

May 2015

Dear Saint Luke's Little Saints,

As I sit here after my final drop off, I can't help but reflect on what a magical place Saint Luke's has been of growth, love and support for our family for the last eight years.

As a new mom of a 12-month old, I was anxious and nervous to leave {my daughter} somewhere new but from the first moment I walked in (and left her screaming-for weeks-with Miss Fran and Miss Nancy), I felt the warmth and welcome that I believe is the school's hallmark.

Through {my daughter's} years there, and continuing through {my son's} time, we all developed life-long friendships. For me, those few minutes of interaction walking in and dropping off and picking up gave me the opportunity to get to know some of the other parents that were going through the same life phase as me, to get to know my kiddos' teachers, and to watch my kids as they interacted with their friends. Sometimes I didn't feel like bringing a screaming infant in with me, but once I did, I was glad that I got to connect with others inside. And I always loved Miss Carol's bright smile, so often in some sort of costume or themed get-up, welcoming each family in for the day.

Each of you who has interacted with us in any way has made an effort to know us and our children, and understands them so completely. {My daughter} blossomed as one of your students-from a screaming baby to a confident kindergartener. Saint Luke's is a home for her where she feels safe and loved, even years after she has left. With {my son}, whether it is Miss Laura telling him how much she knows he likes to fill out his Lunch Bunch ticket himself or Miss Cathy sending us hilarious sayings of his or making a special effort comforting him when I was (often) a minute or two late knowing how hard that was for him, or Miss Libby joking with him about something, there is a desire and an effort made to make each child feel special and understood.

As a parent, preschool years can be tough and Saint Luke's for us was a refuge from the storm of having very little people in the house. We wanted a preschool experience for our kiddos where they would be loved and accepted, learn a lot, make friends, play on the playground, get messy and have fun-and Saint Luke's surpassed those expectations in every way. I, too, was welcomed and accepted; even when I raced in every day that I was picking up, I always knew my kiddos were in good hands. You all were always so wonderful to our village of people-nannies, grandparents, aunts-that have helped us raise our children. I also remember with such appreciation how we were so wrapped in care and concern during the time when we were expecting and then lost our middle son at birth.

So my tears on graduation day and the ones that are sure to come on the last day of school are tears of gratitude and appreciation-for helping shape our precious little people so lovingly, for caring for our family and for giving us a true community during this amazing season of life.

With much love and many, many thanks,

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*This mom was working full time as an attorney when her children attended SLLS. She arranged her schedule to be able to bring her children to school or pick them up from school at least weekly.*