

May 10, 2012

To the Staff At St. Therese Nursery School,

The end of our run at St. Therese is drawing near, and after 4 years, I must admit it is going to be quite difficult. I wanted to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude for the wonderful care & productive learning environment that you have provided my children.

Four years ago I was very anxious (to say the least) about leaving "my baby" with virtual strangers. Up until that point, my kids had ONLY been left with my mother for child care. Now, 4 years later, I view those "virtual strangers" as a form of extended family.

When Nico entered kindergarten, he entered knowing his sight words and with the ability to read while some of his classmates who had attended other pre-schools, had yet to learn to write their name. For his nightly kindergarten reading assignment, his teacher would need to go and get books offered to the 1st grade class in efforts to challenge him. Alexa is now sounding out words and is familiar with sight words as well. Although we work with them both at home, their knowledge base comes from what they were taught at St. Therese. We as parents would have never known that they were ready to be pushed to that level without your encouragement.

Though I think that it is wonderful that they were, and are so prepared to make the transition to kindergarten through your teachings, the thing that I value most is what they were taught about being a good person. They were taught what it is to be a good "friend" through your daily activities. They were taught what it is to be kind and caring through your service projects. They were taught what it is to have a sense of community through the activities you sponsor each year such as the Fall Festival; Thanksgiving Feast; Christmas Pageant; Silent Auction; Egg Hunt & the end of the year picnic. You have given my children the foundation of good character to build on. To be well rounded, caring, compassionate little people. And for that I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

The transition to kindergarten is often a difficult one. In my experience, for the parents more so than the children. It is very emotional because you feel as though your baby has grown

up and is moving on. In the blink of an eye, 5 years have passed and that little baby that you sat in the back seat with on the way home from the hospital is getting on that big yellow bus and waving goodbye out the window. But for myself, it will be even more emotional this time around because we will be leaving St. Therese for good.

So, I thank you all who have taken care of my babies as if they were your own for the last 4 years. I know often you and the care that you provide is taken for granted, and I wanted to take this opportunity to let you know just how much you are appreciated.

Happy Teacher Appreciation Week!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dina Falcioni". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "D" and "F".

Dina Falcioni