

June 11, 2008

Dear Families,

What a wonderful year in kindergarten! At first, it is hard to believe that it is June and we are preparing to say goodbye for the summer. Then, as we begin to think about all we have done, both as unique learners and as a classroom community, it becomes more evident how time together has been a significant factor, allowing each of your children to grow.

The Kindergartners have been observing many living things in the classroom—butterflies, seeds—and have also been discussing the important factors that help living things grow. Recently, we made a list of growing things in our classroom. At first, your children spoke of the things they have been observing and discussing: snails; caterpillars; butterflies and seeds. Soon the discussion included other living things that have required their attention and tending: the tally; the calendar and their weavings. Last, your children noticed that, “kindergartners grow,” and, “everything in life grows.”

We have been expanding on the idea of growth and its connections to the idea of and feelings surrounding change. As we started this year talking both about friendships and families, we asked the Kindergartners, “How does a family grow?” and framed our discussion around books and stories about new siblings, adoption and new homes. We also asked, “Do you think friendship can grow?” Your children concluded that growth, and moreover change, can feel, “exciting,” “funny,” and “sometimes you’re afraid.” They said the same of meeting a new friend. In the end, your children concluded that, “The more you play together, more and more times, a friendship grows,” and assured each other that, “New things might feel funny but you should try!”

Next year, there will be changes for everybody. Your children are excited and ready to meet the challenges of first grade. Lauren will be at LREI for the first month and a half of school before leaving for the arrival of and care of her baby. Your children have been quite interested to know the sex of the baby, so Lauren will send an email to all of you shortly after school ends with a baby update! Molly will be working with Tasha Hernandez in second grade next fall. Please be sure to say hello to us in September!

Each day your children have grown together, as friends and learners, facing new people and experiences bravely and with a great sense of wonder. Thank you for sharing this special year with us. We wish you all a fantastic summer filled with the miracles of the unexpected.

Warmly,

Lauren and Molly

End of the year information:

Wed., June 11 th	Kindergartners will take home their plants.
Thurs., June 12 th	Kindergartners will begin to take home this class work and paintings.
Fri., June 13 th	11:45 AM dismissal
Mon., June 16 th	<u>Please take home all of the personal items from your child’s cubby on this day.</u> This includes their cup, change of clothes and rest items. Also, Kindergartners will take home this writing and social studies folders.
Tues., June 17 th	11:45 AM dismissal

We encourage you to look in the Lost and Found for any misplaced items!