As we near the end of our **NAEYC Accreditation renewal year**, we await the decision of the “Academy” regarding our status. We have intentionally reviewed all of our philosophies, programs, policies, and practices, beginning with last spring’s family and staff evaluation, job description and handbook reviews, etc. and continuing throughout the summer and fall to complete portfolio documentation of our excellence and innovation relative to the 10 sets of quality standards (some 400+ items). We had our 2-day Assessor Site Visit on March 7th and 8th, and then took a much-needed spring break. We hope to be communicating the good news of our 5-year renewal within the next month or so.

**So what now?**

- Of course, there are the sighs of relief and the pause to catch our breath after a busy year. We also acknowledge the many individuals who dedicated energy, effort, and expertise while completing the required tasks, particularly the administrative team, the educators, and the Carnegie Mellon facilities management staff. Many professionals from the Dietrich College and various central offices also supported our work by providing documentation of university practices relative to the standards. Heartfelt thanks to everyone for your contributions on our behalf!

- **Assuming good news from the Academy,** we will follow a fairly straightforward process of maintaining our standards, conducting the required schedule of staff training, health and safety consultation and drills, enhancing any areas noted by the assessor as needing improvement, and submitting annual reports of our progress relative to the standards. Then in 2017, we will update all of our documentation for the next cycle of accreditation renewal.

- Best of all, we now have a sense of freedom to follow our passions as we focus on quality improvements unconstrained by the accreditation system. In the tradition of Andrew Carnegie, our hearts are in the work, so we continually strive to creatively enhance our work with researchers, university students, children, families, practicing educators, and pre-service teachers. Our amazing team of lifelong learners will chart the course for the next phase of our journey during our two weeks of professional development in May. We will seek input from all of our constituents and specifically invite families to contribute their ideas through the online survey to be sent this week via email.

Best wishes for a safe and relaxing summer! We encourage you to share your experiences with us via postcards, journals, photos, etc. and look forward to welcoming many of you back in the fall. For those of you making transitions to other schools, good luck and please keep in touch.

You’ll always be part of the Children’s School family!