Dear Oak Grovers,

It is crazy to think that one month of summer is gone. Poof. Where did that month go? I hope you all have had a chance to kick back and enjoy and relax. Before we know it, we will be setting the alarm earlier each morning and packing up our kids lunches! So, savor these summer days!

As usual, we are in full on summer clean out and organize mode here at school! Honestly, it looks like a tornado hit the inside of the school right now! But we will have it all put back together before school starts in September...fingers crossed!

Every couple of days Cindy and I have what we refer to as our coffee talk meetings. We grab a nice fresh cup of coffee and meet, plan, discuss and create our to do lists. Yesterday's coffee talk meeting was focused less on check lists and projects and more on taking an overall emotional and mental inventory. I guess it was a personal pause. We get into the zone here in the summer, getting through long lists of projects. This summer we have also managed and navigated through some challenging, yet needed changes. During our coffee talk, we took the time we needed to process and reflect on all of this. Soon our conversation progressed into our personal lives and a more general conversation about the state of our towns, state, country and even the world. Let's just say that it was a bit depressing. We both even commented that we were having a hard time watching the evening news and reading the headlines. Coming full circle in our conversation, we were soon right back here at Oak Grove and our extended community here of children, teachers and staff, parents and friends. This school brings together a large group of caring and committed people. We all work hard and try to juggle and managed the best we can. We juggle our jobs, our families, and our own private and personal situations. Each of us does this in our own personal style. We all manage and navigate in our own way, and we all question and prioritize in our own way. This creates our unique and diverse extended community here that we are so lucky to be a part of.

And that was it for Cindy and I. It hit us like a brick, right then, as we were starting on our second cup of coffee. When we are all juggling so much, and we are all managing the best we can, and we are all dealing with difficult personal situations, and we are all watching the same news at night and reading the same somber headlines, how do we support each other? How do we see the bigger picture when each of us only holds some of the pieces? The answer that we
came up with is simple and we would like to present it to all of you as the theme for the year at Oak Grove.

**Look For the Good**

In every day, every encounter, every difficult change and every situation, look for the good. I am quite certain that when we look for the good, we will find the good. Does this take away the challenges or the struggles or the questions or the pain, no. But looking for the good reminds us to respect and embrace our differences. It reminds us to open our eyes a bit wider and to find joy each day.

It was a needed and really nice way to start the day yesterday. I hope you will all join Cindy and I and truly embrace this theme for the upcoming school year. Look For the Good.

Now some housekeeping news...

The project list is getting shorter as we come to the end of July. The teachers have been in and out all summer preparing and planning for September. A huge thank you to all of them for an effort that goes well above and beyond!

Last night many of the 3-6 classroom families joined us here in welcoming and meeting Robyn VanLandingham to our Oak Grove family. Robyn will be the head teacher in the 3-6 room. She comes to us with a wealth of knowledge and experience. She also comes to us with a unwavering understanding, respect and commitment toward Primary Level Montessori Education. Miranda and Emily will continue as the assistants in that classroom. They will split the school day as Robyn's assistant and then together Miranda and Emily will be implementing and running our new extended day program (previously known as daycare).

So, as you wonder through the last weeks of summer, make sure you find the time to relax and recharge. And most importantly *Look For the Good*!

The paint will be dry, the mess will be put away, and we will be ready for your return!

In peace,

Sue