

Dear Parents,

June 18, 2008

I could not let the year end without one last note. These last few days are always hard on me. As much as I look forward to time with my family and some down time without alarm clocks, it is very hard to say good-bye and let the children move on to the next teacher.

They are bringing home bags with all we have done this year: published books, pages from our class books, reading logs, and writing folders. They can use these items over the summer. They can write about books they read in their reading journals. They can write stories in their writing folders.

Keep reading every day and practice math, especially mental math. The concept that needs practice is subtraction. Discourage the use of fingers by using strategies and picture the number as rods. 17 is never 17 separate items or a 1 and a 7. It is a 10 and 7. So to take away 9, what do you look at? The tens place.

The children have grown tremendously and I will miss them so very much. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for giving me this year with them. You have been a wonderful group of parents to work with. I will miss you too. Have a great summer and I hope to see you again some day in the near future.

Sincerely,  
Jamie Marcello