

Cheryl & Ellen's Class

Springtime is so exciting because the buds of trees are opening and flowers are blossoming. The children are also growing and blossoming socially, physically, and cognitively through their play. It was a pleasure to have a conference with each of you and discuss your child's strengths and accomplishments this year. Ellen and I will continue to build on your child's strengths, empower and support him/her with more problem-solving words, games, puzzles and pen and paper activities for the rest of the year.

Our last visit with Justin, from the Nature Center, allowed us to take a closer look at the beauty of spring and ways we can help our planet remain a "magnificent jewel in the sky". Justin explained the reason for Earth Day and read a story with us entitled the Garbage Monster. The monster was an accumulation of materials that could have been recycled. Justin taught us that there are seven kinds of plastic that can be recycled. He brought plastic items for the class to sort by number and explained the value in sorting our paper and plastic to keep our landfills small. We went on a nature walk and listened to the birds sing and enjoyed picking up seeds from the maple trees and tossing them in the air and watching them land like helicopters.

Our Listening Center has been available for the last few weeks and the children are enjoying getting a turn to listen to favorite stories. The center is very popular, and a sign-up sheet is provided so friends can write their name in order to keep track of who is next.

Before our school year ends, Ellen and I will have a bittersweet (for the teachers) discussion about next year. We will explain to the class

how much they have grown and after summer vacation they will all have new teachers. Some friends will move to a new house and attend a new school. We will take a tour of pre-k classrooms to see how they are similar and how they are different from our current classroom. We will reassure them that we will always be friends and visits to the room are welcomed!

It is hard to believe that only a few weeks of school remain. Where did the school year go? Ellen and I have had a great year getting to know and love you and your child. Special thanks to our library parents who made library time so enjoyable. We truly appreciate your willingness to give of your time and yourself. Thank you for your generous donations of books, paper, dramatic play clothing and a huge box that later became a rocket ship. I would like to thank Ellen for so many things but especially her great ideas, timely advice, energy and the warm smile she brings to school everyday. Special thanks to Rachel, Margie and Arlene for all their love and skill and giving so much of themselves to our class.

We will celebrate the end of our year with two picnics and a popsicle party on the last day of school. Please come and enjoy our school picnic on Wednesday, May 16th from 5:30-7:30pm. On Tuesday, May 22nd please come to our class picnic brunch at the Orange Village Playground on Lander Road. Siblings are welcome to join us. More details are coming.

Looking ahead we will enjoy digging and planting in our garden and enjoy some favorite activities from this school year.

Thanks for great year and enjoy your summer!