

K-K News

April 3, 2009

Dear K-K Families:

It is with some disbelief that I write this, my final newsletter to you for this year. While we all knew that I would be leaving in April and before my due date of April 15, it is difficult for me to believe that my last day with your children will be next Wednesday, April 8. Surprising though that is, we are coming off of a week that has been extremely gratifying to me in terms of completing several projects I had hoped to see to fruition before I left, and the sense that everyone involved is prepared for the coming transition.

On Monday, it was a joy to watch your children share their knowledge of geometry during our March Math Morning. Thank you to everyone that attended to celebrate the children's learning. Also on Monday, we began our next mathematics unit on number and problem solving. Julie took over the "lead teacher" role at the beginning of this unit, which has given the children the very comforting opportunity to have a clear sense of what things will look like after I leave. It has been a seamless transition, for which I am incredibly grateful.

On Wednesday morning, our water unit volunteers joined us for a fabulous trip to the Charles River at Walnut Street. We enjoyed a two-block walk during which we were able to observe erosion, retaining walls to prevent erosion, the dramatic power of water at a waterfall, and the disturbing quantity of litter that is

in and around our water supply. The children were passionate and excited about their observations, and I was delighted to be able to be with them for this trip. On Wednesday afternoon, Julie and I were able to complete our cycle of parent conferences together. I am so glad that I was able to complete those conferences and to celebrate the wonderful learning that your children have accomplished this year. I am also deeply grateful to Julie for the additional time she gave to the classroom outside of school hours to make those joint conferences possible.

Yesterday, we used our time in Open Circle to talk about the coming transition. It was remarkable to see how much more relaxed the children were in this discussion than in our first conversation about my leave several months ago. We are convinced that the handing over of math instruction, the visits from Katie Ciociola, and the opportunities to see when my leave will occur on the calendar has made a huge difference for everyone.

Although we are feeling very good about this transition, next week is filled with special events that may cause stress for your children. We wanted you to be aware of what is coming up in anticipation of this very full week. Next Monday, the children will be part of our school-wide CARE assembly. On Tuesday, there is a school-wide early release for parent conferences, and I know that many of you will be joining us at 11:30 for a farewell. Please let us know when you and your child are leaving that day, as there will not be a traditional dismissal that morning. Also, if your child is taking a bus at 12:00, please know that he will be dismissed to the office at that time. Finally, on Wednesday morning, I plan to be in the classroom along with Julie and Katie for my final day. That morning is also jam-packed, as we have a creative arts program about Mother Goose scheduled, as well as

our spring nature walk. We will end the morning with a farewell from me to the children before 12:00 dismissal. On Thursday, Julie and Katie will have their first day with the class, before the holiday on Friday, for which there is no school. It will be quite a week!

In other news...

- There is NO STAY DAY on Tuesday because of the early release for parent conferences.

- There is NO SCHOOL on Friday, April 10, due to Good Friday.

- There will be no newsletter next week, due to the timing of the transition and the holiday. Watch for a newsletter on Friday, April 17.

- I want to wish those of you celebrating next week a wonderful Passover, and those celebrating next weekend a very Happy Easter.

In closing, I want to thank all of you for a wonderful year. I appreciate the trust you put in me with teaching your children, and have enjoyed getting to know and work with all of them. Similarly, it has been a pleasure to know and work with all of you. I appreciate your kindness and encouragement through this pregnancy, and look forward to sharing the news of baby Kaminski's arrival before the children leave for vacation.

Warmly,

Lynn