Family Spotlight: Grandparents’ Viewpoints

At the Children’s School, we value parents as partners in the children’s education, so we endeavor to help educators and families get to know each other as a way to build solid relationships. Ten of our seventeen educators and all three of our substitute teachers are also parents of their own children, and five of those children have attended the Children’s School (Joel and Steven Solomon, Darrah and Emilie Bird, and Ariel Carver). In the fall, Addison Armbruster will be joining our 3’s program, just a few months after becoming a big sister!

Within the last few years, six of our educators have become grandparents, which has brought new perspectives on child development and education. We have all experienced the joy of new life, awe at the amazing potential of each unique child, and renewed wonder as we see the world through our grandchildren’s eyes with each new milestone they reach and discovery they make.

Jean Bird reflects, “Being “Mimi” to Rowan has shifted my sense of time and relationship. I am so focused - wrapped up in this beautiful little being. Time moves both wonderfully slow, and then way too fast. It is all goodness, whether we are fascinated by the movements of the animals at the zoo, reading a favorite story, or sharing a meal with the whole family. As a grandma, I have a renewed and deeper appreciation for these gifts, and I cherish them.”

Donna Perovich adds, “The best part of being a grandmother to Alexis and Holden is seeing the big picture and cherishing the present. Now I get the chance to enjoy the process of helping these little ones develop. I want the memories that they have of me to be happy ones.”

Estelle Solomon reflects, “As a parent and teacher, I have learned that we have our children so that they grow up to be independent. Phoebe is already demonstrating her independence in many ways. She sleeps in a big girl’s bed, goes to ballet class without a parent in the room, etc. Distance makes it hard for Phoebe and me to spend as much time together as we would like, but FaceTime is a great way for us to see each other and talk. What a joy it is to be ‘Nan’ to Phoebe. She gave me my special name all by herself! How cool is that?”

Charline Tomer with Ryan, who was born during spring break. Beth McMichael with Quinn and Will. Sharon Carver with Lucia.

Last week, all of our educators were inspired by a quote from Rachel Carson, who said that every child needs the “companionship of at least one adult who can share [a sense of wonder], rediscovering with him the joy, excitement, and mystery of the world we live in.” May each of us strive to be that person for all of the children in our care!