

9 May 2008

Dear Virginia,

On this occasion of the 30th anniversary of your school, we wanted to share some thoughts. As you know too well, we try so hard to hold onto the moments of our boys' childhood. We know the day will come too soon that we turn around and our sons are grown men. We remember so clearly moving to Bedford in 2001 and looking far-and-wide for a little school that we hoped could gently introduce our first born son to the world beyond our backyard. As Robert Fulghum says so well in "All I Ever Needed to Know I Learned in Kindergarten", we wanted Jack to learn to:

Share everything. Play fair. Don't hit people. Put things back where you found them. Clean up your own mess. Don't take things that aren't yours. Say you're sorry when you hurt somebody. Wash your hands before you eat. Flush. Warm cookies and cold milk are good for you. Live a balanced life. Learn some and think some and draw and paint and sing and dance and play and work every day some. Take a nap every afternoon. When you go out into the world, watch for traffic, hold hands, and stick together. Be aware of wonder. Remember the little seed in the paper cup. The roots go down and the plant goes up and nobody really knows how or why, but we are all like that. . .

Little did we know the magnitude of that request. When we found The Canaan Ridge School, we knew immediately, that it stands alone in its commitment to cherishing children and the joy and wonder of childhood. Plainly put, the sun shines brighter at Canaan Ridge. We have seen that it takes tireless and unwavering dedication to maintain such an outstanding school program. We are so grateful to you for the enormous amount of time and energy you have invested in the school and our boys.

Spring Teas, green eggs and ham, Hungry Caterpillar parties, field days, beach days, tricycle days and music reviews, celebrated personal triumphs and lasting Canaan Ridge friendships have filled our boys' early childhood with warm and happy memories.

Thank you Virginia! You have given our family a lifelong gift that we will always cherish. Congratulations on 30 amazing years!!

Very truly yours y con mucho cariño,

The Briano Family

Krista, Juan, Jack, Nicolás and Sebastián