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End-Year Family Letter

June 25, 2018

Davis Families,

Congratulations on another successful school year! Our teachers were in the building yesterday (Monday) putting finishing touches on their rooms and preparing for September. One of the nice things about this “clean up” time is that it allows for some final reflective moments. Multiple teachers made their way to my office with some final writing samples that we collect and remarked at the growth of some of our young writers – “Look at this from September...and this piece now...wow!” and “I had my students do some self-reflection and assessment on their areas of growth...”

These types of comments make us feel good as everyone heads out for a well-deserved and restful summer break. Sometimes we can't fully appreciate how much our children have grown as writers or readers or mathematicians – or even just socially – until we really allow ourselves to step back and see the big picture. It's like when my grandmother, of whom sees my son only a few times each year, says, “Wow! He's gotten so big!” I see him everyday. I, perhaps, don't notice it like others might. But, it's important that teachers have this opportunity to step back and appreciate the power of their work. It's also important that our children have this opportunity, as well. We're really proud of them! And we're really proud of our teachers. We have really good ones. The work is tireless and it's easy for them to lose sight of their impact. I hope you've taken a moment to let them know. :)

With that said, summer is here. It's also a time for reflection as building leaders. Ms. Marinaro and I make time each year to assess our successes as a community and as leaders. Our curriculum continues to grow in coherence and rigor. Our students read and write with choice and engagement. Volume, stamina and independence continue to grow. We've grown with a workshop model that demands getting to know our students as individuals. In turn, our practices have become more equitable and more culturally relevant as we embrace our beautiful diversity as part of the way we approach our work. And to succeed in these areas, we continue to maintain a high bar for physical and emotional safety to ensure that all learners and adults can thrive in a safe, nurturing environment.

Ms. Marinaro and I also spend time discussing our continued areas for growth. Among many things on this list (because, that's just how our minds work), we want to continue to expand our opportunities for *you*, as families, to see your child's wonderful work and that of the community. We're going to explore some creative and appropriate ways using social media to make the exciting things happening at Davis each day more visible to all in the Davis community, as well as create some new opportunities for you to come in and celebrate our growth alongside your children.

We will continue to explore how to integrate technology more meaningfully and authentically. It's wonderful that we keep expanding our device access, but we want to also continue raising the bar on what we do with them.

Our list keeps going. And that is simply because our bar is high. It will always be. If you need us at all this summer or seek to engage us, just reach out – anthonybambrola@nredlearn.org and lmarinaro@nredlearn.org.

Supply lists for September will be posted on our website this week. Our PTA has already sent out a link to our supply partner, Yubbler (affiliated with Office Depot). We anticipate this company will offer families an option for greater flexibility and efficiency in obtaining supplies – also sidestepping some of the delivery issues from last year.

Placement letters will go out the third week of August, along with first day/week routines and important information.

Have an awesome summer. Have fun. Rest. Play (a lot). Read (and let your children see you read, too).

With great appreciation and thanks for your partnership,
Anthony Bambrola