



Church of the Redeemer PARISH DAY SCHOOL

Dear Redeemer Community,

These days I never know which direction my emotions are headed regarding my college students. I love the chaos, big family meals and general energy when all five of us are home. I also love cooking less, waking and sleeping hours that are in sync with mine and more time to myself when they leave. There is less cleaning and laundry, but I miss their smiles and conversations tremendously.

I see these same emotions, but almost to a stronger degree, in my youngest. When they are gone, he resists our extra attention and questions, but when they are home, I can tell he misses his independence and prime real estate on the couch. When they are around he laughs and smiles more, but when they leave, he doesn't have to hide the fruit snacks and goldfish from them (Yes, they still LOVE fruit snacks and goldfish!) and appreciates that the ice cream containers never go empty. The comings and goings from college are really a mixed bag of emotions. As much as it surprises me, the three of us love it when they are home, but we find it is ok when they leave too.

This past Sunday, though, the first one left to go back to college. That, coupled with the miserable loss by the Ravens, left me in quite a funk on Monday morning. Driving to school, I just felt sad. I wasn't ready for our family of five to dwindle back to three, and our time together felt too short. And while I know that in the next few weeks, we will all fall back into our regular rhythm, I had a hard time shaking my gloom. I am usually a glass half-full person, but without a doubt, my glass was half-empty on a dreary Monday morning.

That is, until I arrived at Redeemer. It is nearly impossible to feel sad and gloomy when you are surrounded by the spirit of the PDS students. They greet us every day as if we are borderline rock stars and envelope all of us in their hugs and love. How can you not feel joy in a place where the majority of the population believes in rainbow unicorns and the incredible power of a band-aid? Or a place where residual dirty snow is actually a final fleeting opportunity to enjoy it once more, with the possibility of a good slip in the mud? The pride the PDS students have in accomplishing something new or sharing with a friend, is not just heartwarming, it is a lesson to all of us to. Life is better when your glass is half-full!

I count myself among the fortunate ones who have more than one happy place. While Redeemer is not always perfect, it is certainly many folk's happy place. It is a place full of joy and positive energy, and we have our entire community, but most of all our students, to thank for that. Each one of you plays a role in creating the happy place we all know as Redeemer! Thank you!

Best regards,
Mary