Field Trips

Upcoming spring field trips are shaping up to include the Mahaiwe Theater, Berkshire Botanical Gardens, CT Science Center, Mass MOCA, and more. These trips fulfill our PTA's mission to connect students and teachers with our land and history.

Upcoming Events

Paint for the PTA

Wednesday, April 13, 7pm

3rd & 4th Gr. Potluck & School Social Dance

Friday, April 29, 5pm Potluck, 6pm Dance

PTA Meeting

Monday, May 2, 3:45pm

Mud Day

Saturday, May 21

Save the date for MUD DAY:

Saturday, May 21

Mud Day 2016 will connect students and families to the outdoors through partnerships with local organizations. Come enjoy a day of learning how to safely explore the outdoors. In addition to the popular mud to play in, we will have activities such as knot tying, camp fire songs, identifying plants and berries, and hiking, just to name a few.



www.muddybrookpta.com * muddybrookpta@gmail.com

READ ACROSS AMERICA

READING LITERACY FACTS

READING TIME



On average, there are 20 minutes a day, 12 days a week, that families read with their young children.

READING IN THE CAR



Encouraging children to read while sitting in the car is a good way to expose them to reading.



Seattle is a model for how to build a literate city. Along with Minneapolis and Washington, D.C., Seattle consistently shows the highest rates of reading literacy.

CHILDREN IN HOMES



COMPARE

Reading rates don't just fall as kids grow up. They've also dropped dramatically over the last three decades.



READING TO INFANTS



In the fall of 2014, the American Academy of Pediatrics issued a policy statement that promotes reading aloud to children daily beginning in infancy.

SOURCES

• The report "Measuring the Nation's Literacy" was published in April 2012 by the National Center of Educational Statistics. <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/data/naelr/>

• "Early Childhood Literacy: The Role of Parents" by the National Center for Education Policy. http://www.ncep.org/publications/early_childhood_literacy_the_role_of_parents.pdf

• "Reading to Your Child: A Guide for Parents" by the National Center for Education Policy. http://www.ncep.org/publications/reading_to_your_child_a_guide_for_parents.pdf

Spring Break ^{with} Action Adventures



**April 18 - 22 • 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Come one day or all week!**



Enjoy everything our community center has to offer including swimming in our pool, enjoying the playground, playing in the gymnasium, hiking on the trails and even building toys from recycled materials. Set up a campsite in the woods, hike, build a fort, learn survival skills, study flora and fauna. Your child will enjoy a school break free from screens and enjoy activities indoors and out.

Action Adventures is licensed by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care. All program staff are certified in CPR and First Aid.

\$35 per day members and \$45 per day guests.



BERKSHIRE SOUTH
REGIONAL COMMUNITY CENTER

15 Crissey Road, Great Barrington, MA 01230
www.berkshiresouth.org • 413.528.2810



These events/activities are neither sponsored nor endorsed by the Berkshire Hills Regional School District.



**South Berkshire Kids
& CHP Family Network presents**



PARENT WORKSHOP

FREE

**Location: Community Health Programs, Inc. campus
444 Stockbridge Road, Great Barrington**

Workshops held in the community room of the Administrative offices
Pre-registered childcare held in the Family Services building playroom*

Registration is required, 413-464-5095, southberkshirekids@gmail.com

Wednesday, April 13th, 2016

6:30pm-8:00pm

Scott Noyes presents

"Routines, Rituals & Transitions"

Whether we are smoothing out the edges on "who had it first" or working with the challenge of a full-blown temper tantrum, there are times when every parent could use a few fresh ideas!

***Childcare is available but space is limited & pre-registration must be confirmed by calling Jessica @ 413-464-5095 or southberkshirekids@gmail.com**

This series is funded by the Department of Early Education & Care
www.SouthBerkshireKids.org



NORMAN ROCKWELL MUSEUM

april/may programs

family art activities



DRAWING IN THE GALLERIES

Art in Motion

Saturday, April 9, May 14, June 11
2 - 4 p.m.

Be inspired by the art all around you! Illustrator/educator Pat O'Donnell demonstrates and leads you in creating a drawing of your own. Ages 7 and up.



VACATION WEEK WORKSHOP

Drop In On Art!

Monday - Saturday, April 18 - 23, 1 - 4 p.m.
Take inspiration from the art of Norman Rockwell during this creative series of drop-in art workshops for children of all ages. Experiment with materials and techniques—every day is different. Parents and caregivers welcome!



save the date

SUMMER ART INTENSIVE WORKSHOPS FOR ADULTS AND TEENS

Drawing as a Tool for Seeing A Workshop with Illustrator Pat O'Donnell

Monday - Friday, July 11 - July 15
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Join dynamic illustrator/educator Pat O'Donnell for this lively exploration of the art of drawing. A great portfolio class for art students. Limited enrollment; advance registration required. \$250; \$215 members and students.

Paint Like the Masters A Workshop with Illustrator/Painter Dan Howe

Monday - Friday, July 25 - July 29
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Painter/illustrator Dan Howe will share approaches to drawing and painting that were used by America's most prominent Golden Age illustrators. Light, color, form, and line will be discussed. All levels welcome. Limited enrollment; advance registration required. \$250; \$215 members and students.

FAMILY DAY EVENT

100th Anniversary Celebration: Rockwell and *The Post*!

Saturday, May 14, 1 - 4 p.m.

Rockwell's *Boy With Baby Carriage* turns 100! Norman Rockwell published his very first *Saturday Evening Post* cover in 1916. Join the celebration with artmaking, storytelling, talks, refreshments and the opening of *Build a Better Baby Carriage*—an outdoor sculpture exhibition inspired by Rockwell's famous painting.

Sponsored by Pittsfield Co-Operative Bank.



Boy with Baby Carriage, 1916. ©SEPS, Norman Rockwell Museum Collections.

OUTDOOR SCULPTURE SHOW *Build a Better Baby Carriage:* A 100th Anniversary Celebration

May 14 - October 30



register for programs & classes: call 413.931.2221 or email: register@nrm.org

nrm.org / open daily / 9 Route 183, Stockbridge, MA / 413.298.4100 / [f](#) [t](#)

BABY ANIMALS

on the
Shaker
Farm



Celebrate Spring!

- Cuddle newborn chicks, piglets, calves, lambs and goats
- Explore the expanded Discovery Barn
- Experience farming the Shaker way

Hop aboard the
hay wagon for a

Behind-the- Scenes-Farm Tour

(extra charge / advance registration
required) and special access to the baby
animals. Visit website for more.



APRIL 16 - MAY 8
hancockshakervillage.org

ADMISSION \$20/adults, \$8/Youth, ages 13-17 Children ages 12 and under are FREE on family visits, courtesy of Berkshire Bank.





PARENT-CHILD HOME PROGRAM

A PROVEN BEGINNING FOR SCHOOL SUCCESS SINCE 1965

**FREE home-based school readiness program
for children 18 months to 3 years old!**



Did you know...

**Your Home is your Child's First Classroom?
You are your Child's First, and Best, Teacher?
Young Children Learn Best through Play?**

What you will gain:

- ♦ Two weekly home visits with a trained educational mentor!
- ♦ A FREE book or educational toy each week!
- ♦ Fun and creative activities to help prepare your child for school!

For more information or to sign-up please contact:

Cynthia Segui
Program Coordinator
CHP Parent-Child Home Program
(413)644-0104 x1160
csegu@chpberkshires.org



Spring Fever Intergenerational Playshop

with Jeanne Bassis

Tuesday April 19

2-4 pm



FREE
for all ages!!

Ramsdell Library - Housatonic



- *Creative movement*
- *Non-competitive games*
- *Music*
- *Relaxation strategies*
- *Imagination*

Intergenerational members of our community will together create more joy, celebration and delight. Join us for some wild and wonderful playfulness - lots of fun and laughter guaranteed!!!



www.playreflections.com
(413) 528-5732

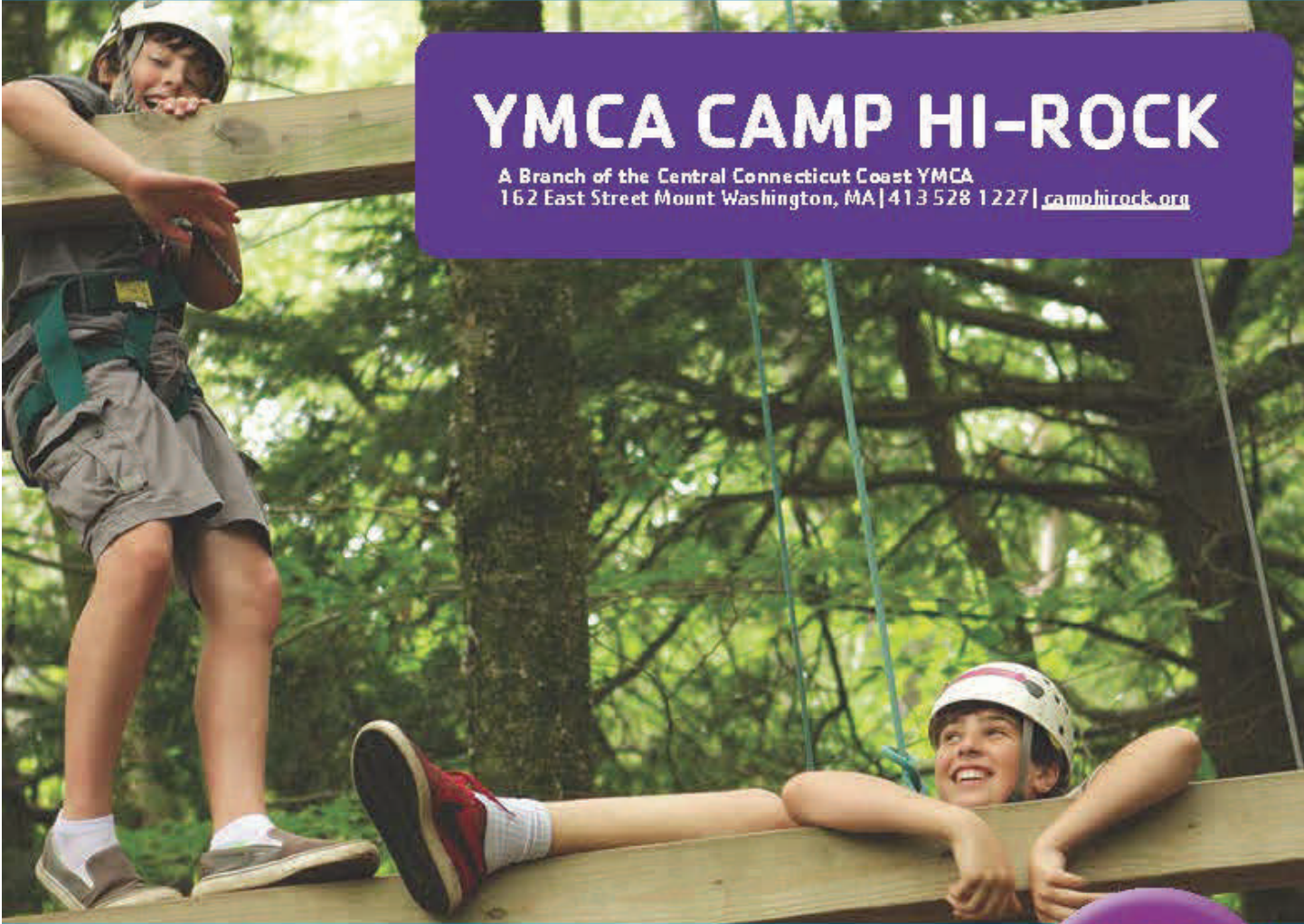
No Registration required!

Sponsored in part by: Great Barrington Cultural Council



Massachusetts Cultural Council

A SUMMER LIKE
YOU'VE NEVER HAD
BEFORE.



YMCA CAMP HI-ROCK

A Branch of the Central Connecticut Coast YMCA
162 East Street Mount Washington, MA | 413.528.1227 | camphirock.org

FREE CAMP
when you host an
international day
camper!

Find out more:
413.528.1227



INFO SESSION:
AT THE TRIPLEX CINEMA
IN GREAT BARRINGTON
April 10, 2016

Meet our Executive Director: 11am-12:30pm



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

CENTRAL CONNECTICUT COAST YMCA



Programs

All activities listed below are included in the fees for camp except water skiing/wakeboarding and horseback riding.

A Cappella	Dance	High Ropes Course	Rock Climbing
Air Riflery (BB guns)	Digital Photography	Hiking	Row Boating
Archery	Drama	Horseback Riding	Sailing
Arts & Crafts	Fishing	Kayaking	Snorkeling
Basketball	Flag Football	Low Ropes Course	Soccer
Canoeing	Frisbee Golf	Martial Arts	Swimming
Cooking	Gardening	Outdoor Living Skills	Tennis
Creative Writing	Geocaching	Paddleboarding	Ukulele

There are many summer camps out there, so why Camp Hi Rock?

The answer? Ask our campers. They quickly begin referring to Hi-Rock as "my camp". For many, their relationship with Hi-Rock and the ownership they feel for camp will last a lifetime. The sense of belonging experienced as a summer camper at Hi Rock is powerful and enduring. Hi Rockers get the chance to live and play together with people from around the world. Ultimately our goal is to challenge and nurture the individual, build self-esteem, instill leadership and social skills, strengthen the body, lift the spirit, and sharpen the mind. We hope you'll join us.

WORRIED THAT CAMP ISN'T IN YOUR BUDGET?

At Hi-Rock, generous donors and subsidies allow us to provide camp at a reduced price. We encourage you to ask about our financial assistance program. Every kid deserves the confidence building experience of camp. Tell us what you can do and we will do our best to help.

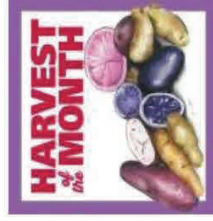
YMCA CAMP HI-ROCK

Summer Sleepaway Camp | Family Camp | Year-Round Group Camping

E info@camphirock.org W camphirock.org

Muddy Brook Regional Elementary School – Lunch Menu for April 2016

Mass Farm to Schools Harvest of the month for April - Potatoes



Additional Lunch Choices available daily include:

Salad Entrée,
Fresh Deli Sandwiches,
Fruit & Yogurt Parfait
Or PBJ

Tues/Thurs – Barilla Whole Grain Pasta

ALL Lunches include an 8 oz. 1% Low Fat Milk or Fat Free Chocolate Milk

ALL Lunches include Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

ALL Pastas, Breads & Rolls are Whole Grain or Whole Wheat

April 2016						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Baked Ziti & WW Roll 	2
3	4 Chicken Nuggets Sweet Potato Fries	5 Fish Sticks 4 Bean Salad	6 Salisbury Steak Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy 	7 Turkey & Cheese Grinder  World Health Day	8 Philly Cheese Steak Sandwich	9
10	11 Upside Down Day Egg Sandwich Hash Brown Potato Patty 	12 Chicken or Eggplant Parmesan WG Pasta	13 Hamburg or Cheeseburg  Thomas Jefferson Bday	14 Pasta Bar Marrara or Meat Sauce	15 Cheese Pizza	16
17	18 School Vacation	19 School Vacation	20 School Vacation	21 School Vacation	22 School Vacation	23  Talk Like Shakespeare
24	25 All Beef Hot Dog Chick Pea Salad	26 Ham & Cheese Grinder	27 Marinated Breast of Chicken Roasted Red Potatoes 	28 Meatball Grinder	29 Stuffed Crust Pizza	30

FRESH FRUIT & VEGETABLE OFFERINGS VARY DAILY

FRUITS INCLUDE: Apples, Bananas, Oranges, Pears, Strawberries, Pineapple, Cantaloupe, Honey Dew Melon, Watermelon, Plums, Peaches, Grapes, Mango & Kiwi

VEGETABLES INCLUDE: Broccoli, Squash, Carrots, Cauliflower, Cucumbers, Celery, Tomatoes, Peppers, Potatoes, Mesclun Greens & Chickpeas

If you have questions regarding the Food Service Department: Menu, On-line Payment Info, Free & Reduced Meal Benefits, Allergy concerns or any issues please contact -

KATHY SULLIVAN – Director of Food Service (413)644-2325 or (855)255-8666 or kathy.sullivan@bhrs.org