

## Nicole & Helaine's Class

As our year comes to a close we are faced with a multitude of feelings. Looking all the way back to the very beginning of our adventure and then quickly flashing forward to the 5 year olds that stand before us we are filled with great pride and joy. The steps were small but the achievements grand. Our hearts swell as we begin to count the ways in which this group has grown, individually and cooperatively. Reading, writing, counting, adding, making friends, working together, taking turns, problem solving, and growing in strength and ability are but a few.

BUT... (and that's a big one) we are also left with heavy hearts as we begin to say goodbye. It has been such a rewarding journey for all involved that it saddens us now to watch the children leave. Getting to know each child and family has been without a doubt the best part of this experience. Each child brought a unique energy to the class; each family, amazing love and support. It is through teaching the children that we have taught ourselves and I can't thank you enough for the opportunity to grow with you and your family.

With only a couple weeks left we are just as busy as ever. Tending to the garden will be our focus; getting it ready for some new vegetation. We will begin by turning over the soil, pulling weeds, & planning for flowers, herbs, and vegetables. After all that

hard work we will begin planting. This is a great time to talk about healthy eating and taking care of our Earth as it takes care of us. It is also great to acknowledge how our environment and all the things in it work together to support life.

This is also the time that we begin to talk about change; change we observe in our caterpillars, change we observe in the seeds we plant, and change we observe in ourselves. Change affects everybody differently, children and adults alike. So we take our time and offer our support both to the children and families. Transitions are some of the toughest moments in our lives. Many of you have already begun talking about the next step in school. It can be stressful and worrisome, so if you see changes occurring in your children please let us know so we can support you.

I'd like to take this time to personally thank Helaine, who has been the best support I could ever ask for. She has always been there to offer some much needed guidance and love. I also owe Pam my deepest gratitude for all the hard work she has done. Her knowledge, experience, and extra set of hands have been so beneficial for our group!

We wish you all so much love and happiness throughout the many days ahead... thank you for sharing your lives with us!