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Our Mission: We work together to cultivate a vibrant Montessori learning community where children are inspired to grow with joy, purpose, and compassion. Through the wonder of direct exploration, the satisfaction of engaged learning, and the integration of visual and performing arts, Bay Farm Montessori Academy students develop the skills and sense of responsibility to be confident learners, eager to understand themselves and their world.







Embracing Change, Honoring Tradition

A Note from Kelley Collins, '23-'24 Interim Head of School

Dear Bay Farm Family and Friends,

As I reflect on my twenty-year journey with Bay Farm Montessori Academy, I am filled with gratitude for the countless moments of growth, transformation, and joy that we have shared together. Over the years, I have witnessed our community evolve, overcome challenges, and embrace change with resilience and determination. We've built a sense of belonging and strong relationships with our families. I've witnessed thousands of children walk through our doors with smiles on their faces eager to embrace all challenges placed in front of them. Through trust, hard work, and the support of their families, our children become lifelong learners rife with curiosity and compassion, as well as engaged contributors to the world around them.

I am filled with optimism for the future of our school under the leadership of Grainne Murray, who will be taking the reins in July. Grainne brings a wealth of experience, passion, and dedication to our community, and I have full confidence in her ability to lead Bay Farm with the integrity, vision, and warmth that has been paramount since the school's inception. Together, under Grainne's leadership, we'll continue to use the foundations of the Montessori pedagogy in innovative ways to sustain an environment that supports children's academic, social, and emotional growth, enabling them to flourish to their fullest potential.

I am honored to have had the opportunity to help facilitate the experiences of each and every child who has walked through our doors. From their first steps in the Montessori environment to their last day on campus, it has been a privilege to witness their curiosity, creativity, and growth. The best part of my days have all been the parts spent with your children. Thank you for this time.

With gratitude and anticipation for the journey ahead,

Kelley

"This is not a letter to say goodbye but it is a letter to thank you."

A note from Britta Moran

This is not a letter to say goodbye but it is a letter to thank you. Thank you for ten magical years at Bay Farm. I am so grateful for having been part of this community and for the opportunity to watch your children grow and flourish. I am in awe of the students I cuddled in my lap as toddlers who are now mature Elementary II students. My heart bursts each time I observe a toddler that began the school year gripping to a parent only to now leap from their car seats so they can begin their day. Each time I enter a Children's House classroom with a prospective family I am overcome with pride explaining how we create such a peaceful and productive learning environment. I often eat my lunch, overlooking the ELI groups as they run and engage in games with inclusivity and respect for one another. Just last evening, I watched an ELII play that endured script changes and unexpected absences but only reflected a group that worked together to pull off an enthusiastic production with some of the Middle School students on hand to support. All of these seemingly small moments add up to a very full heart.



People joke that as my own children grew increasingly independent, I focused my energy on my Bay Farm children. This is probably true. There is not one student who has not impacted me and made me better in some way. My love of learning, my desire to have meaningful relationships, and, admittedly, my patience have all solidified in my years at Bay Farm. I will take a little bit of everything and everyone at Bay Farm with me and cherish the memories.

Thank you all for being a part of something I will miss so dearly, and thank you for all the joy.

With gratitude and never-ending hugs, Britta XX

The Future is Bright - Introducing Gráinne Murray

Dear Bay Farm Montessori Academy Community,

It is with immense pleasure that I write to you today as the incoming head of school of Bay Farm Montessori Academy. As I prepare to step into this role, I am filled with a deep sense of honor and responsibility to lead the school on its remarkable journey of nurturing a vibrant learning community where every child is cherished and empowered to flourish.

As we embark on this journey together, I am committed to fostering a culture of collaboration, open communication, and mutual respect within our community. Together, we will celebrate the achievements of our students, support one another through challenges, and continuously strive for excellence in all that we do.

As my wife and I prepare for our journey north, we eagerly anticipate the opportunity to connect with the Bay Farm community. Our hearts are filled with enthusiasm as we embark on this next phase of our lives on the beautiful South Shore of Massachusetts.

I am deeply grateful for the warm long-distance welcome I have received thus far from Kelley Collins and I am looking forward to getting to know the students, teachers and staff who make this community so special. I'm committed to forging meaningful relationships and contributing to the rich tapestry of experiences that make Bay Farm Montessori Academy a truly exceptional place to learn and grow.

With warm regards,

Gráinne Murray





Get to Know Gráinne! { 'Grawn-yah' }

What are your hobbies?

I love reading and ususally have a stack of fiction and non-fiction beside my bed, although I'm a slow reader so I'm grateful for audible! I enjoy doing almost anything outdoors. I revel in cooking even though I'm an average cook but I am a good baker. I like to knit and do puzzles and other hands on activiites. Most of all I enjoy travel, visiting new places and seeing friends and family.

What area are you most excited to explore in MA?

Becasue I grew up in Ireland, I studied European history in school. I've had to learn American history as an adult and I'm most excited to explore the rich history that Massachusetts has to offer. I'm also happy to be moving close to Boston, where I lived as a young adult, to experience the arts & culture the city has to offer.



Do you have any pets?

We have two French bulldogs, Wynton and Billie, both named for musicians. They are the light of our lives!

What is your favorite thing about Montessori education?

It's hard to name just one! There's something beautfiul about the way Montessori educators relate with children that goes beyond the traditional teacher/student relationship. It's partly the respect for each child as an individual, and also how we make learning accessible to each child in a way that's meaningful to them so that their natural curiosity and joy for learning never diminishes.

Do you have a favorite children's book?

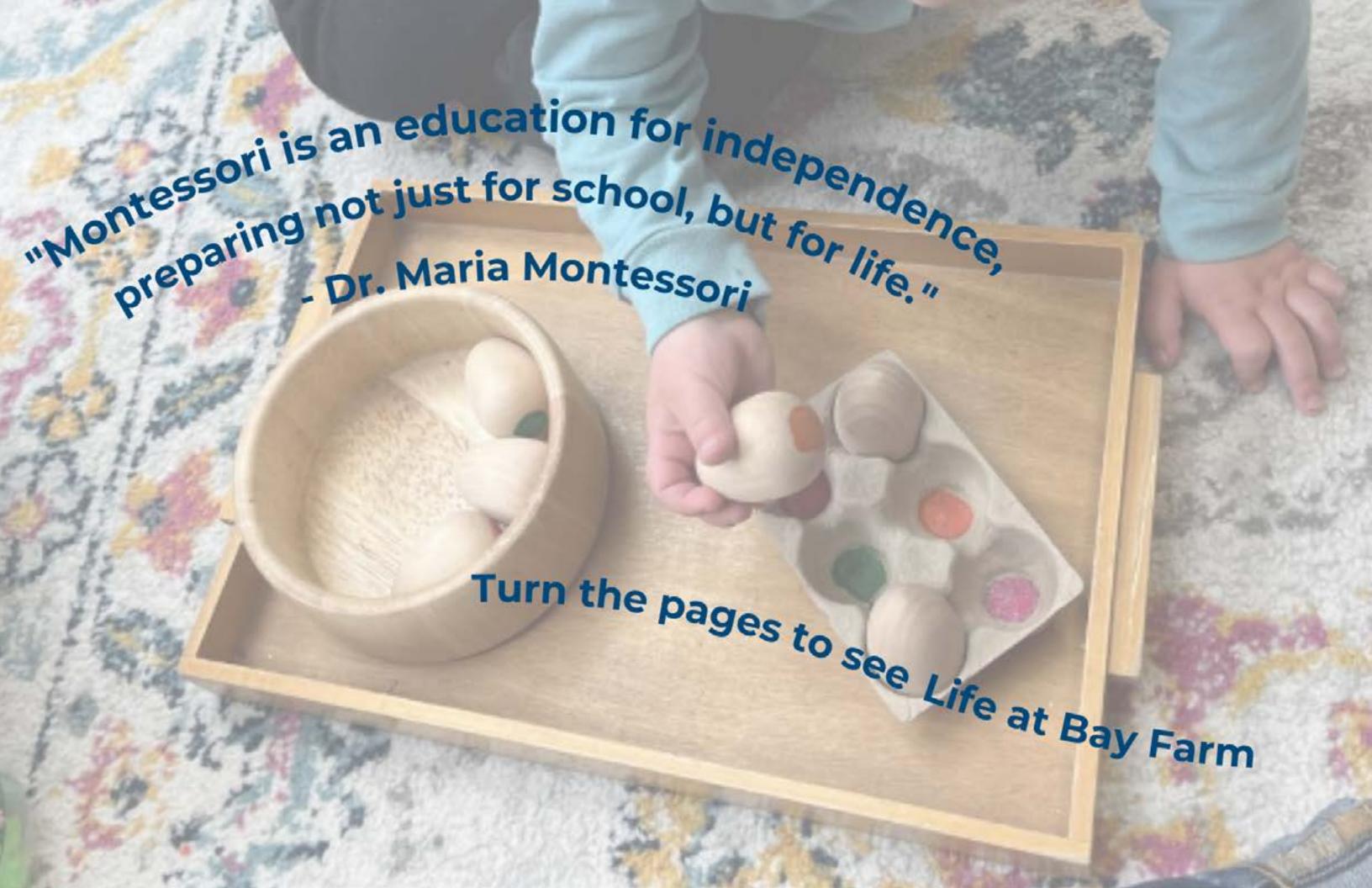
The Big Orange Splot by Daniel Pinkwater and any Shel Silverstein poetry.

What was your favorite subject in school?

I loved English, specifically writing and poetry, French and Spanish classes too.

What are you excited to learn about Bay Farm Montessori Academy?

I'm excited to see how Bay Farm infuses outdoor learning into the curriculum, specifically the agriculture program. I'm also looking forward to getting know members of the community and I can't wait to build relationships with our students.





I Author's Club

Rachael Belsan

In Author's Club, students had the opportunity to explore their creativity and develop their writing skills through an engaging project - creating a book of four short adventure stories. The project combined collaborative and independent work, allowing students to learn from one another while also exercising their individual voices and styles.

One of the primary focuses of the club was diving deeper into the elements of storytelling. Students learned about crafting compelling plots, developing well-rounded characters, and creating vivid settings that transport readers into the world of their stories. They also studied the art of effective dialogue and narration, learning how to bring their characters to life through their words and actions.

A key aspect of the project was the emphasis on descriptive writing. Students were encouraged to "paint a picture" for their readers, using rich sensory details to evoke the sights, sounds, smells, and textures of their stories' environments. Through exercises and feedback, they honed their ability to create immersive and engaging narratives that captured the reader's attention.

In addition to the writing component, students had the opportunity to showcase their artistic talents by designing images to accompany each page of their stories. This multimodal approach not only enhanced the overall reading experience but also allowed students to explore different modes of creative expression and storytelling.

Throughout the process, students worked collaboratively, sharing ideas, providing feedback, and learning from one another's strengths and perspectives. At the same time, they had ample opportunities to work independently, developing their unique voices and styles as authors.

The Author's Club project was not only an exercise in writing and creativity but also a celebration of imagination and teamwork. Students had fun exploring their passions, experimenting with different techniques, and ultimately producing a tangible result – a book of short adventure stories that they could be proud of and share with others. A copy of this book is available for browsing in the main office, allowing the wider school community to appreciate the students' hard work and creativity.

I DBMS at BFMA

Duxbury Bay Maritime School

Duxbury Bay Maritime School came to Bay Farm for hands-on learning, covering a range of lessons on topics including marine biology, STEM, oceanography, and environmental science. Some lessons featured live animals, and others had hands-on activities and engineering challenges. Students had a great time expanding their knowledge of the marine environment!

| Kingsbury Club Tennis

Kingsbury Club

Students had a blast playing tennis this spring! Children's House students learned the fundamentals of tennis, from holding the racket properly to executing forehand and backhand swings, improving their agility on the court, developing a love for the game. Elementary students played tennis matches against each other, and focused on their forehand and backhand techniques. They also honed their serving skills and enjoyed playing mixed doubles.

| 4-H at Bay Farm

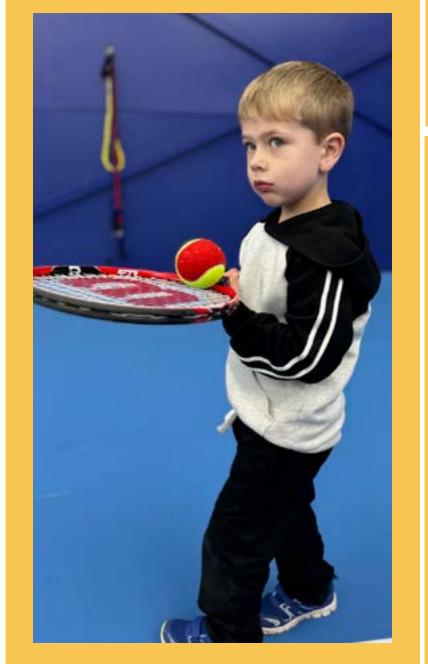
Evelyn Golden & Plymouth County 4-H

This year, the 4-H program provided an enriching experience for our students, allowing them to excel in various skills and personal development areas. The 4-H motto is "Learn by doing." One of the highlights was their accomplishment in public speaking, with one dedicated participant advancing to both regional and state competitions. Each 4-H'er showcased their visual presentation to their peers, parents, and teachers. This achievement accentuates the program's emphasis on building confidence and effective communication skills. Additionally, the students gained practical knowledge in handling adult chickens and providing them with basic first aid, ensuring they could care for their feathered friends responsibly. They set and met the goal of taming our new Easter Eggers, making them comfortable with human interaction. This demonstrated their commitment and patience.

Beyond animal care, the program encouraged students to seek and explore nature. Teaching them to recognize and appreciate the natural beauty in their surroundings. This connection with nature broadened their environmental awareness and instilled a sense of tranquility and appreciation for the world around them. Through these diverse activities, 4-H fostered essential qualities such as leadership, teamwork, and a strong sense of community. By working together on various projects, the participants developed collaborative skills and formed meaningful relationships, helping them grow personally and as integral members of our community.

I pledge my HEAD to clearer thinking, my HEART to greater loyalty, my HANDS to larger service, and my HEALTH to better living, for my club, my community, my country, and my world.







Fostering Independnce & Leadership The Impact of Reading Buddies

At Bay Farm Montessori Academy, the essence of education extends beyond the classroom boundaries. Our Reading Buddies program is a heartwarming initiative where third-grade students from Elementary I, serving as leaders of their mixed-age classroom, journey into the realm of the Children's House classrooms. Their mission? To share the joy of reading, assist with lessons, and in the process, cultivate invaluable traits of independence and leadership.

The Reading Buddies program embodies the belief in the potential of every child to be an active participant in their learning journey. By fostering a collaborative environment where older students engage with younger peers, the program not only nurtures a love for reading but also instills a sense of responsibility and leadership from an early age.



Independence

One of the key benefits of this program lies in its promotion of independence. As third graders step into the role of mentors, they are entrusted with the task of guiding their younger counterparts through various activities. This responsibility empowers them to take ownership of their actions, develop problem-solving skills, and build confidence in their abilities to lead and inspire others.



The Reading Buddies program embodies the essence of the Montessori approach by recognizing the unique developmental stages of each child. Through interaction with children of different ages, both the third graders and their younger peers benefit from a dynamic learning environment that caters to individual needs and fosters mutual respect and understanding.





Beyond ACADEMICS

Beyond the academic realm, the program nurtures essential social and emotional skills. As third graders engage with younger students, they learn the importance of empathy, patience, and effective communication.

These interpersonal skills lay a strong foundation for future success, equipping students with the tools needed to thrive in a diverse and interconnected world.

We love how the Reading Buddies program cultivates a sense of community within the school, bridging the gap between different age groups and fostering meaningful connections that extend beyond the classroom walls. Through shared experiences and collaborative learning, students develop a sense of belonging and solidarity, creating a supportive environment where everyone is valued and respected. The program not only enriches the educational experience but also prepares students to become compassionate, responsible, and confident individuals ready to make a positive impact on the world.



Exploring the Vitality of Movement and Outdoor Play

Bridget Martin and Rikki Churchill

Movement is a cornerstone of child development, enriching children socially, emotionally, and physically. At Bay Farm Montessori Academy, we wholeheartedly embrace outdoor play as an integral aspect of our educational philosophy.

Gross Motor Skills: The boundless space of the outdoors provides the perfect arena for children to engage their bodies, fostering the refinement of their gross motor skills. As they freely navigate activities like running, jumping, climbing stairs, or kicking a ball, they hone their balance and coordination, simultaneously gaining a deeper understanding of spatial awareness.

Social & Emotional: Beyond the individual benefits, physical activity nurtures holistic health and well-being. It serves as a potent stress reliever, diminishing anxiety while bolstering immunity. Moreover, group physical activities foster socialization, nurturing the



"The construction of movement is an important part of a child's development—not just a coordinated movement, but movement with a purpose." - Maria Montessori | The 1946 London Lectures, Lecture 22, "Movement and Character", p. 158





formation of friendships and enhancing language skills through shared experiences. We see this on the playground, in the classroom, and during music and movement group activities.

Sensory: Stepping into nature ignites children's creativity and imagination, offering a sensory experience that stimulates cognitive development. Sensory development supports brain development, develops motor skills, problem-solving, observational skills, enhances memory and much more. They can explore and discover nature with all of their senses: smell, touch, hearing, and seeing! Children like touching various objects, whether grass, leaves, mud, or trees. This helps them experience different textures and temperatures. Children like to listen to the birds chirping, an airplane flying overhead, and the sounds of the cars driving by. There are also many different scents from nature, flowers, animals, and mulch.

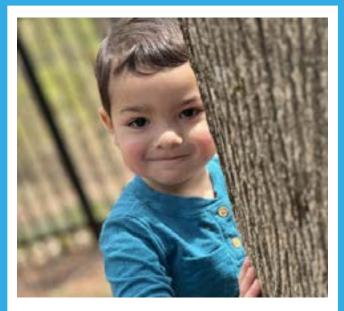
Taking Risks: Although taking safe risks can be scary, it is important for a child's growth. By navigating challenges independently, they cultivate confidence and self-trust, which are essential traits for lifelong success. It's crucial for adults to provide supportive guidance, offering encouragement rather than restraint. Witnessing a child surmount obstacles instills in them a profound sense of accomplishment, reinforcing their belief in their abilities. We can encourage the child by saying, "You can do it" or "Watch where you step" instead of "Don't do that." It can be nerve-wracking for an adult to watch a child do something new, but unless it is a safety issue it is ok to wait to intervene until they ask for help. Being gentle and positive will make them feel better about not giving up.

Sense of Stewardship: By involving children in outdoor activities such as gardening, water exploration, or simply observing the weather, we instill in them a sense of stewardship for the environment. Maria Montessori beautifully articulated this sentiment, stating, "Watching a child makes it obvious that the development of his mind comes about through his movements."

Our outdoor environment serves as a canvas for learning about the intricate web of life, nurturing a deep reverence for the natural world. Through hands-on exploration, children discover the interconnectedness of all living beings, learning to treat every creature with respect and compassion.

In cultivating a love for nature from an early age, we lay the foundation for a lifelong journey of environmental stewardship. As children immerse themselves in the wonders of the outdoors, they develop a profound appreciation for the beauty, order, and harmony of the natural world.

Let us embark on this adventure together. Go for all those walks, all those adventures, and find more ways to get outside. Introduce them to this world and answer as many questions as you can. Be peaceful to nature, respectful to our world, and curious with them-It's a beautiful world we live in; let's help them embrace it.



"There must be provision for the child to have contact with nature; to understand and appreciate the order, the harmony and the beauty in nature."

- The Secret of Childhood.

The Art of Observation: How Children's House Teachers Tailor Lessons to Each Child's

One of the most important aspects of being a Bay Farm Children's House teacher is the art of observation. Although the Bay Farm Children's House has a set monthly curriculum and themes, teachers do not provide the same lessons to every child. Instead, they carefully observe each student to understand their interests, abilities, and learning needs at that particular moment in their development.

When students enter the Children's House, teachers start by observing how they navigate the Prepared Environment - the carefully designed classroom set up with developmentally appropriate materials. They take time to notice which materials immediately capture their curiosity and which ones they seem to avoid. They watch how they interact with their peers and whether they are more socially confident or reserved. Over time, patterns emerge that help our teachers to understand a child's unique strengths, challenges, and learning styles.

The observations continue throughout the three-year cycle of the Children's House program (the Preschool, Pre-Kindergarten, and Kindergarten years.) For example, a teacher may notice a child struggling to focus on individual lessons and needing a lot of redirection. They may suggest activities that build their attention span or limit distractions. If another child seems to grasp concepts very quickly and shows an advanced understanding for their age, the teacher would provide that child with more challenging extensions to keep them engaged and learning. The beauty of a Bay Farm Children's House classroom is that it allows this individualization.





Our lead and assistant teachers observe many developmental milestones throughout the year. Can the child carefully carry materials from the shelf and then replace them properly? Can they follow multi-step instructions for an activity? Are they using materials with purpose or just aimlessly moving them around? These observations help guide decisions on which new lessons to present to that particular student.

The best part of observation is seeing those "ah-ha" moments when a child has mastered a challenging concept after working diligently on it for weeks or even months. That look of pure joy and the sense of accomplishment they feel reminds us of the importance of tailoring lessons to each child rather than taking a one-size-fits-all approach.

The art of observation takes patience, practice, and truly knowing and appreciating the uniqueness of every student. By closely observing a child's activity, behaviors, and progression through the Montessori materials, teachers can thoughtfully prepare an individualized learning path to meet their needs best. It allows us to gently guide each child through their natural development rather than push them ahead or hold them back based on arbitrary standards.

Working in partnership, the teachers' observations and your insights about your child at home allow for the most holistic understanding and nurturing of their growth. We can't wait to welcome new students to the Bay Farm Children's House in the fall and witness our returning children's growth.



Growing Up Montessori

Mark Benoit, Lead Teacher, ELI Patuxet

A few years ago, I came across an article in Psychology Today (Jan 3, 2022) that discussed how Montessori education was linked to elevated psychological well-being in adults who had previously attended. This piqued my interest, and I decided to ask my son, who is in his twenties and attended Bay Farm Montessori Academy when he was younger, about his experience.

When we spoke, I asked him to reflect on how his Montessori education shaped who he is today. His first and most significant takeaway was the emphasis on the arts program. He felt that he was constantly encouraged to act, sing, create, explore, and express himself in a supportive environment, which he believes laid a strong foundation for all his future endeavors.

Another crucial aspect he highlighted was the three-year cycle. Spending three years with the same teachers and classmates helped him build bonds that still exist today. He also commented on the importance of having two teachers in a classroom, which he felt made everything "work." Research also supports the significance of the three-year cycle for cohesion and social stability, allowing children to grow comfortably and feel secure enough to share and take risks with their studies and emotions.

A third factor that contributed to his development was the emphasis on viewing education as a life-long process. He felt that this mindset was significant because it is how he lives his life now, constantly tackling new projects and letting one interest lead him to another. Montessori graduates are known for having many interests, being life-long learners, and possessing a sense of adventure, which was instilled in them at a young age.

Another essential ingredient he gained was independence. He loved having the freedom and time to figure things out on his own, never feeling pushed or hurried. He felt he was in charge of his learning and able to grow into himself. These characteristics pay off later in life, regardless of the career or path one chooses to take.

The last memory or element he remembered was having a classroom job and being expected to clean up after himself. He said this has always remained with him. "It is such a small thing," he expressed, "but I still take my responsibilities seriously. It doesn't matter how big or small they are."

We discussed a wide array of what Bay Farm gave him – empathy and a drive for social justice, cooperating with others, problem-solving skills, hands-on learning opportunities, internships, self-discipline, and having the gift of time to develop confidence within himself and his academic subjects. We ended our conversation with the overarching theme that he always felt he could be himself in every respect, and he felt honored by that.

Montessori education has been around for over a century and has proven to be an effective method. It is as vital now as it has always been. When we look at these young students, we see their potential. Who will they become in twenty or thirty years? I appreciate Bay Farm for taking this visionary perspective with my son and nurturing his growth in a holistic and empowering way.

Camden Benoit graduated from the Bay Farm Montessori Academy Middle School in 2016. He is currently working as a copywriter and is a musician who actively writes and plays his own original songs, which can be found on Spotify. He spends his time working on his cabin and taking classes to continue his education.



Unforgettable ZOAR Trip

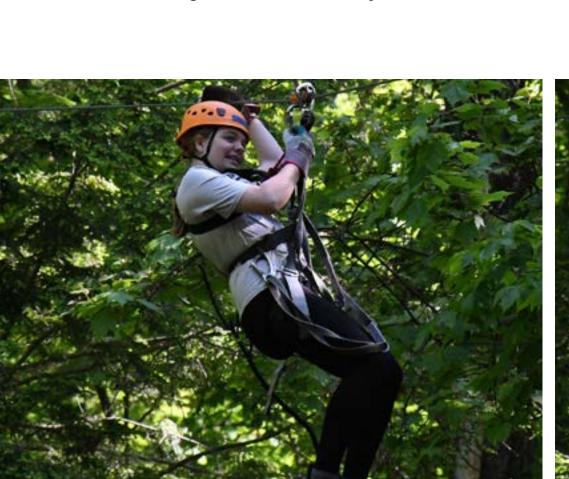


The Middle School ZOAR trip was a truly meaningful, challenging, and memory-filled adventure that brought immense joy to all participants! A cherished Bay Farm tradition, the annual trip is eagerly anticipated by Middle School students, who work hard throughout the year to raise funds for this special end-of-year experience.

In May, our Middle School students embarked on their journey to Zoar Outdoor in Charlemont, MA. They took full responsibility for planning the week, which included creating grocery lists, shopping for essentials, packing efficiently, and cooking all of their meals. Their remarkable teamwork and camaraderie were evident at every turn.

Throughout the trip, students engaged in a variety of exciting activities. They faced the thrilling rapids of white water rafting, soared through the trees on ziplines, and enjoyed games, cabin storytelling sessions, and much more. Each moment was filled with laughter, learning, and unforgettable experiences.

Students expressed their love for the social interactions, the challenges of being in nature, and the teamwork they embraced. The trip was a special, culminating memory that will remain with them long after their time at Bay Farm.











On Friday, May 31 and Saturday, June 1, Bay Farm Peforming Arts performed two performances of Frozen Jr. led by Michelle Wetherbee, Bay Farm's Performing Arts Specialist. Frozen Jr. is a show that calls for 17 "named" roles and 7 separate small groups within the ensemble. Typically this is achieved with a cast of 25 to 30 actors, we had 16. Casting became a puzzle to figure out just how many roles each actor could embody, one that continued into the rehearsal progress as we figured things out together. Every single actor onstage rose to a tremendous challenge with gusto and determination.

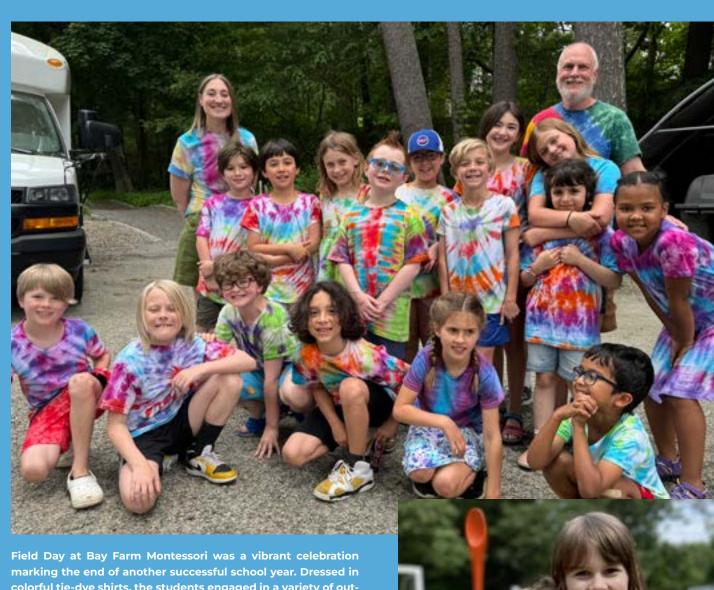
Frozen Jr. is the story of Anna, Elsa, and all of your favorite characters as they embark on an epic, ice-filled journey of self-discovery, camaraderie, and the real meaning of true love. These performances marked the conclusion of our own epic journey, from the first audition to the final bow, and we were so blessed to have been able to share it with all of you.

Bravo to all of our performers!





Field Day 2024



marking the end of another successful school year. Dressed in colorful tie-dye shirts, the students engaged in a variety of out-door activities that ranged from relay races to obstacle courses. A highlight of the day was the visit from Kona Ice, where students lined up to enjoy refreshing shaved ice, adding an extra splash of delight to the festivities.













This cherished tradition wouldn't have been possible without the incredible support of our parent volunteers. On behalf of the entire Bay Farm Montessori community, we extend a heartfelt "Thank You." Their contributions helped create lasting memories for our students, making the last day of school truly unforgettable.





Commencement 2024

An excerpt from Meredith Badder's Commencement Address: "Whether you are graduating from Bay Farm or moving to eighth grade, your transition is significant because you have worked hard and grown in so many ways. As we harp on regularly, academics are just one part of your growth and success. The social and emotional growth that each of you has made is the pivotal component to your overall success as a human being. Are you kind? Empathetic? Can you work with others? Are you proud of your own hard work? Do you believe in yourself? Do you have a growth mindset? Do you know how to advocate for yourself when in need? Can you lead yourself towards your goals? Can you lead others? THESE are the things we think of when we think of you. Not your grades, and that is why we are so proud of your hard work in all of these areas. From the very first meeting where you came up with our classroom pact and termed yourselves "small but mighty," to giving feedback to each other with kindness and respect, to working through challenges on group projects, to navigating us around NYC or Boston, to ZOAR, ... All of these experiences, alongside excellent parenting, make you who you are. And we are so, so thankful to have worked alongside you as you grew on this journey. Now ... onto the next journey Congratulations."















Envisioning a Bright Future Together - The Bay Farm Fund

Now that summer is upon us and the school year is quickly approaching, it's time to prepare for a new chapter in Bay Farm's history. The arrival of our new Head of School. As we embark on this exciting journey of change, we invite each of you to become an active participant in shaping the future of our Bay Farm community. Your contribution, whether big or small, can make a significant impact. Join us in making a donation to our Bay Farm Fund as a tangible expression of your commitment to the success and well-being of Bay Farm Montessori.



Donate Here

Bring Joy, Purpose, and Compassion to the Greater Community Become a Bay Farm Sponsor or Business Partner

Bay Farm has a beautiful campus that serves as the backdrop for numerous programs and events held throughout the year. We offer excellent opportunities for businesses to enhance their visibility by becoming sponsors or business partners while contributing to our school, offering discounts to our community, or providing in-kind services.

A connection with an engaged and committed community is priceless, considerable becoming a sponsor or business partner **TODAY**.

For more information on how you can contribute to our school's success or get involved, reach out to Jennifer Nemec, Development Coordinator, at **development@bfarm.org** or 781-934-7101 x20.

Thank you to EVERYONE who contributed this year and to EVERYONE who volunteered, we couldn't do it without you!

An additional thank you to our sponsors and business partners: Rockland Trust, Roche Bros., Namaste Cafe, and Kennedy's Country Gardens.

STAY CONNECTED







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HAVE NEWS TO SHARE IN THE BAY FARM BEAT?

Have news you'd like to share with the Bay Farm community or have an announcement? Send in your news! Bay Farm Beat submissions can be sent to Alyssa Good at alyssag@bfarm.org.



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