

“What if the Hokey Pokey *is* what it’s all about?”

My life hasn’t *really* been all about the Hokey Pokey, but that’s pretty close. I would say that, so far, my life has been a lot about love and magic...mostly about loving children and my work in the world, and about the magic of what that has meant to me. I do admit I *have* done the Hokey Pokey more times than I can count!

I will always love those children, even though many of them are all grown up, and I will always cherish the magic they brought to my life. It seems, however, that it is time for me to retire. It has been a long and heart-wrenching path for me to make this decision, but this current school year will be my last year of teaching.

The extraordinary good news is that my dear friend and teaching partner, Sandy Hodge, will become the teacher for the Red class beginning in the fall of 2012. She will continue as the Blue class teacher. Her commitment to the children and our school means that Hancock Street Preschool will continue its focus on children and their families. We have been working together toward this change for a long time. Having Sandy take my place is one of the greatest gifts I can imagine. The philosophy and the mission of HSP will remain the same.

I know the question of my retirement has been “up in the air” for a very long time. I wanted to make sure my HSP families heard the news from me. I don’t just love the children, I love their families as well. That will never change.

Saying farewell is something I wish to do after this school year is over. There will be a big party. In the meantime, I do not want my retirement to be a topic of discussion at school. This year belongs to my students, their families, and to me, too. I always cherish every moment I spend at school, but of course this year will be especially poignant for me. I want it to be all about the children and their experience, not about my leaving. That would confuse the children and change the spirit in our classroom. Please feel free to discuss this with me personally.

Love and blessings,

Carol