



**BROOKLYN  
FRIENDS  
SCHOOL**

May 24, 2020

Dear Parents,

Preparation for a transition, for something new and different, makes all the difference for young children. They need to know what will happen, what their role is and what the expectations are. In school there are many transitional times in the day that become a familiar part of their routine. At home transitions like getting up & starting the day, getting ready for dinner or when it is time to go to bed, also work best with consistent routines and expectations. And children build on their experiences and understandings from one transition to another.

The end of school is a new experience, every time, and one that will happen year after year, but this is the first one. And this year they (and you) have already handled a big transition that came suddenly and unexpectedly. It was a change that none of us, children or adults, had ever experienced. Yet, in a short time, teachers created virtual experiences that had meaning, that kept us connected when we couldn't be together in real time and space. There was certainly a range to how the children embraced these experiences, but looking at it all, they had a way to see their teachers and friends. That important community did not just disappear.

Later this week and into next week, leading up to Goodbye Day on Thursday, June 4, the teachers will be talking about what is ahead. We know that children need to hear what will be different, what is changing. They also need to hear what will be the same from their perspective and understanding. Everyone does better when they know what to expect, but the children also need to understand that not everything is changing, some things are going to stay with them. Teachers will share the language they are using with the children as a guide to conversations you may have with them.

But did you know some of the preparation for the end of the school year has begun already? When the children planted with the teachers, they saw how things grow and change, just as they have this year. When we watched tiny caterpillars get bigger, make their chrysalis, see the butterflies that emerged we also observed growth and change. And then it was time to release the butterflies - they were *ready* to fly into a bigger world. Your children are ready to move onto their next experiences. This year is more challenging than ever before because we do not yet know what those experiences will be next year, but I know *your children are ready*. They are ready because they have had a school year learning about themselves and their world, and how to be members of a community in positive and productive ways. They have grown and developed in countless wonderful ways and that foundation will be with them always.

I want to also say that our time watching caterpillars turn into butterflies and releasing them because they are ready, is as helpful to us as it is to the children. It is always hard for the teachers, for me and Naomi to end a year. It is knowing they are ready for the next phase that helps us say goodbye.

## **SHARES THIS WEEK**

[Sing with TONY](#)

[NANCY - Five Little Monkeys](#)

### **Hop and Jump with MARY**

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[Hop Jump Reading](#)

[Hop Jump Dance](#)

[Time to Stretch with NAOMI](#)

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Take care and be well, Sara

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**Sara Soll**

*Director of Family Center*